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Your Heart with Love
and
Your Life with Laughter
Happy Holidays!



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LOCAL

Council vote asks ThedaCare to rethink closing birthing unit

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – Members of Waupaca Common Council voted unanimously for a resolution asking ThedaCare to reconsider closing its birthing unit in Waupaca.

Introduced by Ald. Paul Hagen, the resolution notes that, “Obstetrics patients of the Waupaca area should not be forced to travel out of the community to have access to OB services that include delivery.”

“Removal of OB services go directly against the original purpose of this community hospital,” according to the resolution.

Before the vote, members of the community spoke about ThedaCare’s decision.

Rev. Carl Ferguson has been pastor at Waupaca Christian Church since 1983.

“My wife took her first job as an RN in the Waupaca hospital at the same time,” Ferguson said, noting the “vibrant health of this city and

surrounding area.”

“What has made this community prosperous,” Ferguson asked. He then pointed to the several major economic catalysts, including Waupaca Foundry, the Wisconsin Veterans Home and the community’s hospital.

“I stand before you tonight to join forces with the several thousand voices who recognize that the loss of obstetrical services in this hospital will have a long-term detrimental effect on this community and the local health care system.”

Ferguson said that the loss of OB services at a hospital often marks the beginning of losing or limiting other health care services over time.

“Community health is not entirely about finances, it is about caring for the community here at home,” Ferguson said.

Joshua Garrison, moved to Waupaca in 2018 and his wife, Christy Reynolds, is a midwife in Iola.

Birthing Unit
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Rendering of proposed entrance to the New London Public Museum after its expansion.

Courtesy of Sue Tennie

New London reviews museum plans

Expansion done in phases

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – Christine Cross, director of the New London Public Museum, updated city officials about museum expansion plans.

She spoke at a Nov. 20 meeting of the New London Committee of the Whole.

“For over 100 years, this community has embraced and supported the museum. We want to honor and build on that commitment as we continually look forward,” Cross said. “The idea is to take an historic building and create a high performance, dynamic museum that invites everyone to discover something new.”

Museum facts

The New London Public Museum was founded in 1917. The Carnegie Library was built in 1914, while the museum building was built in 1932. In 1986, the buildings were connected and the museum moved to the lower level.

With the New London Public Library moving out to its new location, the museum will occupy the entire building, expanding its space from 3,000 square feet to 12,500 square feet. The exhibits and program spaces will double, with the collections preservation spaces increasing from 800 to 5,300 square feet.

The expansion project will take place in phases over the next seven to nine years to ensure fundraising keeps pace.

Expansion plan

Cross said the museum expansion plan includes community collaboration. This is being accomplished by allowing input from the community through the expansion process.

“This spirit of collaboration will continue, and the opportunities for a broad spectrum of involvement with the project will grow,” Cross said.

The Friends of the New London Public Museum, which was established in 2008, and received its 501c3 non-profit status in 2011, has supported the museum over the years, including with \$80,000 in grants, Cross said.

“They are fired up, and can’t wait to start working

on the expansion project,” Cross said.

Cross told the committee that the New London Public Museum is one of only five public, multi-topic museums in the entire state of Wisconsin.

Cross said each phase of the expansion project will include “fundraising benchmarks and the flexibility to change our plan.”

“We will work hard to work within our financial boundaries, while still taking care of the artifacts entrusted to us, and giving the community an amazing museum,” Cross said.

With the approval of the Library Museum Board, Cross said she assembled

Museum
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Shown, from left, are Stevens Point Fire Division Chief Anthony Ewing, Karyn and Rob Baxter, Vanessa Carns and SPF Division Chief Terence Sinner. Olivia Coffin Photo

Area First Responders ring bells for donations

BY OLIVIA COFFIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STEVENS POINT – The Salvation Army held its annual First Responders Challenge. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Bread of Life-Hope Center of Portage County.

The First Responder Challenge is the largest bell-ringing event during the Red Kettle Season.

Members from the Stevens Point Police and Fire Departments, Dewey Fire Department and EMS, Plover Fire and Rescue Department, Plover Police Department, Portage County Sheriff, Amherst Fire District and the Wisconsin State Patrol all participated this year.

This event has happened for more than 30 years. It’s not just a fun and friendly competition among those who serve the Portage County community, but also a way to unite people in raising funds for the Bread of Life’s Red Kettle Campaign.

Each year, a trophy is awarded to the department that raises the most money. An engraved plaque with the winning department’s name and the year is added to the trophy. The Plover Fire Department

has claimed the trophy for the past three years.

The Stevens Point Fire Department was ringing bells at Fleet Farm this year and have been involved with this event for more than a decade.

“This is such a good cause and we bring our own family to ring with us. This is a family thing, not just for the workers,” said Stevens Point Division Chief Anthony Ewing. “It’s a friendly competition between the fire, police and state troopers in Portage County and everything goes to a good cause.”

Portage County Sheriff’s Office had members ringing bells at Metro Market in Stevens Point.

“It’s the biggest fundraiser they have and it’s a great opportunity for us as well to get out and about with the public,” said Sheriff Mike Lukas.

“I like coming to events and helping out with my dad, it’s always fun and even though it’s cold out, it’s for a good cause,” said Finley Ostrowski, daughter of Capt. Joshua Ostrowski with the sheriff’s office.

Bell Ringers
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Clintonville native to return as White Sox third base coach

Jirschele pursues professional career

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – Justin Jirschele, a native of Clintonville, will be returning as the third base coach for the Chicago White Sox in 2025.

The White Sox announced its 2025 coaching staff via a Dec. 9 press release. Jirschele was originally promoted to the third base coach position with the White Sox in August of this year when changes were made to the White Sox’s coaching staff.

“I’m very excited and grateful for the opportunity to be on the Major League staff, and I’m ready to get to work for the Chicago White Sox,” Jirschele told the Clintonville Tribune-Gazette.

Coaching third base in the major leagues is a familiar position for the Jirschele family, as Justin’s dad, Mike, was the third base coach for the Kansas City Royals for six seasons, including when the Royals won the World Series in 2015.

Clintonville roots

Not surprisingly, Justin Jirschele was a star baseball player for Clintonville High School. When asked



Shown on left, Justin Jirschele, a Clintonville native will return to the Chicago White Sox as the third base coach in 2025. Photo courtesy of Melissa Ferrara

about his accomplishments, Jirschele began listing off the accomplishments of the teams he played on in high school. He said he played on “some good teams” in high school, teams that went to sectionals. He also said the Clintonville Legion team he played on won back-to-back state championships in 2007 and 2008.

Individually, Jirschele said he was named first team All-Conference three years, and was named conference player of the year his senior season. “I played shortstop in high school, but when I went to college, I moved around from second to third, a little bit of shortstop,” Jirschele said.

Jirschele went to UW-Oshkosh his freshman year of college, but transferred to UW-Stevens Point for the remainder of his college years.

He earned first team all-conference honors his junior and senior year. He also won two All-American Rawlings Gold Glove awards for Division 3. The Gold Glove award is awarded for outstanding defense.

“Those two are my babies,” Jirschele said. “My dad was always an infield guy. We always prided ourselves being strong defenders. To be recognized as one of the best in Division 3 at that position, my sophomore year I won it at third base and my junior year I won it at second base. And that’s in the entire country in Division 3. Those are given out by Rawlings similar to the Major League Gold Glove awards, just not as big.”

Despite the accolades in college, Jirschele was not selected in the Major League Baseball Draft after his se-

nior year of college. But the Chicago White Sox offered him a free agent contract, which he signed, so he could start his Minor League Baseball career, in an attempt to reach the Major Leagues.

“I always felt like there might be a chance of going in the draft, but obviously I know there’s a lot of good baseball players out there, so I was fortunate enough to have an opportunity with the White Sox,” Jirschele said.

Pro career begins

After signing with the White Sox, Jirschele began his professional playing career in rookie ball in Greybull, Montana.

“It was not necessarily a shock, but it’s obviously a completely different level of competition,” Jirschele said. “Some of the top guys I ever faced in college, you’re seeing those every night as pitchers. Then the relievers would come in, and some of those guys were doing stuff I had never seen in my life. It was just kind of getting used to the level of competition and really trying to hold your head above water and compete with those guys, the best of the best.”

Prior to going to rookie ball, Jirschele said his dad,

Jirschele
CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

BIRTHING UNIT

FROM PAGE 1

Garrison noted that Gov. Tony Evers came to Waupaca in July to visit a daycare center that was closing its doors.

"Here we are six months later and we're learning about another loss to this community that also affects families, young families, and it affects women," Garrison said. "I'm saddened and I understand that you all have no control over this."

Noting that issues of economics, demographics and a changing labor market have a major part in the decision, Garrison said, "But you do have the influence to make a statement that I believe is moral and ethical."

Just because Waupaca is a small town, doesn't mean the people who live here "don't deserve world-class health care, world class child care and world-class education."

"I think our community is wonderful and it needs to grow," said Mary Case, who noted the growing number

of elderly living in Waupaca.

"How can we invite younger people to join our community if we don't have an OB?" Case said.

She noted that young families would consider moving to other cities where they could find hospital delivery services closer to home.

Faith Janusz said she had experienced high-risk deliveries when she was younger.

"I would not want to have to travel 50 or 60 miles just to have my child if I was having a problem, which was at high risk," she said.

