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WAUPACA County Post

Published by MMC LLC, a weekly newspaper serving Waupaca County since 1853 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024 | \$1.50 | Volume 183 | Issue 2 www.waupacanow.com **LOCAL**



Residents and visitors celebrated the holidays at the Clintonville Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 14, on Main Street. Jeff Hoffman Photo

Hoelzel to retire as police chief

31 years serving Waupaca

BY ROBERT CLOUD
SENIOR EDITOR

WAUPACA – After more than 30 years of serving on the Waupaca Police Department, Chief Brian Hoelzel looks forward to retirement.

He will remain on the force until Jan. 31, 2025, working with the incoming chief Pete Kraeger, who is currently a police officer with the city.

The Police and Fire Commission appointed Kraeger to the position shortly after Hoelzel announced his retirement.



Hoelzel

Kraeger will assume his duties as chief beginning Feb. 1. Because he was not immediately available, the Waupaca County Post will interview Kraeger at a future date.

Hoelzel
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

Waupaca nears maternity desert

Residents object to OB closure

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA – Waupaca County has been called a “childcare desert” because of a lack of daycare centers.

With the proposed closing of the ThedaCare birthing unit in Waupaca, the entire county has the potential to become what is called a “maternity desert,” as there will be no place to receive specialized childbirth care for miles around.

The projected closing date is Feb. 15. If the ThedaCare-Waupaca birthing center closes, no one after 2025 will ever be able to say, “I was born in Waupaca,” unless it was by accident. The baby might be delivered by



Marci Reynolds, a former nurse, was one of many speakers at a public forum held at the Waupaca Recreation Center on Dec. 14. The goal of the forum was to discuss and hopefully keep the ThedaCare-Waupaca Labor and Delivery Unit from closing.

James Card Photo

a police officer or a first responder instead of a doctor.

This was discussed at a public forum held on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Waupaca Recreation Center. Approximately 90 people attended and people were invited to

speak about their views on the closing of the birthing unit and also share their experiences in the world of bringing life into the world.

On a folding table were hand-outs about the issue. Some of them were calls for advocacy, including a paper with a pre-written resolution to provide to board members of cities, villages and towns in Waupaca County with the goal to get local representatives to formally request childbirth service to continue in the area.

Another paper was for political pressure and it listed the names and contact information of senators and state representatives with the hope they might step in if enough voices were heard about rural OB unit closures.

OB Closure
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



The newest installation in Steven Point’s artistic light project is called “Tootin’ Our Horn.”

Photo city of Stevens Point

Committee OKs beer garden

New London project recommended

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – The New London Economic Development Committee recommended that the New London Common Council approve a beer garden.

Under a developer’s agreement, a city-owned parcel at Wolf River Avenue and Smith Street would be sold to Der Wolf Garden LLC.

The recommendation came at the Dec. 10 Economic Development Committee meeting.

In July, the committee had directed New London City Administrator Chad Hoerth to negotiate a developer’s agreement with Kim Chonos, owner of Der Wolf Garden, for the proposed beer garden.

The New London Common Council was scheduled to act on the recommendation when it met Dec. 17.

Developer’s agreement

The proposed beer garden, which would also in-



A rendering of what the proposed beer garden would look like at the intersection of Wolf River Avenue and Smith Street. The New London Common Council was scheduled to act on a developer’s agreement for the proposed beer garden at its Dec. 17 meeting.

Courtesy city of New London

clude a tap room and outdoor event space, would be constructed on .44 acres of property that Der Wolf Garden would purchase from the city of New London.

The property is located just to the east of the SC Swiderski apartment development. Hoerth told the committee that he worked with the city’s assessor, and determined that the current rate for vacant land in that area is about \$105,000 per acre.

“So, in his opinion the market value for said parcel of .44 acres is about \$46,200,” Hoerth said.

Hoerth said the mini-

mum construction cost according to the developer would be at least \$550,000.

Hoerth added that the city’s assessor feels that the minimum assessed value for the development would be at least \$400,000.

Part of the developer’s agreement would have the city “work on improvements on the west side of the parcel.” This would include installing curb and gutter in that area, as well as continuing the sidewalk from the city’s current sidewalk to the north to get to the river.

“It makes it a cleaner path, a safer path to get

to the riverfront property that we have there north of said development,” Hoerth said.

According to the developer’s agreement, these improvements would occur in conjunction with the reconstruction of Pearl Street, which is anticipated to occur prior to 2030.

Since the property is located within the boundaries of the city’s Tax Incremental Finance District No. 5, Hoerth said there were discussions about a TID incentive on the backend of the property. He said through

Beer Garden
CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

‘Tootin’ Our Horn’ installed on trail

Mayor’s Art Challenge

STEVENS POINT – Mayor Mike Wiza announced last week that the newest artistic light pole “Tootin’ Our Horn” has been installed.

The artistic light project began in late 2020 with the Mayor’s Art Challenge.

This newest light piece, titled “Tootin’ Our Horn”, was designed by Mackenzie Biadasz. It depicts a trumpet player as a nod to long time city band trumpet player Mark Ilten.

Andy Vollert did the fabrication, Bushman Electric took care the wiring and

Point Coating handled the powder coating. City streets employees installed the light near the Pfiffner Pioneer Park Bandshell, where the City Band plays on Wednesdays in the summer.

“I just love how the community has embraced the light project,” said Wiza. “The designs keep coming, the donations keep coming and we’ll have the Green Circle Trail lined in no time.”

Wiza said there should be one or two more completed over winter for installation in 2025.

“A salute to our armed forces should be installed and ready for our Memorial Day services in the park,” Wiza said.

MMC announces holiday break

MMC will not publish a printed edition of this paper between Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

This will allow our employees to enjoy quality time with their families during the holiday season.

This publication will

resume publishing on its regular day after the new year begins.

Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you a joyous holiday season.

PATRICK WOOD
PUBLISHER

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

A New Year with New Beginnings

Dear Reader,

As the calendar turns to another New Year, we find ourselves at a familiar crossroads, a time for renewal and reflection. It's a time when we take stock of our lives, weighing the good against the bad, and consider the impact we've had on the world around us. The New Year offers a chance to set new goals and make resolutions in the hopes of becoming the best versions of ourselves.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

Yet, as many of us know, the resolve we feel on January 1st can be fleeting. How often do we revisit our resolutions a year later, only to find they've been forgotten, buried under the weight of daily routines and unexpected challenges? Despite our best intentions, life has a way of diverting our focus, and those grand plans can slip away unnoticed.

But perhaps that's okay. The beauty of the New Year lies not just in our ambitions but in the grace we grant ourselves when we fall short. It's a time to acknowledge our humanity, to understand that growth is not always linear, and that the journey itself—full of missteps and lessons—is what truly matters.