Prior to voting on the resolution, Mayor Brian Smith and several council members said they were taken by surprise when they learned that ThedaCare planned to end its labor and delivery services in Waupaca.

ThedaCare's response

In response to the city council's resolution, ThedaCare sent the following statement to the Waupaca

County Post

"ThedaCare is committed to providing access to safe, high-quality health care.

"The decision to discontinue labor and delivery services at ThedaCare Medical Center-Waupaca was made based on the shifting needs and demands of expectant mothers, including declining deliveries, mothers choosing to deliver at larger birth centers, and increasing complexity of labor and delivery. The decision is also a result of a shortage of physicians and nurses in rural areas, which is an issue being felt across the country and in our region.

"Mothers can be confident in continuing their pre- and post-delivery care, breastfeeding support and well-baby care at ThedaCare Medical Center-Waupaca as these are important ongoing services to provide in our local communities.

"This was a difficult decision, and one that was not made lightly because of our dedication to the people we are privileged to serve."

MUSEUM

FROM PAGE 1

a Museum Expansion Committee that represented all the involved stakeholders.

"The idea is that this advisory committee oversees planning, communicates through me with the Library Museum Board, making recommendations and suggestions," Cross said.

In 2016, Cross said the city of New London financed a master plan for the expansion of the museum into the building. The city hired Alex Ramsey from Engberg Anderson architectural firm to create the master plan. This included a full assessment of the condition of the building, upgrades to the building systems, and a plan for using the space to create an "engaging museum."

In 2022, a collections assessment for preservation was made possible because of a grant from

the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Cross said.

"This assessment allowed us to hire professionals to look at the condition of the collection and building," Cross said.

The city of New London provided more funds to update the masterplan in 2023. This involved Engberg Anderson to update and phase the masterplan.

"All of this melded into a vision for the future of the museum - honoring the past, and being forward thinking, taking an historic building and making it high-performance all while involving our community," Cross said.

Through working with Engberg Anderson, updates to the masterplan have continued.

"The updated master plan takes two historic buildings, used for two purposes, and creates a cohesive, single use efficient

structure," Cross said.

Cross added that the master plan gives the committee "guidance and a road map" for the expansion.

"But even before we start to refine and work with the master plan, we know that we need some time," Cross said.

"We need to make sure that what looks good as a thought on paper, actually works for us."

The group working on fundraising for the expansion project will create a plan that includes a traditional and grassroots capital campaign and public funding requests.

"We are approaching it this way in order for you to plan what works in the larger city picture, and for us to plan how to accomplish our goals, all while maintaining the transparency and trust the public-private partnership requires," Cross said.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Joys and Blessings of Christmas

Dear Reader,

Christmas holds many meanings for those who celebrate this special day and the season that surrounds it. At its heart, Christmas signifies the birth of Christ, a moment of profound spiritual importance. But it also brings to mind the joy of giving, with gifts and presents for little boys and girls, each package wrapped with love and anticipation.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

While we often find ourselves striving to be our best during the holiday season, the true magic of Christmas shines brightest in the eyes of a child. In their wonder and delight, we are reminded of the simple, pure joy that this time of year brings.

Merry Christmas to all.

BELL RINGERS

FROM PAGE 1

Many family members were at the bell ringing in support of their spouse, parent or friend.

"It's just such a fun competition that you don't mind being out in the cold," said Stevens Point fire Division Chief Terrence Sinner.

Responders not only

compete for a trophy but help support those in need within the community.

While it is a friendly competition, the Stevens Point Fire Department said they are going to win this year and bring home that trophy along with bragging rights. But they are not the only ones who think they are winning.

"We are definitely going to win," said Lukas.

However, the Plover Fire Department also thinks they are going to win and bring the trophy home for the fourth year in a row.

The 2024 Red Kettle Campaign will run until Dec 24.

This year they have set a higher goal due to inflation

and the growing needs within the community. There are several ways to help give back throughout the season, such as signing up to be a bell ringer at RegisterToRing.com, mail in a donation or visit in person: The Salvation Army - Hope Center, 1600 Briggs St., Stevens Point, or text StevensPoint to 24365.

Waupaca County sheriff's report

• Dec. 2 - A Weyauwega caller on Clark Street reported the death of a 40-year-old man.
• Dec. 2 - A Waupaca caller on Setter Lane reported the sound of booms. He could not tell if it was gunfire.

• Dec. 2 - An Iola caller on State Highway 49 reported she believed someone was watching her. She receives suspicious calls and she finds beer cans at the end of her driveway.
• Dec. 3 - Canadian Na-

tional reported some crossing arms malfunctioned and were blocking a crossing with no train coming.

• Dec. 3 - A Waupaca caller on County Trunk QQ reported her tenant was "explosive" and other

residents were fearful of him. He also caused property damage. She requested help with the eviction.

• Dec. 3 - An unknown caller reported a white

Sheriff's Report
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

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Waupaca NEWS



Fire destroyed a home on Smith Lane in Waupaca Friday, Dec. 6. Emily Doud Photo

Waupaca home ravaged by fire

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – Fire destroyed a home at N2909 Smith Lane in Waupaca on Friday, Dec. 6.

Waupaca firefighters were called to a possible chimney fire at 6:30 a.m.

While they were en route, dispatch informed them that flames were visible and all occupants were out of the house.

When firefighters arrived at the scene, they found flames coming out of the windows and the roof of a two-story structure.

The fire spread and crews were called in from Scandi-

navia, Manawa, Saxeville, Wild Rose, Weyauwega, Iola and Amherst.

According to the fire report, the owner, Seth Hoffman, had fallen asleep the previous night in his office. He woke when he started coughing due to the smoke.

When he opened the door from his office, he saw smoke that was so thick he could not see the other side of the room.

“The home owner crawled up the stairs to the second story bedroom to wake his wife and get her out of the house,” the fire report says.

Once both occupants were outside the front door, they saw smoke and flames

around the air intake pipe located on the backside of the fireplace and chimney.

Crews went into the house to attack the fire. Later they removed some belongings.

Faulks Bros. arrived on scene with an excavator and began demolishing the exterior of the structure.

The excavator was also used to break a hole in the floor to gain access to the basement.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Some Waupaca firefighters remained at the scene until 11:47 a.m.

Damage was estimated at over \$650,000.

Christmas meal open to community

WAUPACA – St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church will again host this year’s free community Christmas meal.

Sponsored by through private donations, Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Mary Magdalene Church, the meal is open to the community.

“Our belief is that nobody should be alone on Christmas,” said Barbara Koster, who helped organize the meal last year. “They should have someplace to come to-

gether, to enjoy good food, companionship with others and enjoy Christmas music.” Vocal and instrumental music will be performed.

The meal is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25, at St. Mary Magdalene’s fellowship hall, located at N2845 Shadow Road, near the intersection of State Highway 22 and U.S. Highway 10.

The free meal will feature chicken, ham, potatoes and gravy green beans, dinner

rolls, fruit salad and homemade pies.

Schueler’s will cater some of the food, while church volunteers also made some of it.

About 200 people are expected to attend, so reservations are needed by noon Wednesday, Dec. 18, by calling the church office at 715-258-2088.

While the goal is to encourage fellowship, meals can be delivered to shut-ins by calling the number above.

First ice on local lakes

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

CO –The ice fishing season is underway as local anglers ventured onto thin and thicker ice.

On Sunday, Lake Weyauwega had over a dozen anglers and with some of them using pop-up ice shelters. Silver Lake in Scandinavia also held ice safe enough to walk on. On the Chain O’ Lakes, the ice was sketchy.

Numerous members of the Waupaca High School Ice Fishing team scouted multiple spots earlier in the week and found safe ice in some places and in other spots the thin ice flexed and water gushed over the surface.

“Things are going to start freezing up here in the next couple of days. I heard Weyauwega had four to five inches. With the Chain you can get some thick ice out there but there are so many channels you have to be careful,” said Michael Greiner of the Minnow Bucket. He said he had a rush on Sunday morning with anglers coming in to buy waxworms, minnows and shiners.

Four inches is considered to be safe for walking and fishing. Five to six inches will support ATV or snowmobiles and eight to 12 inches will support small vehicles.

The Wautoma Police Department reported that local lakes had four inches of ice, yet on Sunday, Dec. 8, a SUV plunged partway through the ice on Lake Puckaway and the driver crawled out the window.

On Saturday, Jan. 18 will be the Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes Invite and teams in the Wisconsin Interscholas-



Jay Card, member of the Waupaca High School Ice Fishing Team, caught this northern pike at sundown on Silver Lake. Submitted Photo

tic Fishing Association will compete on lakes across the Chain. In years past, hundreds of high school anglers converge at Peterson Marine for the weigh-in and awards.

The Manawa Cowboys

Football and Cheer program has taken over the annual ice fishing tournament from

Ice Fishing
CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

Waupaca OKs city budget

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – The city of Waupaca plans to levy nearly \$4.13 million in property taxes in 2025.

While the 2025 tax levy will be down by \$53,000 from 2024, the mill rate will increase by 1.95% in 2025.

Waupaca’s 2025 mill rate is \$7.71 per \$1,000 of assessed value, compared to \$17.54 in 2024.

“Even though we had a decreased overall levy amount, that is due to some impacts from Act 12 that happened a couple of years ago and this is the first year we’re seeing those impacts,” City Administrator Aaron Jensen said during the city’s Dec. 3 budget hearing.

“These impacts were primarily personal property value dropping off the assessment,” Jensen said.

He noted that the city lost \$20 million in assess-

ments due to Act 12 and gained \$5 million in total real estate assessed value for a total negative impact of \$15 million.

The city’s total assessed value has decreased from nearly \$626.48 million in 2023 to under \$612.32 million in 2025.

Revenues

Waupaca’s total revenues from all sources, including local taxes and state funding, are projects at \$8.6 million in 2025, an increase of \$435,032 over 2024.

In 2025, municipal aid payments from the state are set to grow with the 2024 state sales tax trends that were approximately 2.3%. This equates to \$1.2 million from the state to the city, an increase of \$28,585 when compared to 2024.

General transportation aids will increase in 2025 from \$559,792 to

\$644,429 or an increase of \$84,637.

Total intergovernmental revenues are projected to increase from \$1.96 million in 2024 to \$2.19 million in 2025.

Expenditures

Waupaca spends 37% of its tax revenues on public safety. This includes police, fire and EMS, which combined account for approximately \$2.33 million.

Public Works represents 23% of the city’s 2025 budget at nearly \$3.4 million, while administration, clerk’s office, finance and IT account for 15% of the budget, Parks and Rec 14%, Community Development 6% and the Public Library 5%.

Debt service

In 2025, the city of Waupaca will levy \$1.69 million for debt service, an increase of \$29,070 (1.7%).



Employees at the Waupaca office of Premier Community Bank spent time on Make A Difference Day volunteering in the community. Submitted Photo

MAD Day at Premier Community

REGION – Volunteering and serving local communities are among Premier Community Bank’s values.

Each year, employees dedicate time and energy on MAD Day, which stands for “Make A Difference” Day.

Their goal is to support the communities where they live and work.

Held annually on the second Monday in October to coincide with Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day, MAD Day gives Premier Community Bank an opportunity to create positive change lo-

cally while the offices are closed.

“We’re incredibly proud of our employees for their commitment to giving back,” said Robin Christian, senior vice president of retail at Premier Community Bank. “MAD Day is a special opportunity for our team to connect with our communities and truly make a difference. The impact of our work goes beyond this day; it’s about building relationships and supporting organizations that strengthen our community all year long.”

This year’s MAD Day saw an incredible response,

with 88 employees contributing a total of 472 volunteer hours across 18 organizations. Each branch selected meaningful community organizations where employees could provide hands-on assistance.

Premier Community Bank is headquartered in Marion. Other offices are located in Shawano, Pulaske, Waupaca, Weyauwega, Winneconne, Fremont, Iola, Manawa, Tigerton and Bear Creek. For more about Premier Community Bank visit www.premiercommunity.com.

Farmers Market heads to ICC

WAUPACA – As winter settles in, the Waupaca Farmers Market will be held indoors at the Indian Crossing Casino.

The first indoor winter event will be the Kris Kringle Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

There will be greenhouse products, local honey, baked goods, handmade soaps and lotions, fresh flowers, meats and cheeses and other produce.

More upcoming markets will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11 and Saturday, Jan. 25.

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WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT - OPERATOR

The City of Waupaca Wastewater Treatment Plant has an opening for an OPERATOR. The essential job duties include maintenance and repair of all sewerage system equipment, buildings, and grounds including the Wastewater Treatment Facility, sewerage lift stations, and sanitary collection system. Qualifications include three years of experience related to electrical, mechanical, and general maintenance and operation of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Laboratory experience and WDNR Wastewater Operator Certification preferred.

Starting hourly wage will range from \$25.00 to \$29.00 and will depend on skill, credentials, and experience. Wage increases per year will follow the public works pay scale along with acceptable work performance. Benefits included as described in the city employee handbook. Job description and City of Waupaca Employment Applications are available at Waupaca City Hall, 111 S. Main Street, Waupaca, WI or at www.cityofwaupaca.org. You must submit a City Employment Application for consideration, with an attached resume.

Applications must be turned in at Waupaca City Hall or be sent electronically to: employment@cityofwaupaca.org

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Stevens Point NEWS



The Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Jensen Community Center in Amherst. Contributed Photo

Foundation awards major grants

STEVENS POINT – The Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin awarded two major project grants

The Jensen Community Center in Amherst and the Waushara County Animal Shelter in Wautoma will each receive \$25,000.

The Jensen Center will use its grant to increase capacity and improve safety with plans for an outdoor terrace, fire protection and an expanded theater stage.

The expansion will create much-needed space for community-wide gatherings and private events such as weddings and memorials.

“The Jensen Community Center is truly the hub of the community, bringing together patrons of all ages and providing experiences that overlap the generational divide. The Com-

munity Foundation Major Projects grant will allow us to move forward with the last stage of the 3Stage Expansion Project and lends greater credibility to our enhancement project and its donors,” said Sandra Lynne Schmutzler, president of Jensen Community Center’s Board of Directors.

The grant for Waushara County Animal Shelter will fund an expansion project, providing more space for stray dogs and helping manage overflow from nearby counties. This project keeps tax dollars local, reduces transportation costs, and ensures quicker access to care through a local veterinary partner.

“I am very excited to see the Community Foundation having the opportunity to partner with the Jensen Center and Waush-

ara County Animal Shelter during the major grant cycle because it allows these organizations to meet their goals and help the communities they serve,” said Rachel Pekowsky, Community Foundation Board member and grants committee chair.

The major grant cycle really allows the community members and organizations a voice in where the funds are best used. As a grant committee member, it is so rewarding to be a part of the process and see those organizations continue to grow and make a positive impact in the community.”

The Major Project grant cycle supports the growth and development of a community project that makes a significant impact in Portage and Waushara counties.

Plover VFW Breakfast With Santa

PLOVER – Plover Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10262 Rifle Squad will host “Breakfast With Santa” at their monthly steak and omelet breakfast fundraiser from 8:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, Dec. 15.

The post is located at 2970 Hickory Drive in Plover.

Breakfast will feature a choice of steak and omelet combo for \$12 or sausage and omelet combo for \$9.50. Prices include hash browns, buttermilk or potato pancakes, toast and a

choice of coffee, milk, tomato juice or orange juice. A children’s plate for ages 12 and younger is \$4.75 and includes 2 sausages, two pancakes, toast and a choice of tomato juice, orange juice or milk.

Santa will arrive at the post around 10 a.m. and children will receive a special surprise.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to purchase equipment and uniform attire for the Plover VFW Rifle Squad and Color Guard. The unit

performs military honors for fallen veterans at all military funerals, conducts ceremonies at area cemeteries on Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day, and supports an award for an Outstanding Cadet at the annual UWSP-ROTC military ball.

The Plover VFW Auxiliary will hold a holiday bake sale fundraiser in conjunction with the breakfast. Proceeds from the bake sale support the Plover VFW Auxiliary.

CWSO announces holiday concerts

STEVENS POINT – The Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra will perform “Holiday on Broadway” on at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14-15, at Sentry Theater.

These holiday concerts will feature popular Christmas songs, such as “Winter Wonderland,” “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” “All I Want for Christmas Is You,” “Let It Go” from Frozen, and more.

The concerts will also feature Broadway star and vocalist Christiane Noll. She received Tony and Drama Desk award nomi-

nations and won a Helen Hayes Award for her portrayal of Mother in the Kennedy Center Revival of “Ragtime.”

Noll starred in the record-breaking Broadway and First National Tour companies of “Dear Evan Hansen.” She has been a frequent guest soloist as part of Bravo Broadway with symphony orchestras in almost every state in the USA, as well as international appearances with Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony, Sinfonica Brasileira in Rio, and the China Philharmonic with concert pianist

Lang Lang.

Wisconsin Public Radio will host some arts and crafts before the concert. At intermission, free cookies and hot chocolate or spiced cider will be available while students of the UWSP Low Brass studio the Aber Suzuki Center perform more holiday music.

Tickets for Holiday on Broadway” are available online at cwsso.org, by calling 715-345-7726, or at the door on Dec. 14-15.

Tickets are \$45 for adults, \$35 for seniors age 65 and up, \$15 for students with ID and for children ages 5-17 years.

County B reopened in Plover

PLOVER – The County Trunk B improvement project from Interstate 39 to Wisconsin Avenue in Plover is substantially complete and the roadway is fully open to traffic.

The project involved a rural-to-urban reconstruction of County B from Wisconsin Avenue to Hoover Avenue and urban pavement replacement of County B

from Hoover Avenue to I-39 ramps, according to Portage County Highway Commissioner Nathan Check in a press release.

Crews replaced the deteriorated concrete pavement, widened the pavement median, installed new curb and gutter or asphalt shoulders, new concrete sidewalk, new asphalt multi-use path, new street lighting, and a signal-

ized intersection at Mecca Drive.

No future work is expected this winter but there will be additional lighting, multi-use path, concrete repairs, and final project punch list work to be completed next Spring. This work will be completed with single lane closures with at least one lane open in each direction.

Program gives emergency aid to UWSP students

STEVENS POINT – Unexpected challenges and expenses happen to everyone, including college students.

With the goal of making sure these emergencies don’t get in the way of earning a degree, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is making it easier for students to apply for financial help in a crisis.

Unlike previous years, students will have one “front door” with one application for any type of emergency funding rather than applying with several units.