So as we step into this New Year, let's embrace the opportunity to dream, to set intentions, and to strive for better. But let's also be kind to ourselves when we stumble, and remember that each new day brings with it the possibility of renewal.

Wishing you a joyous New Year, full of hope, reflection, and the endless potential of new beginnings.

OB CLOSURE

FROM PAGE 1

Another paper listed the members and contact information of the ThedaCare-Waupaca Hospital Board. The board is composed of Richard Phillipson, Eric Hendrickson, Jeremy Koehler, Suzanne Undoni, Tim Neuville, Dale Gisi, Jacqueline Anhalt, Ellen Wenberg and Lou Ann Mokwa.

There were also research papers such as "Association of driving distance to Maternity Hospitals and Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes" published by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The conclusion: "Longer distances to the delivery hospital were associated with greater risk of adverse maternal outcomes and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admission."

This led to the most visual handout, a color map of Waupaca County within central Wisconsin created by Dr. Stephanie Lyon. If the ThedaCare-Waupaca Labor and Delivery Unit closes, the nearest birthing centers are Stevens Point, Berlin, Neenah, Appleton and Shawano. The map was shaded in concentric circles to denote the risk of a NICU admission.

The closer a pregnant woman is within the darkening circles, the less of a chance the childbirth will be complicated.

Waupaca was not within

any of the circles and the relative risk of an NICU admission jumped to over 49%. Also the distances were measured "as the crow flies" and does not account for driving on curvy back roads to get to a delivery hospital.

Voices

A person with a big stake in this closure was Cindy Gullickson. She stepped up to the microphone visibly pregnant. Her ultrasound was taken at ThedaCare-Waupaca. The next day would mark the start of her third trimester. Her baby is due in March. The child was supposed to be born in Waupaca.

"I have lived in the Waupaca area my whole life. I know most of the doctors here, even more now as I'm pregnant. I continue to meet the labor and delivery nurses. I've able to go there the same day and be taken care of by them, usually 20 minutes after calling in. I don't feel confident I'd have that experience in a bigger hospital. I don't feel comfortable that I don't know the doctors in places like Neenah and Stevens Point, especially when I have a hospital 10 miles from my house with doctors that I know and trust and a facility that I'm familiar with. There is so much uncertainty and anxiety that comes with giving birth, at least you can except in knowing a place where you can have your baby. If this decision sticks, I

won't know if I will give birth in a large hospital or a waiting room, at home, in an emergency room or even in a vehicle trying to drive to a birthing hospital," said Gullickson.

She closed her comments by stating that she hopes ThedaCare chooses "community over profit."

On Dec. 9, 2024, The Business News, a newspaper that covers central Wisconsin, ranked the largest acute-care hospitals in the region. In 2023, ThedaCare Medical Center-Waupaca's total revenue was \$53.55 million. Their total expenses came to \$46.56 million. Their total assets recorded were \$59.33 million and total liabilities were \$455,315.

"I had an opportunity to work at lots of hospital over the course of my career but there was no place that I felt more at home than the Waupaca OB," said Jane Peterson, who served as a local midwife for 32 years.

"When someone has a baby with a provider, that dedication that occurs between that provider and that mother creates a lifelong bond. It matters when the person that helped that baby be born is at the edge of a soccer field, and that child who knows that person that helped them into the world. It weaves the fabric of a community. I think this closure makes holes that we can't yet imagine," she said.

Marci Reynolds, a former nurse at ThedaCare for many years, pointed out closing the birth center will not help with recruiting doctors to Waupaca. Likewise, it will not help to attract young families to the area — something that the city government has sunk much money and hours into and is currently exemplified by building the River North subdivision, a neighborhood of apartments and starter homes. "The rug is being pulled

out from under that whole plan. Without even consulting the city, this decision has been made. Without thinking about the things it's all going to affect. It will affect every industry that hires people. No being able to get families to move here is a huge, huge thing. We may not see it in February but we will see it one or two years down the road," said Reynolds.

Sandy Testin, an educator and lactation consultant in Waupaca for 26 years, said she never lived in a small city. She had her first child in Omaha and her second child in Madison.

"When we moved here, I was terrified about delivering [her third child] in little Waupaca. It was by far the best experience I ever had," she said.

Testin argued that the decision was made too quickly and that the ThedaCare board members did not have enough information for due diligence.

I think the board did not get good information. Our doctors were blown away by this decision. We've been talking for 20 years about how OB staffing is difficult but people were not aware that we were anywhere near this kind of decision. I think we need to let our board know. Our board voted on this with one person dissenting, the rest of the board approved closing OB. I don't think they would have done that if they would have known the full story," said Testin.

Two speakers pointed out the irony of ThedaCare's namesake, Theda Clark Peters, who died on Oct. 20, 1903 shortly after childbirth. She left behind \$96,000 to the community and her brother used it to build a hospital that was later named the Theda Clark Memorial Hospital.



LIGHT A CANDLE OF LOVE.

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

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

May the peace of Christmas fill your heart and home.



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Waupaca NEWS



Waupaca Foundry is one of 22 employers statewide recognized as a Vets Ready Employer for 2024 by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and its Office of Veteran Employment Services. Approximately 10% of the foundry's workforce is a veteran of the armed services. Contributed Photo

Foundry honored for veteran support

WAUPACA – Waupaca Foundry is one of 22 employers statewide recognized as a Vets Ready Employer for 2024 by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and its Office of Veteran Employment Services.

The annual award recognizes Wisconsin employers that have gone above and beyond to hire and support

veterans and their families. Approximately 10% of the foundry's workforce is a veteran of the armed services, and several team members have been employed while on active duty with the National Guard. The firm employs 3,500 people nationwide.

Waupaca Foundry was awarded a silver certification in the large business

category. Employers are rated and awarded based on criteria including the company or organization's support for veterans in the workplace, such as available resources, training, and work environment; hiring practices to prioritize veteran hires; and efforts to connect to the broader veteran community, including military families, service

members, and veterans. "As an Air Force veteran, I understand and appreciate the benefits veterans bring to the workplace," said CFO Rob Johnson. "At Waupaca Foundry, we are proud to create an environment where service members and their families feel supported and valued. This recognition is a testament to our continuous

commitment to providing opportunities for those who have served our country and fostering a workplace culture where their unique skills and perspectives thrive."

Johnson adds that military service brings strong teamwork, discipline, technical skills, accountability, and safety awareness to manufacturing, making vet-

erans reliable and adaptable team members.

"Their experience in leadership, problem-solving, and commitment to continuous improvement enhance productivity, workplace safety, and team dynamics," Johnson said.

For more information on veterans at Waupaca Foundry, visit waupacafoundry.com/blog/tags/veteran.

Waupaca to stage musical comedy

WAUPACA – Waupaca Community Theatre will present "The Kids Left. The Dog Died. Now What?" at 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Jan. 10-12, at the Gerold Opera House in Weyauwega.

A matinee performance is also scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11.

"The Kids Left. The Dog Died. Now What?" is a musical comedy about aging gracefully, dating and divorce, grandchildren and casserole. The book, music, and lyrics are by Carole Lonner.

Backstage online described the play as "a sincere, mostly lighthearted package

of songs and skits about living and living it up as one's senior years get nearer, from growing dependence on doctors to late-blooming romance."

Tickets are \$17 and can be purchased online at <https://our.show/emptynest> or for cash at the door.

Rotary commits \$75,000 for grants

WAUPACA – The Rotary Club of Waupaca announced its Community Impact Grant Program.

This is a one-time funding opportunity, open to organizations located in and serving residents of the greater Waupaca area.

"Our aim is to support organizations with initiatives that will create long-lasting

impacts on our community," says Barb Conradt, the club's president. "We are grateful to be part of a community whose generosity makes this grant program possible."

The club invites proposals that will make an impact in a wide range of areas, including arts and culture, parks and recreation, environmental stewardship, health

and human services, early childhood education, youth development and education, and community vitality. Applications will be evaluated on their capacity to meaningfully and sustainably enhance the wellbeing of Waupaca area residents.

Rotary Grants
CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

City reminds residents to remove snow

WAUPACA – When snow accumulates in Waupaca, residents are responsible to remove snow and clean sidewalks within 24 hours after any snow fall.

Landlords and tenants should establish who will be responsible for snow and ice removal in their rental agreement. It is also required to use sand or salt to reduce the risk of slipping and falling on sidewalks.

Failure to remove snow and ice will be deemed a public nuisance. Snow removed from sidewalks or driveways must not be shoveled onto roadways or neighboring properties.

The city asks residents to do their part to ensure that the sidewalks are safe. Those who have a neighbor who needs help shoveling, are asked to consider lending a hand.

Residents and businesses who contract for snow re-

moval should ensure that their contractor is aware of city policies and ordinances.

The city of Waupaca will charge a fee to the property owner for snow removal. Repeat offenses in the same season may result in an increased fee being charged.

Hydrants

People whose homes are near a fire hydrant, should help keep it accessible this winter.

Clear a wide enough perimeter around the fire hydrant for water utility staff and firefighters to work (about 3 feet).

Clear a path from the hydrant to the street.

The few minutes it would

otherwise take for the fire department to clear it in an emergency could make a big difference in firefighting efforts.



Sam Ridders (right) of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation visited Waupaca to encourage people to support local businesses during the holiday shopping season. Aaron Jenson, city administrator (left) and Jeff Anderson, president of the Waupaca Chamber of Commerce (middle) gave Ridders a downtown tour. James Card Photo

Rotary to collect Christmas trees

WAUPACA – Rotary Club encourages Waupaca city residents to leave their natural Christmas trees for curbside collection by 7 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4.


Rotarians will pick trees up for proper disposal inside city limits.

In exchange, Rotary members will come to the door when they pick up the tree and collect donations to support projects based in the local community and around the world.

Residents with discarded trees should leave a donation in an envelope taped to the

door, or Rotarians will knock and accept a gift for the tree disposal.

The mission of the Waupaca Rotary Club is to support education as a means of improving community cooperation and international understanding.



EARLY DEADLINE FOR THIS PUBLICATION

CLASSIFIED AND DISPLAY ADS FOR THE 1/2/25 ISSUE ARE DUE BY FRI. 12/27 AT 3PM



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Stevens Point NEWS

Tips for holiday recycling, disposal

BY AMANDA HAFELLE
PORTAGE COUNTY SOLID
WASTE DIRECTOR

American households produce 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

This includes everything from food waste, wrapping paper, discarded electronics, holiday decorations, packaging, and everything in between. We get caught up in the fun and forget about the environmental impact the holidays can have.

Here are a few reminders on proper disposal this holiday season.



Portage County Solid Waste says wrapping paper is not recyclable. When a tree is made into paper, the fibers are very long. Each time the paper gets recycled the fibers get shorter and shorter. The smallest fibers get made into things like wrapping and tissues papers and very little gets recovered during the recycling process. It's cheaper, and more environmentally friendly to toss the dry crumpled paper into your trash bin vs. the paper mill throwing out wet heavy mush. Contributed Photo

SP School Board reviews strategic goals, objectives

BY OLIVIA COFFIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

STEVENS POINT – The Dec. 9 Stevens Point School Board meeting celebrated educational excellence, assessed its governance strategies, and prepared for upcoming statewide educational decisions.

The meeting began with the presentation of the Mandana Bliss Award, named after Stevens Point's first teacher.

This month's honoree, Rose Gallagher, a special education teacher at Banach Elementary, was recognized for her dedication to students. Sixth-grader Ethan Schellin presented the award, reflecting the impact Gallagher has had on the students.

The board reviewed 2025 Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) resolutions, which will guide the legislative agenda for education statewide. SPASD's delegate, Gee Pope, will represent the district at the WASB Delegate As-

sembly in January. Superintendent Cory Hirsbrunner and Assistant Superintendent Chris Nyman encouraged board members to review the proposed resolutions, noting their alignment with district objectives, such as fostering student engagement and improving staff development.

The board also discussed the results of its new self-evaluation process, implemented for the 2024-25 school year. This updated evaluation focuses on actionable feedback aligned with the board's strategic goals, which include:

- Increasing student achievement by improving ELA and Math scores by 3% by spring 2025, particularly for underperforming groups.
- Enhancing relationships among board members to strengthen trust and collaboration.
- Improving board-superintendent relations through a stronger partnership.
- Strengthening gover-

nance to lead as a united team.

• Supporting a safe learning environment for all students.

Unlike previous survey-based evaluations, this semi-annual process reflects on specific goals, board member behaviors, and areas for improvement. The November evaluation results revealed strong governance and collaboration while identifying areas for continued growth. The semi-annual evaluations will allow the board to make timely adjustments to their strategies throughout the year.

As the district moves forward, it remains focused on fostering student engagement, supporting staff, and building partnerships with families and the community. Upcoming actions, including final decisions on the WASB resolutions, will help guide district priorities for the coming year.

The next school board meeting will be held Jan. 13, 2025.