Starting in January 2025, a website through the Next-Gen financial aid software system will supply the application form. Once completed, a new, collaborative Emergency Aid Team from various university departments will provide financial support within 24 business hours.

“We find that students at the university are balancing work, school and family obligations, and that 43% of our students have some kind of basic need insecurity that can impact their education,” said Chancellor Thomas Gibson. “We don’t want an unforeseen financial circum-

stance to derail their college education and their ability to find their purpose and career path.”

Once approved, funding will come from one of four sources, including the James and Nancy Baxter Fund, Universities of Wisconsin Administration Emergency Aid Funds, UWSP Foundation funds, and via emergency funds housed in UWSP’s colleges, such as the College of Natural Resources Crisis Intervention Fund established by UWSP CNR alumnus Alan Buchanan.

Created in 2014, the Baxter Fund has provided emergency awards for students with unexpected expenses due to car repairs, accidents, housing, technology and health care costs. The fund was created to help students with short-term challenges that might prevent them from continuing their university courses.

“There are times in life where a little financial help can make the difference between failure and success,” said UWSP alumni Jim and Nancy Baxter. “This fund is intended to enhance that opportunity.”

Individuals from the

Dean of Students, Financial Aid, Academic Success, Bursars, Advancement and Diversity and College Access offices will participate as members of the Emergency Aid team to review applications, award funds and ensure consistency. The Next-Gen software will be used to support and immediately award funds.

Prior to January 2025, students may reach out to uwsp.foundation@uwsp.edu to apply for emergency assistance. Students may be referred to the Dean of Students for general resource support as well as Financial Aid. Additional support may also be found through The Cupboard, the student food pantry on campus, as well as The Closet and The Backpack, which offer donated clothing, school and home supplies for students through the Office of Sustainability.

Those considering donations to the UWSP’s emergency funds may do so through the UWSP Foundation, or visit UWSP Giving Tuesday to donate to The Cupboard, The Closet, The Backpack and other student support funds across campus.

UWSP to hold winter commencement

STEVENS POINT – An alumnus who is an instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and composer will address more than 500 graduates and their families at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s winter commencement ceremony Saturday, Dec. 14.

Stevens Point native Danny Mitchell, a 2006 graduate of UWSP, currently lends his talents as keyboardist, bandleader and vocalist with multi-platinum recording artist Miranda Lambert. He will speak to graduates from campuses in Stevens Point, Marshfield and Wausau who are earning degrees.

The ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. in Skyward Fieldhouse inside Marshfield Clinic Health System Champions Hall, 2050 Fourth Ave., Stevens

Point. The event will also be livestreamed at www.uwsp.edu/commencement.

Chancellor Thomas Gibson will lead the ceremony with the assistance of Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs La Vonne Cornell-Swanson. Deans of each college will preside over presentation of degrees. Music education and music performance major Karina Verdette, Green Bay, will perform the national anthem. Music education major Briannah Wanca, Antigo, will join Verdette in performing the Alma Mater accompanied by the UW-Stevens Point Symphony Orchestra under the direction Andy Moran, director of orchestras.

The student speaker is Sequoyah Byas, a sociology and social work major

from Milwaukee. Alumni Greg, ’76, and Mari Regnier, ’85, will lead the alumni pinning ceremonies.

Guests may park in any campus lot for free, except Lot F East, which will be used for accessible parking.

Mitchell is well-versed in a variety of musical genres including pop, jazz, country and classical. He has made a name for himself within the industry as a go-to solo and collaborative performer and writer. Mitchell moved to Nashville shortly after his graduation from UW-Stevens Point. Since then, he has worked steadily as a freelance musician in and around Nashville and across the country.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in jazz piano and composition at UW-Stevens Point.

Bridge winners at Lincoln Center

STEVENS POINT – Social bridge winners at the Lincoln Center on Dec. 2 were Jane Schill, Elsie Glodowski, Mary Olson and Dian Schufelt.

Call Rose Marie at 715-341-1654 by Wednesday, to play social bridge the following Monday.

Duplicate bridge winners on Dec. 5 at the Lincoln Center were Emalyn Nikstad and Jim Golz, Jerry Hild and Janice Doxtator, Gene Clark and Bob Alexejun.

Duplicate bridge winners on Dec. 6 at the Lincoln Center were Nancy Quick

and Gene Clark, John Herder and Rick Jansing, Sandy Davis and Barbara Ringberg, and Ellie Brush and Janice Doxtator.

New duplicate players welcome. Those interested in playing duplicate bridge on Fridays, call Sandy Davis at 715-252-3365.

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Clintonville NEWS

JIRSICHELE

FROM PAGE 1

who played for more than 10 years in minor league baseball, reminded him about how good the players would be that he would be playing against. He said his dad told him to keep competing and working on a daily basis, and to stay humble.

Jirschele played three and a half years in the minor leagues, and progressed through the White Sox minor league system.

"I got high at Triple A as a utility player, so I bounced around a lot," Jirschele said.

Triple A is just one level below the major leagues, so Jirschele was on the cusp of reaching the major leagues as a player. But in May of 2015, Jirschele was given the opportunity to become a hitting coach in the White Sox's minor league system.

Despite being only 25 years old, Jirschele said he wasn't surprised with the coaching opportunity.

"They had talked to me about getting into coaching the year prior," he said. "Obviously, some things didn't pan out, so I went to Spring Training as a player

and was ready to keep going, and then this came up in the middle of the year. I was surprised at the timing of it, but not that they were asking me to coach."

It was a tough decision. If he accepted the coaching position, it meant his dream of playing in the big leagues was over. But if he accepted the coaching position, because he was so young, it would allow him plenty of time to advance as a coach.

"I would say 95% of guys are told that their careers are done, or they just don't get that opportunity anymore after they are released or cut or whatever," Jirschele said. "They told me, 'You can keep playing, finish this year out and see where we're at, at the end of the year, or if you want this job, you can take it right now.'"

Ultimately, Jirschele decided to accept the hitting coach position.

When asked if he accepted the coaching position because he felt that was his best path to the majors, Jirschele said with a laugh, "Yeah, ultimately, because I wasn't a very good player."

"You get into professional baseball, and you start seeing the talent around you, and you start to understand where you stack up with these people, and you know it's certainly a longshot to make it to the big leagues at that moment," Jirschele said. "Not that you don't have those goals, or those dreams, and you're certainly working for it, but just that sense of reality."

"And on the opposite side, them offering me a coaching job at such a young age, I saw an opportunity that may not have come again, especially with the White Sox, the organization I knew. I just felt that the timing was right, and I was able to kind of hit the ground running because it was the middle of the year."



Justin Jirschele, a native of Clintonville, will return as the third base coach for the Chicago White Sox. Photo courtesy of Darren Georgia

Coaching career begins

After spending the second half of the 2015 season as a minor league hitting coach, Jirschele spent 2016 as the hitting coach for the Low A team in Kannapolis, North Carolina. In 2017, he was promoted to manager of that team. In 2019, he managed the team in Winston Salem, North Carolina, which was the White Sox's High A team.

Another promotion in 2021, led Jirschele to the manager's position for the Double A team in Birmingham, Alabama. He spent two years there, before taking over the manager's job for the Triple A team in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was the manager of the Charlotte team until August of this year, when he received the phone call that brought him to the major leagues.

"Our GM (general manager) had called in August and said 'I'm making a

change, you're going to come up and you're going to coach third base and run the infield for the rest of the year,'" Jirschele said.

Jirschele's dream of making it to the big leagues was coming true, but he said he had mixed emotions because he knew those who were losing their jobs.

"First and foremost, it's a shock, because of the timing, and you're getting the call being told you're going to the big leagues," he said. "I've told people that usually I'm the one who gets to make that sweet phone call or bring a guy into my office and tell him that his dream's coming true."

"I knew guys up there that I have known were losing their job because of the fact I was coming up there. Some of those circumstances obviously weren't ideal, but at the end of the day, once the dust settled a little bit and I was on my way to Chicago, it's 'Ok, how can I go up there

and help and try to turn this thing around and be a positive impact?'"

Even though Jirschele had been a manager in the White Sox minor league system, he also served as the third base coach during the games he managed.

When he was promoted to the third base coaching position with the White Sox, Jirschele was 34 years old. But age is not something Jirschele said he thinks about.

"I feel like, my whole career, from the day I started coaching, I got asked a lot about being the youngest hitting coach, or being the youngest manager," he said. "I tried to drown a lot of that out knowing that I'm here for a reason and have a job to do. I'm confident in my abilities as a coach and instructor, as a mentor."

When Jirschele received the call from the GM of the White Sox informing him that he was being promoted to the third base coaching position with the White Sox, his family was with him at the time.

"My family was actually there with me, including my mom, and also my sister, her husband, and her three boys," he said. "My wife's parents as well were with us. We jumped in the trucks and drove north to Chicago. That was a blessing in disguise. It was something that none of us seen coming. To have all them there, and then some cousins drive down from the Appleton area and Madison area, it was a ton of support, and it was really, really neat to see them all up there."

Unfortunately, Jirschele's dad couldn't be there because he was managing the Triple A team for the Kansas City Royals.

But Jirschele said his dad was excited when he heard the news about the promotion.

"He understands the game and how this works, and the timing of it," Jirschele said. "(He was) certainly surprised and shocked, as we all were at that time, but definitely excited for me, and excited I was going to get that opportunity."