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Recycling
CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

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More Stevens Point news on page 12

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9:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Day,
Wednesday, December 25
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<p>St. Adalbert Parish 3315 St. Adalbert Rd., Rosholt Dec. 24: 4 PM Dec. 25: 10:30 AM</p>	<p>Immaculate Conception Parish (St. Mary) 7176 Esker Rd., Custer Dec. 24: 4 PM</p>	<p>St. Michael Parish 324 Main St., Junction City Dec. 24: 7:00 PM Dec. 25: 9 AM</p>
<p>St. Bartholomew (Mill Creek) 2493 CTH M, Stevens Point Dec. 24: 4 PM Dec. 25: 10:30 AM</p>	<p>St. James Parish 453 S. Main St., Amherst Dec. 24: 10 PM Dec. 25: 10 AM</p>	<p>St. Peter Parish 800 Fourth Ave. Stevens Point Dec. 24: 4 PM Dec. 25: 12 Midnight 10:30 AM</p>
<p>St. Bronislava Parish 3200 Plover Rd., Plover Dec. 24: 4 PM Dec. 25: 12 Midnight 7 AM, 10 AM 12 PM Misa en Español</p>	<p>St. Joseph Parish 1709 Wyatt Ave., Stevens Point Dec. 24: 4 PM Dec. 25: 10:30 AM</p>	<p>Sacred Heart Parish 7375 Church St., Custer (Polonia) Dec. 25: 12 Midnight 9 AM</p>
<p>St. Casimir Parish 203 W. Casimir Rd., Stevens Point Dec. 25: 9 AM</p>	<p>St. Mary Parish 5589 Dewey Dr., Stevens Point (Torun) Dec. 24: 6:30 PM Dec. 25: 8:30 AM</p>	<p>St. Stephen Parish 1401 Clark St., Stevens Point Dec. 24: 6:00 PM Dec. 25: 8:30 AM</p>
<p>Holy Spirit Parish St. Stanislaus Church 838 Fremont St, Stevens Point Dec. 24: 4 PM, 7 PM, 9 PM Dec. 25: 9 AM</p>	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Parish 3995 Cty. Hy. K, Amherst (Fancher) Dec. 24: 4 PM</p>	<p>St. Wenceslaus Parish 146 Main St., Milladore Dec. 24: 4 PM Dec. 25: 7:30 AM</p>
	<p>St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish 8611 Hwy. 54, Buena Vista Dec. 24: 4 PM Dec. 25: 12 Midnight 9 AM</p>	

Clintonville NEWS

Dellwood Child Care gets 4 stars

Clintonville center rated for quality

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – For its recent evaluation from Youngstar, Dellwood Child Care Center in Clintonville, achieved a four-star rating on a scale of 1-5, with five being the best.

It is the first time that Dellwood Child Care was eligible to receive a four-star rating from a Youngstar evaluation.

Youngstar is a national organization that provides a quality rating for child care centers.

Dellwood Child Care opened Sept. 1, 2020, and was first evaluated on Dec. 31 of that year, when it received a three-star rating. Patti Krause, the director at Dellwood, said that was the highest rating possible for Dellwood Child Care at that time.

“We stayed as a three-star (in 2022). Once we had the education from the teachers to meet the criteria for a four-star (rating), that’s when we decided to go for a four-star,” Krause said.

Krause said she was excited when she was notified about the four-star rating, adding that Dellwood just missed out on a five-star rating.

“To be a five-star, you have to be 4.67, and we’re a 4.4, so we just missed it,” Krause said. “There is a lot more entailed with a five-star. We would all have to have associate degrees for teachers. We’re shy of that by one or two classrooms. We’re very close, but that is our next goal.”

Ratings

Krause said the Youngstar rating measures the quality of care that is offered to the families of Dellwood Child Care.

“We have a whole curriculum that we have to follow, and we have to do observations and goals to get the children to where they are supposed to be,” Krause said.

Clintonville Superintendent Troy Kuhn added, “At every level, there are specific benchmarks. So being a lead teacher at the daycare, it’s not just fun and games and playtime. They have certain goals they’re supposed to meet at every age. If they don’t make the benchmarks, then there’s almost like a plan put (in place) for the individual kid to help them meet the benchmarks. The kids are assessed, and therefore the daycare is assessed.”

According to Krause, other things considered by the evaluation include the education of the teachers at the child care center, the set-up of the rooms to make sure there is enough equipment to meet all the goals of the facility, the interaction the children have, and the overall quality of service the



Dellwood Childcare Center in Clintonville received a four-star rating. File Photo

teachers offer the children and families.

The evaluation is done during a surprise visit by a rater to the child care center.

“We have a coach that helps us for about a year getting prepared for it (surprise evaluation visit),” Krause said. “Then we’re in a one-month window and they just show up whenever. We never know when they’re coming. They pick a room out of a hat, and that’s the room that they’re rating.”

The evaluations are done every two years.

“On our off-year, we have to maintain our education, and our teachers as our leads,” Krause said. “And we have to continue doing the portfolios and the lesson plans.”

Rating significance

Besides Dellwood Child Care being recognized as a top child care center, the four-star rating also brings financial benefits to eligible families who have children enrolled at Dellwood Child Care. The four-star rating allows parents who participate in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program to receive additional funds through the program to help pay for child care.

“Parents would apply for assistance, and they have to be within a certain threshold,” Krause said. “If they qualify for it, then as soon as our star rating goes into effect, then the funds automatically get put onto an EBT card, and then the parents would transfer those funds over to the child care center.”

Krause said those extra funds, which come from the state of Wisconsin, can only be used for child care.

Dellwood does not receive additional funds for a four-star rating, but the extra funds for eligible families is a benefit to the community, Kuhn said.

Another benefit of the four-star rating, is teachers at Dellwood Child Care receive a bonus in pay. Krause said the bonus is paid by the state of Wisconsin, not the school district.

Kuhn said the four-star rating is something the Clintonville School District can promote regarding Dell-

wood Child Care.

“We’re not a daycare, we’re a child care center, meaning we have plans, we have education, and we have portfolios. We have all of that,” Kuhn said.

Krause added, “What we’re trying to do is be recognized as professionals. We are teaching, we’re not babysitting. When you think of daycare, a lot of people think it’s just babysitters. That’s not what we are. We are teaching. We are teaching through play. Dellwood does not have any screens, so there’s no computers for the kids. No TV. Everything is teacher led, play led.”

Currently, Dellwood Child Care has 105 children enrolled.

Regarding the rating, Kuhn said, “I do want to give props to Patti, she’s been there from the beginning. It wasn’t easy at the beginning, especially hiring employees with little or no background. But Patti has brought the center to where it is. Not saying that it’s only Patti, but she was an integral part in that.”

Dellwood importance

Dellwood has been a topic of discussion with the Clintonville Board of Education during discussions about the school district’s budget.

Kuhn said Dellwood Child Care is important to the district for two reasons. First, it allows district staff to have their children enrolled in child care nearby. Second, it allows out-of-town parents who work in the area to enroll their children at Dellwood. The hope is that the children will open enroll into the Clintonville School District when they are school age.

“Eventually we get money for that as open-enrolled students,” Kuhn said.

He added, “I think more importantly though, having our child care center is important for the community. I know it’s one of those topics that’s discussed at the board meetings. We’re taking about a \$300,000 loss right now. Taxpayer money is helping to support our

Dellwood

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

Board OKs retirement fund changes

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE – The Clintonville School Board approved moving funds from employee individual HRA retirement accounts held by MidAmerica into a common trust account with MidAmerica.

The board approved the change at its Dec. 9 meeting. The board had discussed the details of such a change at recent meetings.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, Superintendent Troy Kuhn explained that it is best not to transfer all the district’s retirement funds invested with MidAmerica to the district. If the funds were transferred to the district, the district would need to report the funds as revenue,

which would impact future financials in the district.

“It’s better that we just leave it at MidAmerica and use it until it’s depleted, and then set up (Fund) 73 (in the district),” Kuhn said.

Board Treasurer Jason Moder asked when the district would create a Fund 73 within the district.

Board President Ben Huber, said “Ideally, I think we should begin to fund it.”

“If you want to in the next budget proposal, we can put \$100,000 in (Fund) 73,” Kuhn said. “We’re not going to get penalized for it.”

Board member Glen Drew Lundt asked if the district has parameters set

up to make sure it always has enough retirement funds.

Kuhn said that that the district does not have such parameters.

He added that if the board agreed to move the individual retirement HRA funds to a common trust at MidAmerica, that would amount to around \$400,000. He said if everyone who is eligible to retire next year retired, the district would need around \$300,000 of those funds to fund those retirements, leaving only \$100,000 in the account.

Funding retirements needs to be part of the district’s budget and retirement strategies in the future, Kuhn said.

Red Cross plans blood drives

CLINTONVILLE – With less than two weeks left in 2024, the American Red Cross asks donors to give blood or platelets now to help those in need enjoy the new year.

Donors with type O negative blood and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now so patients can continue to receive the care they count on in the coming weeks.

To make an appointment, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCross-

Blood.org or call 1-800-733-2767. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of

age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Donation sites

- Clintonville – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, Aster Assisted Living, 38 N. Main St.
- Marion – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, Marion High School, 105 School St.
- Weyauwega – 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, Weyauwega City Hall, 109 E. Main St.

DNR seeks comments on Clintonville water

CLINTONVILLE – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced the city of Clintonville is an applicant for funding through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program to improve its public drinking water system.

The project includes the

replacement of water mains on Harriet Street and 16th Street.

Following the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program federal requirement, an environmental review must be conducted before funding this project.

The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program has de-

termined that the project will not result in significant adverse environmental effects, and no further environmental review or analysis is needed before proceeding with funding the project.

Water

CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

Delivering Christmas Wishes To You

It takes a lot of time and effort from a dedicated group of local people to bring the New London Press Star, Clintonville Tribune-Gazette, New London Buyers' Guide and Clintonville Shoppers' Guide to you each week. And we all want to take a moment to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and the happiest New Year!

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New London & Hortonville NEWS

New London considers multi-use project

Retail space, apartments

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – A conditional use grant request for the development of apartments and retail space at 310 W. Wolf River Ave. was approved by the New London Plan Commission when it met Dec. 12.

The next step for the development will be for the developer to submit a final site plan and construction documents for a building permit.

According to the petition submitted by the developer, once it has all the approvals required, it plans to start



A conditional use grant request for the development of apartments and retail space at 310 W. Wolf River Ave. was approved by the New London Plan Commission. Courtesy of the city of New London

construction in early 2025. Construction will take about 12 months.

At the meeting, New

London City Administrator Chad Hoerth said the city received a petition to build a multi-use develop-

ment at 310 W. Wolf River Ave. The proposal includes a commercial-retail component, and multi-family residential housing.

To help with the development, Hoerth said the city is in the process of combining two parcels of property into one parcel.

“The county hasn’t got that far yet, so it’s still two parcels on the county’s website, but it’s in process for combining the parcels into one,” Hoerth said.

He added that the parcels are zoned B1-Central Business District.

“In the B1 district, commercial retail uses are allowed

Apartments
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11



WisDOT engineer Corey Boehm, at center, points to areas of interest on a map of US 45 from Givens Road to Church Road slated for improvement in 2026. John Faucher Photo

US 45 improvements include roundabout

Construction begins in 2026

BY JOHN FAUCHER
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON - The Wisconsin Department of Transportation held a public meeting on Dec. 11, to discuss the possible installation of a roundabout at the intersection of US Highway 45 and County Trunk D in New London.

The roundabout is part of an overall improvement plan for 7.5 miles of US 45 from Givens Road to Church Road in Waupaca and Outagamie Counties.

WisDOT North Central Region Project Manager Kory Boehm said the 7.5 mile segment of pavement was originally constructed in 1994 and is showing signs of deterioration.

Other needs identified along the section of roadway included guardrail improvements, curb and gutter repair and replacement, asphalt replacement, installation of the roundabout and new pavement markings.

Boehm said some safety concerns at the intersection of County D and US 45 were brought up at the first public involvement meeting held in October 2023.

He said engineers reviewed updated crash data and went back and looked at the intersection.

Additional angle crashes at that intersection were flagged, and they looked at four alternatives to address the safety concerns.

Two of the four alternatives did not address concerns of the angle crashes.

Another alternative was constructing a J-turn, but he said this alternative involved too large of a footprint and additional costs.

The fourth alternative was a roundabout.

Engineers working with WisDOT concurred; a roundabout was the preferred alternative because it involved a smaller footprint, had less right of way impact, less costs and solved the safety concerns of the angle crashes.

One resident who lives north of the proposed roundabout asked how many crashes were factors in determining the updated safety information for that intersection.

He was told 17 crashes total with 13 crashes contributing to the data.

Others asked about the intersection of Givens Road and US 45, citing concerns over the intersection being on top of the hill and line of sight issues.

Boehm explained they are aware of those concerns however; the intersection was not flagged based on its four years of crash data.

“Unfortunately close calls don’t count unless they are recorded by law enforcement,” he said. “We have to base our design on a high crash history.”

He also reiterated that the overall project is an improvement project, and not a reconstruction project. Funding for reconstruction is not available at this time.

Engineers said they are looking at making adjustments to the left hand turn lane onto Givens, and making adjustments to improve the

US 45
CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

Wega-Fremont NEWS

Firefighters bring in a bounty

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA – People came for the Christmas lights and left behind a mountain of food.