Coaching duties

To be a successful third base coach, Jirschele said he watches a lot of film of outfielders to see how strong their arms are and how they attack a baseball hit to them.

"Pretty much every single scenario that could come up, we have video on it, and we have data on it," Jirschele said.

In addition, Jirschele is the infield coach for the White Sox.

"I was in charge of running the infield defense," Jirschele said. "During the game, it's making sure guys are in their correct spots of where our data shows they should be to defend the ground ball. Along with that, it's watching film on opposing offenses and guys that bunt."

The future

When asked if he has a goal of managing in the big leagues in the future, Jirschele said he tries not to think about that.

"If the opportunity presented itself, would I say no? Absolutely not," he said. "I would love an opportunity, but it's not something that I'm working towards or striving towards. I love the opportunity I have each and every day with the Chicago White Sox. I take that opportunity with gratitude and understand that I have a job to do, whatever that may be, each and every day. I'm confident that whatever happens, will happen down the road."

Local airports launch EAA chapter

CLINTONVILLE – The aviation community of Northeastern Wisconsin has launched EAA Chapter 1710.

The chapter is a collaborative effort between the Clintonville Municipal Airport (CLI) and the Shawano Municipal Airport and Seaplane Base (EZS).

Formally established on Nov. 18, the new EAA chapter aims to preserve aviation history, inspire the next generation of pilots, and strengthen ties within the community.

The journey began in 2020 when Caz Muske stepped into her role as airport manager at CLI.

Mentored by Mike McCord, Clintonville's long-serving Public Works director, Muske learned the history of CLI – once the birthplace of Wisconsin Central Airlines, which later became part of Delta Airlines.

Medford's vision for reviving community engagement in aviation inspired Muske to pursue the creation of a local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter.

Muske worked with Colin Isom, airport manager at EZS. Together, they researched successful models and reached out to nearby EAA chapters for guidance. They were advised by Mathieu Labs, an experienced EAA volunteer, who later stepped up alongside his wife, Lauren, to lead the chapter.

The founding leadership team includes Mathieu Labs, president and Young Eagles coordinator; Fran West, vice president; Daniel Connelly, treasurer; and Lauren Labs, secretary.

"Launching EAA Chapter 1710 is a dream realized," said Muske. "This chapter is not just about aviation; it's about bringing people together to share a passion for flight and inspire the next generation."

Starting in January 2025, the chapter will hold monthly meetings on at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday, alternating between CLI and EZS.

For more information or to get involved, contact EAA Chapter 1710 at EAAChapter1710@gmail.com, 715-250-0220 (Caz Muske), or follow the chapter on Facebook: EAA Chapter 1710.



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New London & Hortonville NEWS

'Christmas Carol' in New London

NEW LONDON – Wolf River Theatrical Troupe will present "A Christmas Carol: Live Radio Show" at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, Dec. 11-14, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15.

Performances will be at the theater at 304 St. John's Place in New London.

Actors and sound crew will take the audience back to the 1943 live radio version of Charles Dickens' classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge learning the meaning of Christmas.

Tickets are \$20 and available online at www.wrtt.org or by calling 920-250-6200.

Thern Farm hosts holiday event

NEW LONDON – Thern Farm will host Holiday on the Farm from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

Highlights for this family event include opportunities to meet with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and an elf, a real live reindeer,

wagon rides, holiday music with Tom Tunes, refreshments, face painting and holiday crafts.

Admission is \$10 per car and includes all activities.

Thern Farm is located at 425 E. Fairview Drive in New London.

Hometown Holiday event Saturday

HORTONVILLE – Downtown Hortonville and the Hortonville Community Center will host a Hometown Holiday event from 1-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

Local businesses will offer holiday specials all day while residents and visitors drop in on a number of planned events.

Santa will visit the community center in the Hortonville Municipal Building from 1-4 p.m. during an Arts and Crafts workshop and Cookies with Cops event also featuring EMTs and firefighters

from the community.

There will be a bike and basket raffle at 3 p.m. in the community center.

Closer to downtown, turkey bowling takes place on Pine Street from 3-6 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. the Hortonville High School Choir will perform outside in the community square at the intersection of West Main and South Nash streets.

At 5 p.m., there will be a tree lighting ceremony featuring an 18-foot tall Christmas Tree donated by Wolfrath's Nursery and Landscaping.



Downtown business owners and city officials held a brief ribbon cutting ceremony on the newly reconstructed North Water Street to start the 2024 Winter Wonderland Parade Friday, Dec. 6.

John Faucher Photo

New London reopens downtown

NEW LONDON – A two-year multimillion dollar downtown reconstruction project in New London is officially over.

The project, which began in spring of 2023 and ended this month, involved a complete rebuild of below-surface infrastructure and above-ground amenities on North Water Street.

The project also included additional downtown park-

ing and improvements to side streets along North Water Street.

Mayor Mark Herter gave a few remarks during a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the reopening of downtown.

"Today marks a transformative moment for New London as we celebrate the completion of our downtown reconstruction project.

This ribbon cutting signi-

fies not just the opening of revitalized streets and spaces, but also the beginning of a brighter chapter for our community.

With modern infrastructure, enhanced accessibility, and a vibrant atmosphere, our downtown is now a hub that reflects the spirit, resilience, and vision of New London.

Let this moment remind us of what we can achieve

together, as we welcome new opportunities, growth and connections in the heart of our city," Herter said.

He thanked the downtown revitalization committee, Chamber of Commerce, community input groups and citizens for their patience, and he thanked the Department of Public Works and city staff for their hours of work and planning in the project.

Wega-Fremont NEWS

Hometown rodeo queens

Two sisters serve the state

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA – In a rare coincidence of overlapping timelines, two Weyauwega sisters will have concurrent roles as ambassadors for the world of rodeo and agriculture.

Ashley Johnson, 21, will serve this year as Miss Rodeo Wisconsin and her younger sister Ava Johnson, 19, is currently serving as Miss Teen Rodeo Wisconsin.

Ava was crowned Miss Teen Rodeo Wisconsin in August and her one-year term will end next August.

Her sister Ashley will be formally coronated at Rio Lobo Winery & Brewery at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. There will be dinner, raffles, silent auctions and activities for children.

Ashley's term will end next January so the sisters have the winter, spring and summer to team up their efforts as they make appearances throughout the state. Ashley will do more out-of-state trips representing Wisconsin in the rodeo world but when back in her home state they plan to work together which helps save on travel expenses.

There are 11 Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association events in Wisconsin and they plan to go to all of them, along with some other related events such as the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison in April. They also plan on participating in numerous community events and visiting schools, libraries and hospitals.

The process of earning this title is not easy. It's like a cross between a college application and an interview for an important job.



Ava Johnson (left) is Miss Teen Rodeo Wisconsin and Ashley Johnson is the future 2025 Miss Rodeo Wisconsin. The sisters will travel throughout the state this upcoming year as ambassadors of rodeo and the agriculture industry.

James Card Photo

First, one submits headshot photographs, a resume, a biography, an essay of one's intentions as serving as Miss Rodeo Wisconsin and two recommendations. At the pageant, they are run through a grinder where they are judged on photogenic qualities and horsemanship skills.

They must pass a 100-question test, have a personality interview, give a prepared speech and also a think-fast impromptu speech.

At a rodeo, the queen will ride in the grand entry and carry the American flag for the opening ceremony. During the rodeo she may ride around with sponsorship flags and help round up loose cattle. If there is a drill team performance or a mutton busting – where children ride sheep – they will participate with that. At the end of the rodeo, they close it out with a Happy Trails ride and wave the audience goodbye.

"For us, when we go to different rodeos it's about meeting a whole bunch of different people, like the rodeo contestants and the stock contractors are from

all over the United States. It's cool to see their upbringing and how they got into it," said Ava.

Riders of mammoth mules

They are the daughters of Charley and Charlene Johnson and they grew up on a farm of diversified livestock (beef, pigs, sheep). Ashley graduated from W-F High School in 2021 and Ava graduated in 2023. Both played sports, were on the equestrian team and cite FFA playing a big role in their lives.

They learned how to ride mules before they learned how to ride horses. Their father kept mules for hunting trips in the American West (including American Mammoth Jackstock – a large-sized breed of mule). The girls rode the mules on trails and showed them at the state mule show.

Paint and Squash

Later they got horses and they are the ones you might see them riding at rodeo events.

Ava got an American

Painted Horse (aptly named, "Paint") from a rescue in Richland Center and trained him and the horse is now six years old. Ashley rides Squash, a Quarter Horse-Palomino mix. She got the horse from a woman that named her horses after vegetables.

"I rode her on the Rodeo City Riders drill Team and she's been a great queen horse—she's really pretty. She likes cows so we do a lot of ranch riding and cow work which is fun," said Ashley. She also has an Australian shepherd dog that can jump up onto Squash on command.

They joined the Pink Ribbon Rebels Drill Team that is known for their performances at the Mid-Western Rodeo in Manawa. Ashley served as the Mid-Western Rodeo Queen and she also joined the Rodeo City Riders. A year later, she became Miss Teen Rodeo Wisconsin. After a break, she tried out for the Miss Rodeo Wisconsin. Later, her younger sister Ava also served as a Mid-Western Rodeo queen.