The Waupaca County Fire Department Food Drive and Light Show made a big leap. Last year they brought in \$2,500 and 1,860 lbs of food to be donated to local food pantries. This year’s tally: 5,712 pounds in food donations and \$1,833 in cash donations.

Included in this total were five pallets from Treehouse Foods in Manawa and Michels Pipeline donated \$1,000. Other large donations came from the Subways in Waupaca,

Manawa and Marion; TLC Sign, Weyauwega Star Dairy and Waupaca Towing & Service.

Firefighters from Weyauwega, Waupaca, Manawa, Ogdensburg/St. Lawrence, Iola, Fremont/Wolf River and Bear Creek participated in the event, along with help from the Weyauwega Police Department.

For those who missed out, the light show will continue until New Year’s Eve. There are approximately 100,000 lights, over 40 spotlights, lasers, illuminated inflatables and a brilliant photo area for people to take Christmas pictures. The light show is located on the 200 block of East Parker Street in Weyauwega.



This is only a smidgeon of the food donations from the Waupaca County Fire Department Food Drive and Light Show held on Dec. 14. People viewing the Christmas lights in Weyauwega donated 5,712 pounds in food and \$1,833 in cash donations. Submitted Photo

HOLIDAY Wishes

At the close of another year, we gratefully pause to extend our warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Seasons Greetings!

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Plach Automotive's 12TH ANNUAL Fill The Truck Toy Drive was a Huge Success!

We would like to thank everyone who donated to our Fill The Truck Toy Drive. The generosity from the community was overwhelming. Our truckload of gifts helped to fill the Christmas Toy Room and is sure to put smiles on the faces of many local children this holiday season.

From left, Plach Automotive's Tina Sweet, Dan Plach and Tim Stueck, Wendy Schmidt, New London Christmas for Kids Volunteer Coordinator.

Merry Christmas!

From the staff at Plach Automotive

Plach Automotive Inc.

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THANK YOU

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

This Christmas the Manawa Area Food Pantry helped roughly 70 families with its annual Christmas Basket event. The baskets included food for a Christmas dinner and gifts.

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

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

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

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Iola-Scandinavia NEWS

New class uses healing massage

BY EMILY DOUD
STAFF REPORTER

IOLA – A new class at the Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness and Aquatic Center has people of all ages fixing the aches and pains throughout their body using a combination of massage and stress balls.

It all started when Candy Stocker, a frequent fitness class attendee, was at the local Family Dollar and upon checking out found out that someone had “paid it forward,” to her and bought the items she was looking to purchase that day.

Wanting to “pay it forward” herself, she decided that she would pay for Cheryl Ziemann, the fitness program coordinator at the Iola-Scandinavia Fitness Center, to take a class she had been wanting to take called Melt.

After taking the class Ziemann decided she wanted to get the certification to teach the class and bring it to the fitness center.

Melt is a class that focuses



Cheryl Ziemann leads a Melt Class, demonstrating a method of massaging the shin to help flexibility and relieve pain in the legs. Emily Doud Photo

on self-massage, reflexology, pressure points and loosening up the fascia throughout one’s body in order to alleviate pain, Ziemann said.

Fascia and connective tissue supports every part of

the body, which includes muscle, organs and nerves, according to www.WebMD.com.

Stocker was previously a massage therapist and saw the value in this class, espe-

cially after a fall last February and being previously hit by a car, from which she is still healing.

Stocker said she is able to feel the difference in her body as she continues to go

to Melt and is able to do the exercises while standing, where previously she would need to sit just to get through the class.

Ziemann said that fascia can get stuck, due to a variety of reasons, and when that happens it can cause injury and pain.

“Think of a sponge, when its dry, and how brittle it is, and you get water into it and it soaks up and then it’s more pliable,” Ziemann said. “That’s the same thing that’s going on with that fascia.”

Stocker said when the fascia is not massaged daily it has a memory and can go back to being locked up and back to the stress and pain that was there originally.

Ziemann said that she has worked with all ages from high school students to senior citizens over the past few weeks and has seen advantages to the program for all ages.

“People are telling me the neuropathy feels better, that their balance is better.

They’re able to grip longer. Some people have told me they can sew longer or quilt better,” Ziemann said.

Ziemann is certified in hands and feet with the Melt program, which uses hard and soft stress balls to concentrate on different spots on the hands and feet to help relieve pain in various areas of the body.

“You know, I think it just calms me down as a person, my overall well being,” Ziemann said. “It’s all that fluid that is going through and it just needs to reset and you just need to relax.”

Currently, the class is offered Mondays and Wednesdays, however Ziemann said she intends to add a beginners class on Fridays starting in January.

For more information on Melt and the fitness classes at the Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness Center, 445 S. Jackson St. in Iola, email Cheryl at ziemannch@iola.k12.wi.us or call the center at 715-445-2411.

Manawa NEWS

Waterfront residents want to save dam

BY EMILY DOUD
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – Property owners affected by the dam breach last summer have decided to work together to help restore the dam and to ensure their voice is heard and to keep lines of communication open.

Jason Bessette has lived on the Manawa Mill Pond for 19 years, always wanting to find a spot on the specific bay that he used to fish in high school.

“I don’t think anybody realizes how good the fishing was in this body of water and how many people it brought to the community,” Bessette said. “That’s why I have a difficult perspective when I go to council meetings and I hear things like, ‘well if we don’t have the money, we’re not going to do it.’”

Bessette said he could fish from his shoreline, and ice fish just off his shore every winter, duck and goose hunt every fall, all of which he lost the ability to do with the dam breach.

Moving forward with waterfront residents, Bessette hopes to help the city see the value in the mill pond in order to rebuild and restore the mill pond to its previous glory.

The Little Wolf Coalition first introduced the group at the Nov. 18 Manawa City Council meeting.

Deb Sarna, a resident on the river whose property is affected by the dam, was present and said that they started a petition regarding the rebuilding of the dam



The view from Jason Bessette’s house has changed since the dam breach last July. Emily Doud Photo

and the shoreline failure.

“We deserve regular and transparent updates from the city of Manawa and the township of Little Wolf regarding the process of restoring the Little Wolf River and the Manawa Mill Pond,” Sarna said at the meeting. “We request monthly notifications detailing what is happening and what is being pursued.”

Both Sarna and Bessette agree that communication from the city has been lacking since the dam breached last July and they are hoping to get answers as to how the city is going to move forward to be able to plan their own future and whether or not they move from the area.

Bessette is a general manager of utilities in New London, starting as a line

man and working his way up through the company, which he said makes him question why there isn’t more urgency in rebuilding the dam because of the hydroelectricity the dam creates.

Prior to the dam breaching July 5, due to excessive rainfall in a short period of time, Bessette said the dam was creating a significant amount of energy and has done so for the past 100 years since it was rebuilt in the 1920s.

Bessette said another reason why the coalition was formed was due to two area residents, Nick Heise and Ben Hl Alban, who have co argued against replacing the dam.

Bessette broke down some of their arguments,

including being able to turn the land that was previously covered by the mill pond into green space.

Bessette said that now that the water body is drained it goes back to being private property, because you can’t own water and now that the water is gone it goes back to the original property lines.

Overall, Bessette said the communication coming out of the city is disappointing.

“Why can’t we know the intentions? I mean it just gives us a better understanding of what I’m going to do with my life,” Bessette said. “I’m not going to put my life on hold but it doesn’t make sense why they aren’t communicating way better than they could be.”

Bessette said regardless of what the city is intend-

ing to do with the dam, whether build or remove, he just wants to be updated on what is happening so he can make an informed decision on his and his families future.

“It didn’t take Marion five years to rebuild the dam, it didn’t take Iola five years to rebuild the dam, so when they say it takes five years

to build the dam, I think it’s just an excuse to say we’re not rebuilding the dam,” Bessette said. “If that’s not their true intentions they need to tell individuals in Manawa what their intention is. That’s why this group was formed is because we wanted answers and we thought we would have more strength in numbers.”

422534

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

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432616

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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.

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

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Obituary Notices

Krueger, Dorothy



Dorothy Mae Krueger, age 92 of Manawa, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 9, 2024, at the Manawa Community Living Center.

Dorothy was born September 14, 1932 in the Township of Little Wolf to William and Irene (Zemple) Gehrke on the family farm still operated by her nephew.

"Dort" was a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Manawa where she was baptized, confirmed, and

married. She was active in the Choir for 70 years, and throughout the years participated in the Dorcas Society, finance committee, and the board of education.

She attended Little Wolf High School in Manawa where she graduated in 1950. Dorothy was also the 1950 Homecoming Queen. She was crowned in her band uniform because she had to play at halftime.

Dorothy married Robert Oscar Krueger on December 19, 1953. Together they had 8 children.

"Grandma Dot" frequently enjoyed attending the sporting and artistic events of her grandchildren and great grandchildren: Lance, Tyler, Anna, Kerri, Winter, Logan, Haylee, Kyle, Chase, Cade, Brett, Drew, Camille, Oscar and Jasper. Along with her great grandkids: Zane, Zoey, Autumn, Auburn, Brynley, Blakely, Brielle, Daxon, Graysea, Elianna, Matt, Chloe, and Ramsey.

Dorothy worked at various jobs in Waupaca County after graduation but is best known for being the "post office lady", working at the Manawa Post Office for 32 years before her "final mail pickup" retirement on November 5th, 2000. Not only did she know everyone in town, but she knew where they lived as well. In retirement, she continued to contribute to the community by volunteering for Meals on Wheels and the Manawa senior center, as well as working the polls on election days.

She was an avid bowler and bowled for decades in the Thursday night women's league in Manawa. She would bowl regularly in both state, and national tournaments with her friends, and won the Wisconsin State Senior Women's bowling tournament. She also played softball with her daughters for the Sturm & Jensen Deep Rock Rockets. Dorothy also loved gardening, and kept a large garden in her earlier days, despite her husband saying "Dorothy, you can't eat the flowers."

Dorothy was a life-long Cubs fan, which was a long time for a Cubs fan. When asked why she wasn't a Brewers fan, her standard reply was, "There weren't any Brewers when I was a kid." She was elated to see them win the World Series in 2016, and rarely went without her Cubs blanket or her Cubs cup in her final years.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Deadra Krueger, Kirk Krueger, Tamara (Tom) Churchill, Jeffrey Krueger, Amy (Bill) Radtke, Michelle (Mark) Radies, Corey (Jill) Krueger and Daniel (Denise) Krueger. She is further survived by sisters: Loretta Kern and Janet Jenks; and her sister-in-law Geraldine Krueger.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert; brother, Wilmer; sisters: Lorene Sedlak and Ramona Tucker; and many brothers and sisters in law.

The Funeral Service for Dorothy will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 11:30am at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Manawa with Rev. Nathan Reichle officiating. A visitation will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2024 from 1:00pm - 5:00pm at the Dahlke Life Celebration Center in Manawa and also at the church on Monday prior to the service from 10:00am - 11:15am. Burial will be in Little Wolf Cemetery, Town of Little Wolf.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Assisted Living Wing at the Manawa Community Nursing Center for their continuous care of Dorothy while she was there.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church or St. Paul Lutheran School. Friends may visit www.dahlkefh.com to share memories and condolences with Dorothy's family.

Meyer Edward Jr.



Edward O. Meyer Jr., age 75 of Waupaca passed away peacefully on November 25, 2024. He was born August 13, 1949 to Edward and Evelyn (Herter) Meyer. He grew up with two sisters, Edna (Ronald) Voss and Louise (Darrell) Wilber and one brother, Allan (Sandy) Meyer.

On September 21, 1990 he married his soul mate Eva Burgoyne Buhler and they enjoyed 34 years of marriage.

Ed had a passion for a cold Pabst Blue Ribbon along with farming, hunting, Polka music and driving milk truck for Star Dairy for 36 years.

He is survived by his loving wife Eva; daughter Roberta (Mark) Erwin; son, Gordon Meyer and grandchildren Mason Erwin, Abby Erwin and Thomas Meyer. He is further survived by step-sons Dennis (Sandy) Buhler, Bart (Stacy) Buhler, Brandon (Vanessa) Buhler; 6 step-grandchildren and 9 step-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Evelyn Meyer; mother-in-law, Monica Burgoyne; step-grandson, Seth Buhler and his beloved dog, Smedley.

A Funeral Service for Edward will be on Thursday, December 19 at 1:00 PM at the Holly Funeral Home. Visitation will be 12:00 Noon until the time of service. The Holly Funeral Home of Waupaca is assisting the family with arrangements.

Charles "Chuck" W. Nason III

November 17, 1944 - December 13, 2024



November 17, 1944 - December 13, 2024 Charles William Nason III entered this world on November 17, 1944, the second-born child to Charles W. Nason Jr. and Doris Cuthbert Nason. He was affectionately referred to by his mother as her "Boston Bean", conceived while his father was back in the states on leave while serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Chuck was raised in Stevens Point, coupled with lots of time at the family cottage in Waupaca, a

home filled with laughter, love, family time, and a strong affinity for athletics. A four-sport letter winning high school athlete (football, basketball, baseball, and golf), this 1963 senior class president graduated from P.J. Jacobs High School and became a UW-Madison Badger.