Ashley is currently a junior at UW-River Falls and studying agricultural education. Ashley will compete for Miss Rodeo America next year. Ava studied at Fox Valley Technical College for a year and earned an agriculture business management degree. Now she works part-time at TLC Signs and sometimes uses her commercial driver's license to drive large work trucks. She plans to go to farrier school in the future.

They can be contacted for community event appearances and sponsorship opportunities at missrodeowisconsin2025@gmail.com. They also encourage girls to reach out to them to learn about becoming a rodeo queen.

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Magdanz earns national award

WEYAUWEGA – Bethany Magdanz was named as one of the top four FFA members in the nation for her work in the Dairy Production Proficiency area at the 97th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

W-F FFA member Magdanz earned first place in Wisconsin for her proficiency in Dairy Production in June 2023.

After winning state, she interviewed in front of a panel made up of judges from around the nation from the agriculture industry and they reviewed her proficiency that was composed of a 30-page application about work her on her family's dairy farm in Pine River.



Bethany Magdanz represented Weyauwega-Fremont FFA at the national convention. She received the American FFA Degree as well as being recognized as a top four national proficiency finalist.

Submitted Photo

Iola-Scandinavia NEWS



Waupaca Rotarian Wes Klages (third from right) presents a check for \$1,000 to teachers, from left, Hayli Breyhan, Megan Driebel, Kimberlisa Przychocki, Kristen Bertsch and Casey Danielson. Submitted Photo

Rotary gives grant to I-S school

IOLA – Rotary Club of Waupaca gave a \$1,000 grant to Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School.

The grant funds one-third of the program costs for the new Energy Bus for Schools program.

Costs associated with the program are \$2,000 for access to the Energy Bus for Schools Programming and \$1,000 for the Energy Bus and Energy Bus for Kids books.

The program will benefit 300 students.

The program is designed to have a lasting impact on students.

“A growth mindset prepares students for lifelong learning, as they are more likely to embrace new opportunities, adapt to change, and continuously improve,” the grant application indicates.

“The social skills and behaviors help students form healthy relationships throughout life.

In the workplace, strong collaboration and communication skills are key to success. In personal life, positive relationships contribute to overall well-being and happiness,” the application continues.

“These habits lead to ongoing personal and professional success. Students who have adopted these positive habits are more likely to become successful leaders, team players, and well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to society.”

The program’s instructional Energy Bus Team indicates, “We would love for guest speakers to come in to share the importance of positivity, leadership, and teamwork to provide powerful real-world examples. Partnering with local social media platforms and news stations may help foster community pride and increase awareness of what we are doing.”

The Rotary Club of Waupaca recently awarded more than \$9,000 to the Iola-Scandinavia, Waupaca and Weyauwega-Fremont school districts.

Over 90 members strong, Rotary Club of Waupaca works to support education, protect the environment, grow local economies, promote peace, support mothers and children, provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and fight disease.

The club raises funds through community events to support various programs and service projects that improve lives locally, nationally, and worldwide.

Iola-Scandinavia residents are invited to attend a club meeting to see what Rotary is about. It meets at 7:30 a.m. Wednesdays at St. Mary Magdalene’s Fellowship Hall in Waupaca.

Another sand mine appeal filed

BY EMILY DOUD
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – Neighbors to a proposed sand mine site in Iola have filed an appeal to the Board of Adjustment in an attempt to overturn the decision made Oct. 25 to allow for a conditional use permit (CUP) for the sand mine.

The Board of Adjustment (BOA) met Oct. 21 to hear testimony from both Faulks Bros. Construction and representatives from the Iola Car Show grounds, as well as from the plaintiffs, who are neighbors to the sand mine site.

The plaintiffs’ lawyer, Christa Westerberg, is with Pines Bach out of Madison.

After listening to over 10 hours of testimony, the BOA then met Oct. 25 for deliberations. The board decided to uphold the decision made by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

The plaintiffs listed in the appeal had 30 days to decide whether or not they were going to appeal the decision.

The CUP for the proposed sand mine has been in question since May of 2023, when the town of Scandinavia recommended a denial for the CUP.

The most recent appeal was sent to the BOA and Westerberg listed four areas that should be considered in reversing the decision.

One area in the appeal states that the Board did not meet the requirements of the county’s zoning and non-metallic mining ordinance, which includes consideration of the circumstances of the neighboring residents.

The appeal also stated that the CUP does not meet the requirements for a sand mine in a Farmland Preservation area.

According to the appeal, the BOA did not explain how the applicant had satisfied the requirements of the county’s standards for the CUP.

Finally, the appeal states:

“The Board erred in approving a CUP application that was not supported by substantial evidence on all applicable ordinance requirements ... particularly concerning the impact to property values, and where other substantial evidence showed the standards could not be met.”

Jon Faulks, of Faulks Brothers Construction, was reached for comment and said the following:

“The opposing neighbors have filed an appeal against the BOA’s decision. While this is within their rights, it’s important to emphasize that the decision was made based on legal compliance and a thorough review of all facts. The Comprehensive Plan is a guiding document, not a regulation, as stated by the law. The proposed sand pit aligns with the [Private Recreation and Forestry] PVRF’s preferred land use, which allows for mining, and includes a commitment to restore the land to its original agricultural and parking use once the project is complete.”

According to Greg Ambrosius, a plaintiff listed in the appeal:

“The decision to appeal was actually pretty simple. The law clearly states that the applicant has the burden to prove with substantial evidence that their permit is in compliance with 28 Waupaca County non-metallic mining requirements in order to get approval. If they are not in compliance with even one requirement then they can’t get approval. We believe there was no substantial evidence presented for multiple requirements and in fact Faulks Bros. even admitted that they aren’t in compliance with the Township of Scandinavia’s Comprehensive Plan, which was one of the requirements. We believe it’s important for an unbiased judge to re-hear this case and determine if they are in compliance with all 28 requirements or not.”

The Iola Car Show was reached but declined to comment on the appeal.

Get a Discount on Your TDS Service

If you think you can't afford service, think again. You could qualify for a discount on your service through a low-income telephone assistance program called Lifeline Assistance. Lifeline Assistance credits reduce monthly service charges.

Who's Eligible?

If you have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if you participate in one of the following programs, you may be eligible to participate:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP))
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veteran's Pension and Survivor's Pension Benefits

To apply for Lifeline, you must apply to the Lifeline National Verifier at www.lifelinesupport.org. You may also print an application from that website. If you have questions about applying, to check eligibility or to request an application, visit www.checklifeline.org or call the National Verifier at 1-800-234-9473.

Lifeline is a government assistance program and is non-transferable. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. There is a limit of one discount per household. Lifeline credits on internet service are only available where minimum supported broadband service is available. If the household becomes ineligible for Lifeline the household will be subject to TDS' regular rates, terms, and conditions.

Contact TDS for more information, to check on eligibility, or to request an application visit <https://tdstelecom.com/lifeline.html>, or call us at 1-888-CALL-TDS.



211689WI/10-24/12780

Manawa NEWS



June and Joy had the chance to meet Santa at Merry Manawa Dec. 5. Emily Doud Photo

Miracle on Bridge Street in Manawa

BY EMILY DOUD
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – Since 2018, Miracle on Bridge Street has strived to bring families together for activities and entertainment in downtown Manawa.

This Christmas-themed event took a brief hiatus in 2023 in order to recuperate and recharge the creative juices, according to said Jamie Lane, event organizer.

This year the event is back and boasts more than 20 activities, all of which are free except for bowling, which is \$2 per person.

Lane noticed there were not a lot of large Christmas events in the county and thought creating an event for families to come out and enjoy the holidays without having to worry about cost would be a great way for the Manawa business community to give back to their customers.

“We started this in 2018 because not a lot of communities had Christmas activities,” Lane said. “And so I think it’s just so exciting

to see that, kind of spurred more communities on ... joy and generosity is contagious, right?”

The event began as a way to steer away from commerce, but instead to remember what Christmas is all about in the first place.

“Christmas is not about the gifts and the presents, even though those are wonderful things to do to show your love, because obviously Christmas is about Jesus and his birth, and the love that he gave for us, and the gifts that he gave to us,” Lane said. “And so we also want to highlight that, and to bring that true meaning of Christmas, so we don’t have Santa or Mrs. Claus because we want Jesus to be the focus of the Christmas season.”

Businesses throughout Manawa are participating in the event, holding various crafts and activities within each business.

One of the new activities families can participate in this year is a cookie scavenger hunt, which is being

held by Treehouse Foods within Clover Motors.

Each child will receive a box with cookie decorating items in them, then they can take them to area businesses to collect cookies and decorate them when they get home.

There will also be take-and-bake cookies at Sunrise Café where families can pick out toppings for the cookies and go home to bake their cookies. This which is also new this year.

There will be gingerbread cookie frames that visitors can create at Bridge Street Salon, after which they can hit the selfie stroll through a Christmas decorated walk, themed Uncle Eddie from National Lampoon Christmas, to get a picture printed out for the frame.

Other highlights include face painting, cookie decorating, coloring, Lego ornaments, free popcorn, snowman kits and trail mix, hot chocolate and

Miracle
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM NEW LONDON UTILITIES

We're honored to be your local utility and we take pride in providing New London with reliable power, friendly hometown service and local control. From dazzling light displays to festive family moments, we'll be here to help brighten your celebrations. We are happy you are our customer and wish you the best in the coming year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

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At New London Utilities, we join forces with other local, not-for-profit utilities through WPPI Energy to share resources and lower costs.

Ⓜ A WPPI ENERGY COMMUNITY



Picnic tables for kids

Students in the general construction class at Clintonville High School helped build four picnic tables for Mother Goose Day Care after they had a fire. With help from Torborgs Lumber, who donated all the lumber and screws, the students worked together in groups to follow building plans and divided up responsibilities to get the job done.

Photo courtesy of Clintonville Chamber of Commerce

Community blood drive

WEYAUWEGA – An American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, at Weyauwega

City Hall, 109. E. Main St., in the community center room.

Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org and

enter Weyauwega to schedule an appointment.

While supplies last, donors may get a long-sleeved Red Cross t-shirt.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

FROM PAGE 2

Dodge Ram drove past a school bus when it was stopped and the lights were flashing.

- Dec. 3 – A Waupaca man on Wisconsin Street reported a lost Remington 30.06 rifle.

- Dec. 3 – A Waupaca caller on County Trunk K reported she was defrauded \$1,000 via a PayPal account.

- Dec. 3 – A Waupaca caller on LeRoy Butler Drive requested a welfare check on a woman who called her. The woman could not speak because she had vocal cord surgery.

- Dec. 3 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.

- Dec. 4 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile hit and kicked two staff members.

- Dec. 4 – A female caller reported a man believed that the neighbors were conspiring to kill him.

- Dec. 4 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.

- Dec. 4 – The Wisconsin Veterans Home in King reported a resident claimed that he was missing some money.

- Dec. 4 – A 911 caller reported the death of a 64-year-old man.

- Dec. 4 – A 911 caller requested an ambulance for a 62-year-old man with a pulse but not breathing.

- Dec. 5 – A New London man on County Trunk N reported a bullet hole in his barn door.

- Dec. 5 – A Manawa woman on County Trunk B reported she was receiving harassing calls from a company asking for money.

- Dec. 5 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.

- Dec. 6 – An anonymous caller reported some juveniles threw an egg at

his truck and broke the side mirror.

- Dec. 6 – An Ogdensburg man on Keating Street reported his neighbor flies his drone over his fields and food plots. He wanted to know what could be done about these incursions.

- Dec. 6 – A Waupaca man on Rural Road reported the Department of Veterans Affairs informed him he would receive a check. The check never arrived. The VA traced the check and learned it was cashed.

- Dec. 6 – A contractor brought in a plastic bag filled with pill bottles that he found in a house on Lincoln Avenue in Clintonville. The house has been vacant for three or four years. He turned over the items to the sheriff's office.

- Dec. 6 – A Clintonville woman on Island Road reported a suspicious maroon Ford minivan driving up and down the road

- Dec. 6 – Marion Body Works reported one employee threatened to kill another employee.

- Dec. 6 – An unknown caller reported a natural gas leak but could not locate its source.

- Dec. 6 – A 911 caller reported a vehicle on fire.

- Dec. 6 – A Clintonville man on State Highway 156 reported two women were harassing him. He blocked their numbers and told them to stop it. Now they came to his house and did burnouts in his driveway.

- Dec. 6 – A New London man on Huntley Road reported he was flying his drone and he heard gunfire. An individual fired five to six more shots at the drone. The drone video recorded the encounter. The caller did not know the anti-aircraft gunner.

- Dec. 6 – A Clintonville man on Melody Lane reported a woman was invited into the home by the caller's cousin who lives with the caller and the caller's mother. The caller wanted the woman removed from the premise.

- Dec. 7 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.

- Dec. 7 – A Manawa woman on Oak Road reported her ex-husband was threatening her via email and Facebook Messenger. He threatened to choke her and kill her and throw her into the river.

- Dec. 8 – A Marinette woman requested a welfare check on her son who was drinking at Betty's Bar & Grill with members of his National Guard unit. He was extremely intoxicated and he said it would be very easy to slit his jugular.

- Dec. 8 – A Marion woman on Meyer Street reported she was "looking for crisis." She had thoughts of overdosing or cutting herself.

- Dec. 8 – Rawhide Youth Services reported a juvenile runaway.

- Dec. 8 – A Pine River man on Saxeville Road reported he heard the door that connects the house to the garage open. He called out thinking it was his wife. The door quickly closed. No one was there when he checked.

- Dec. 8 – An Iola man on County Trunk G reported a person struck his mailbox the night before. A taillight was left behind.

- Dec. 8 – An unknown caller reported the death of a 62-year-old man.

- There were 12 deer-related calls during this period. One controlled burn was called in. A New London man reported a black cow was in the road. A Waupaca man reported an injured goose in his backyard.

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MIRACLE

FROM PAGE 7

cookies, reindeer ornaments, reindeer food and pipe cleaner candy cane ornaments as well as \$2 per person bowling at Kegler's Bowling Alley.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church will have their live nativity, complete with live animals.

Manawa City Hall will have a meet and greet with the Grinch, as well as mini golf, which will be hosted by Cedar Spring Golf Course.

Kolbe Vinyl Doors and Windows will provide trolley rides so families can get to each activity without having to drive themselves.

There will also be horse drawn carriage rides at the Mid-Western Rodeo grounds.

The event starts at 11 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m., after which will be a Christmas parade and fireworks.

This is the second year that the event will feature fireworks, which will be visible from Bridge Street where families sat for the

parade.

Lane said her goal as an organizer is to give families support and give families a day to enjoy without having to pull out their wallet.

"Christmas time can be a very difficult time for families both financially and emotionally," Lane said.

"The point of Miracle on Bridge Street is just to bring families together that they can have a free day, they can have fun, and they don't have to pull out their pocketbook at all if they don't want to."

Sports

Nicolet NATIONAL BANK

PRESENTS

Senior Spotlight

Jenna Jones-Wisconsin Valley United/SPASH

A 3-1 start for Wisconsin Valley Union has been spearheaded by senior Jenna Jones.

In the 2023-2024 season, Jenna was named First-Team All-Eastern Shores. Jenna was also the leader in points and goals for her team, an impressive feat for a player whose primary position is defense.

Jenna is now picking up where she has left off, scoring eight goals in the first four games of the 2024-2025 season.

Learning to skate as a toddler was the first step toward Jennas' hockey career.

"I learned how to skate just after I turned 3." Jenna said of her introduction to the ice, "My brother, Jarett, played, and I wanted to be just like him. My dad and him were the people who first taught me to skate."

As she begins her senior season, Jenna is already a decorated player after being voted All-State last season, and her Wisconsin travel team made it to the USA National Quarterfinals a season ago.

Hockey has brought many positive influences into Jenna's life: "The team dynamic I have experienced through hockey is so much different than any other sport. Meeting great people has been one of the easiest things to love about it. I also love how physical and fast-paced it is. It really challenges your body in many ways athletically. I also just love being competitive—I think being the youngest of four kids will do that to you."

Jenna has done well balancing academics and athletics as she plans to attend the University of Wisconsin next fall, "It's been a challenge. Academics are important to me, and as the years have progressed, I have added more challenging classes to my schedule. However, I am a firm believer that if you care, you can make time, and I have learned to do just that. This year, I've gone to school early to have time to keep up with all my APs, and communicating well with your teachers is always important, too."

As an athlete on the Track and Field team, Jenna has found success, "Outside of hockey, I also run track. My sophomore year my 4x400 relay got 5th at State which put us on the podium. Getting to feel that pride and be with my teammates as we cried out of joy, was truly something special."

Graduation will be a bittersweet feeling for Jenna as her high school athletics career comes to a close, "It's sad thinking I am a senior, but knowing I will have thousands of memories from high school sports makes me smile because I'll always have those to look back on. I think sports changed me more as a person than an athlete. I have become a more tenacious and confident young woman. The leadership skills I have gained from being a captain for 3 years now, I am set to propel into success in college and beyond."



Clintonville loses at home against FVL

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE- Fox Valley Lutheran Foxes took control early against the Clintonville Truckers, winning 61-39 on Friday, Dec. 6.

The Foxes took the early lead, outscoring the Truckers 23-6 in the opening minutes of the first half. The Truckers would finish the second half down by a score of 41-16.

In the second half, the Truckers did outscore the Foxes 23-20, but it was not enough to make up for the onslaught that Fox Valley Lutheran put on them at the beginning of the contest.



Clintonville Truckers defense swarms Fox Valley Lutheran guard Eden Last. Nick Griesbach Photo

Brianna Dahlke led all scorers with 20 points and hauled in 13 rebounds for the Foxes, and her teammate Eden Last scored 17 points after connecting on four three-pointers. Zoey Ferg led the Truckers with 10 points and seven rebounds.

Football comes full circle for Lane, Polasek

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most people didn't realize it at the time. A recent college football game in Kentucky had a pair of connections to Iola-Scandinavia High School and its football program. Murray State University retired Austen Lane's jersey - No. 97 - Oct. 26 prior to the Racers' home game against North Dakota State.

Lane graduated from Iola-Scandinavia High School in 2010 while Tim Polasek, North Dakota State's first-year head coach, graduated from I-S in 1998.

Lane played defensive lineman for the Racers from 2006-09 before the Jacksonville Jaguars selected him in the fifth round 2010 NFL Draft.

He started 40 of 43 games for the Jaguars from 2010-12 before spending time with the Kansas City Chiefs and Detroit Lions in 2013 and



Austen Lane and Tim Polasek get together for a photo in October after Murray State University retired Lane's No. 97 jersey before the Racers' football game with North Dakota State. Lane and Polasek graduated from Iola-Scandinavia High School. Lane went on to play in the NFL and Polasek is in his first season as North Dakota State's head coach. Photo Courtesy of Murray State University

the Chicago Bears in 2014. Lane's accomplishments at Murray State, located in Murray, Kentucky, include school records in sacks (29) and tackles for loss (55). He announced his retirement from the NFL in 2015

Lane

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

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

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
N6412 State Rd. 49
Weyauwega
920-867-3283
christlutheranwestbloomfield.com

Dec. 24th • 9pm
Children's Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25th • 9am
Christmas Day Service

Join us weekly for our Sunday Worship 10am

Farmington Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
2:00pm
N4414 Cty. Rd. Q,
Waupaca, WI
(715) 467-2246

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
With Holy Communion
5:00 PM

Services available for viewing on
www.calvarywaupaca.org/worship

Calvary Lutheran Church LCMS
E1887 King Rd
Waupaca
715.258.3530

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00PM & 5:30PM

FCC FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
N2541 CTY RD K
FAITHWAUPACA.ORG

WARM UMC
The Waupaca Area Regional Ministry of the United Methodist Church:
Crystal Lake, Parfreyville, and First United Methodist Church

December 22
Festival of Lessons & Carols
9:30am at Danes Hall in Waupaca

December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
6:00pm at Parfreyville United Methodist Church
N1979 County Road K, Waupaca
7:00pm at First United Methodist Church
720 Demarest Avenue, Waupaca
8:00pm at Crystal Lake United Methodist Church
N697 County Road K, Waupaca

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

Scandinavia Lutheran Church
105 Church St.
Scandinavia
715-467-2367

Christmas Eve
Candlelight 4pm
Christmas Day
10:15am Worship

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

Dec. 24th
Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 p.m.

Everyone is always Welcome!

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
415 S. Main Street,
Waupaca

Christmas Eve Service
at 5:00 PM

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
at 9:30 AM

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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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

Christmas Eve December 24
4:30 PM Children's Mass and
8:00 PM Evening Mass

Christmas Day December 25
8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

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

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

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

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

Ss Peter & Paul Catholic Church
608 Main St, Weyauwega

Christmas Eve,
Thursday, December 24th at 4:30 PM

Christmas Day,
Wednesday, December 25th at 10:30 AM

Solemnity of Mary,
Tuesday, December 31st at 4:30 PM

Wednesday, January 1st at
9 am at Sacred Heart, Manawa.

920-867-2179
www.sspeterpaulchurch.org

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

Children's Christmas Service
December 24
4:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship
9:30 am



LANE

FROM PAGE 12

and is now a mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter.

Polasek played his college football at Concordia College in Mequon, where he played quarterback from 1998-2001.

He started his college coaching career in 2003 at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as the passing game coordinator and quarterbacks, wide receivers and tight ends coach.

He added special teams coordinator responsibilities in 2004 and was the special teams coordinator and defensive backs coach in 2005.

Polasek left UW-Stevens Point in 2006 to join North Dakota State's coaching staff as a graduate assistant and served as the program's running backs coach from 2007-11. The Bison won a Division I national championship in 2012 with Polasek serving as the team's special teams coordinator, tight ends coach and fullbacks coach.

He joined Northern Illinois as the Huskies' tight ends and fullbacks coach

in 2013, but returned to Fargo, North Dakota, the following year to take over as the team's offensive coordinator and running backs coach. He remained in Fargo until the end of the 2016 season after the Bison won two more national championships.

Polasek left Fargo a second time in 2017 to become the offensive line coach at Iowa, where he remained until 2020. He reunited with former North Dakota State coach Craig Bohl in 2021 as Wyoming's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

He returned to Fargo a third time in December 2023 after being named North Dakota State's new coach.

The Bison shared this year's Missouri Valley Football Conference championship with South Dakota State and opened the NCAA Football Championship Sub-division playoffs on Dec. 7 with a 51-31 win over Abilene Christian. Second-seeded North Dakota State will now face No. 7 Mercer in a quarterfinal game on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Waupaca boys drop conference opener

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If there's a silver lining from the Waupaca boys' basketball team's North Eastern Conference opener, the Comets only have to face Ethan Cyra once more this season.

The Wrightstown senior scored a game-high, 32 points on Dec. 6 and helped lead the Tigers to a 52-43 win on the Comets' home court.

Waupaca trailed the entire

game and faced an 8-0 deficit in the opening minutes.

The Tigers led by as many as 14 points in the first half and held the Comets to a pair of baskets until the final minute. Aaron Wolff's three-pointer and a basket from Austin Adamczak cut the Tigers' lead to 22-11 at the break.

Cyra's three-pointer midway through the second half gave Wrightstown its biggest lead - 33-17 - before a 14-3

run made it a two-possession game. Ethan Harms' three-pointer cut the Tigers' lead to 36-31 with 6:20 to go. Another three from Harms brought Waupaca to within five points with just under four minutes remaining. The Comets never got any closer down the stretch.

Cyra scored 12 of the Tigers' final 14 points as the Comets fell to 0-2 overall and 0-1 in conference play.

Adamczak and Harms led the Comets with 17 and 10 points, respectively.

Waupaca opened with five straight road games on Dec. 10 at Freedom. The Comets will then wrap up their December schedule by traveling to Denmark, Marinette, Oconto Falls and Winneconne. The Comets do not have another home game scheduled until Clintonville heads to Waupaca on Friday, Jan. 3.

Irish pull away in second half

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Freedom is expected to be a contender to win a North Eastern Conference girls' basketball championship this season.

If the team's performance against Waupaca is any indication, the Irish are headed in the right direction.

Freedom outscored the Comets 35-12 in the second half on Dec. 6 and cruised to a 68-34 win while improving to 5-0 on the season and 2-0 in conference play.

Waupaca stayed within striking distance in the first half. The Comets trailed by as many as 19 points but closed the half with an 8-0 run and trailed 33-22 at the break.

The Comets never got any closer in the second half and the Irish added to

their lead with 11-1 and 10-0 runs.

Rossi Wehmeyer and Hailey Bechard finished with double figures for the Comets with 12 and 10 points, respectively. At the same time, Taylor Kling chipped in with nine.

Freedom's Breana Dick-

rell scored all her game-high points on five three-pointers in the first half and Ava Calhoun and Abigail Cropsy added 11 each.

Waupaca fell to 0-4 overall and 0-2 in league play after opening the season with four straight home games.

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Little Chute wins low scoring game against New London

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

NEW LONDON – The Bulldogs were toppled in their home opener against the Little Chute Mustangs on Dec. 5 by a score of 49-46.

Both teams struggled to score in the early part of the game. The Mustangs were up 13-6 in the first nine minutes of the contest.

The Bulldogs showed resilience as they stormed back to take a 22-21 lead at the end of the first half.

It was a tight score for the remainder of the second half, as the Mustangs pulled



New London's Joseph Daly (24) looks to receive a pass against Little Chute on Dec. 5.

Nick Griesbach Photo

away late in the game.

Joseph Daly was a large part of the Bulldogs, keeping the game close as he

led all scorers with 15 points and contributed 12 rebounds for a double-double.

Bears pull away in second half

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It took a while for the Bonduel girls' basketball team to get going in its Central Wisconsin Conference-East game with Weyauwega-Fremont.

Once the Bears found their rhythm, however, they were hard to stop.

Bonduel 19-12 at half-time on Dec. 3, but outscored the Warhawks by 20 points the rest of the way and returned home with a 55-28 win.

Cold shooting hurt

both teams in the first half, but Bonduel went to the locker room with a 19-12 lead.

Hannah Pantzloff's three-pointer to open the second half cut the lead to four points, but Bonduel scored the next 10 points and added an 18-0 run later in the game to take control.

Pantzloff and Olivia Witkowski led the Warhawks, both with eight points, while Bonduel's Audrey Weier led all players with 11.



Hannah Pantzloff scored eight points for Weyauwega-Fremont Dec. 3 in a Central Wisconsin Conference-East matchup with Bonduel.

Greg Seubert Photo

2024 Christmas Church Service Directory

New London United Methodist Church
709 W. Pine St., New London
920-982-4703
nlumc@mynewlondonumc.org
Rev. Debi VanDenBoom
Please join us:
Tuesday, December 24th we will have 1 Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 p.m. featuring our Praise Band.
Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day No worship service.
Join us for our Sunday Morning Traditional Service at 10:15 a.m.
You can watch our church services for Sunday via "Livestream" on our Youtube channel "New London United Methodist Church." Our services are uploaded to our website www.mynewlondonumc.org; and on our Facebook page New London United Methodist Church after each service.

Emanuel Lutheran Church
New London, WI - WELS

"For unto us a Child is born!"
Christmas Eve: 12:00, 2:00 & 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight: 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m.
200 E. Quincy St., New London, WI 54961
920-982-5444 • www.EmanuelNL.org
YouTube Live Dec 24 at 2 p.m. & Dec 25 at 9:30 a.m.
Livestream & recorded services at EmanuelNL.org

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

Joy to the World

Join in worship this season!
Christmas Eve Worship: 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Worship: 9 a.m.

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