While in college, he met his first wife and mother of his children, Nancy Schmidt Nason. Upon his 1968 graduation with a speech degree from UW-Madison, first daughter, Laurie, was born and Chuck immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy. For four years, he was stationed in Virginia and Iceland. During this time second daughter, Kristin, was born. After completion of naval service in 1972, Chuck returned with family to Wisconsin and became the assistant administrator at Appleton Memorial Hospital. The family remained in Appleton until 1976 when Chuck received a call from Bob Williams inviting him to move back to Stevens Point and become his partner in public relations firm, Ida Associates.

A new opportunity came calling in 1981 when Skip Worzalla asked Chuck to become the next chief executive officer of Worzalla Publishing, and it was here that he served as President and CEO for 30 years alongside his executive assistant, Cheri Karch. During the first decade of the Worzalla years, he married Kathleen Pflapsen Lansing and also went into a joint business venture, SPAN Publishing, with friends Erv Span and John Prais - this business remains owned by Chuck and family with Steve Czywinski as president.

During the second decade at Worzalla, Chuck met and married Victoria Luise Schneider Nason and together they built a wonderful 27-year marriage filled with joy, love, and so many laughs along with Vikki's sons, Joseph and Michael Adamski. Chuck retired from Worzalla Publishing on June 30, 2011 and spent several years in retirement continuing community board service and holding "office hours" at Hilltop Bar and Grill with his pal, Luke Andersen, until a form of dementia interfered with his ability to regularly continue.

Chuck spent the last years of his life with the most compassionate care from his wife, Vikki, and love beyond measure from those who mattered most to him: his girls (and favorite son-in-laws), Vikki's boys, grandchildren, his beloved pets Marble, Mixy, and Kitty, and the Del & Karon Smith family. During his last 48 hours, he was still able to crack a joke and told us how much he loved us in so many ways. Chuck was surrounded by his grandchildren and best friend, Del Smith, holding his daughters' hands with his wife kissing his forehead as he left us to have Christmas with his mother, father, and dear sister, Susan Lucille Nason Schultz, who left us for heaven a few months ago.

So this is where the traditional obituary-style writing ends and we're left to address "the rest of the story". Chuck Nason, at last count, held over 20 separate board of director seats and every time we believed the list of awards and accolades this man accepted at local, state, and national levels is complete, a new one pops up in searches. When asked for service wishes or what was valued for an obituary, he would simply say, "You all can decide what is important". For all he did for others, not much was formally left to go off of with his "wishes". So the following is what we believe Chuck would have wanted known about his life.

First, he would want emphasized the honor was his to serve community as a board member with Marshfield Clinic, United Way of Portage County, UWSP Foundation, Delta Dental, Wood County Trust, Central Wisconsin Area Economic Development Council, Book Manufacturers Institute, Wisconsin Special Olympic and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. Significant acknowledgement from peers humbled him and was deeply meaningful, with awards such as Book Manufacturers Institute (BMI) Distinguished Master Bookman Award, Marshfield Clinic Heritage Award, Portage County Business Council President's Award, SPASH Hall of Fame to name a few...and see, this is where it becomes quite difficult...so simply search him online. So much giving sustained over a lifetime. So much service.

Chuck Nason never renovated the Goerke Park Sports Complex nor served as Governor Lee Dreyfus' campaign treasurer, coupled with countless board service terms, for accolades. No thought was paid to that list - what he valued was people and improving lives. Chuck wanted to "pick up the check" to ensure others had a good time. He wanted you to take his own seats at Badger or Packer games so you might have a memorable experience. Infamous "Melmac the Magnificent" comedy sketches brought joy and belly laughs to others, and the endless number of speeches this man gave about the importance of volunteerism and community giving were because he truly believed if we all gave more than we took and created space to laugh, this world and his community would be a better place for everyone, including his family. In the end, the number of titles and accolades don't define his impact - love and giving, where and when you are able, is his legacy.

In Chuck's final years, it pained him deeply to lose the ability to give to others daily. His wife, daughters and grandchildren reassured him it was time to rest. He taught us well, and our family now works that much harder to ensure we all serve, give and love - every day. For all who were impacted by this beautiful man, this is the most meaningful way to honor his memory.

Chuck is survived by his dear wife, Victoria, daughters Laurie Nason Fellenz (Steve) and Kristin Nason Marquard (Kurt), stepsons Joe and Michael Adamski, grandchildren Brendan Fellenz, Katherine Funk (Morgan), Lily Fellenz, Peyton Marquard, and Madigan Marquard, nephews Hans (Melinda), Todd (Maria), and Lars (Katie) Schultz and families. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Susan Schultz and brother-in-law Gordon Schultz.

The Nason family would like to thank Randy Winrich for these past few years of care and friendship and to Marshfield Medical Center River Region, Stevens Point Health Services staff for their compassion and love.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in memory of Charles W. Nason III to the United Way of Portage County or Humane Society of Portage County. Friends and family will gather to share memories at Boston Funeral Home, 1649 Briggs Street, Stevens Point, WI on Sunday, December 29 from 11:00am - 3:00 p.m. and a Celebration of Life for Charles W. Nason III will be held on Monday, December 30 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Sentry World Atrium, 601 N. Michigan Ave with a formal program beginning at 4:30pm. All who knew and loved our family are welcome to join us on one or both days.

Renning, Tony

Tony Jay Renning, born in New London, Wisconsin, passed away with his loving family by his side soon after he watched one last winning Hoosier basketball game. Our wonderful patriarch has more accolades than can be recorded and was respected by more than anyone will ever know. Those who knew him well will understand his request of publishing his own humble obituary.

Tony Jay Renning (born September 10th, 1970) - Oshkosh - made his closing argument and passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024. Tony lived in Oshkosh for the past 28 years. Tony is survived by his wife Lori and children Brogan and Addison. They all are the loves of his life! Brogan and Addison were the highlights of his amazing marriage to Lori and Tony would have done anything to watch them grow old and succeed. Tony is further survived by his mother Carol, brother John (Jane), two nephews Jack and Sam, a niece Isabel, a special group of colleagues, friends, other family and clients. Tony did everything he could all of the time for these special individuals. Tony was preceded in death by his father Ken. Live life to the fullest each and every day!!!

Donations in honor of Tony:
Oshkosh Legion Baseball Association
OLBA, Inc.
PO Box 2266
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2266

Peterson, Ihla



Town of Little Wolf
Ihla Ruth (Nelson) Peterson, our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at ThedaCare Medical Center in Waupaca. She was born on her great grandfather's farm in Scandinavia, WI on April 10, 1931, daughter of the late Isaac Nelson and Mathilda (Brandt) Nelson Dain. She was baptized at Scandinavia Lutheran Church and confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Manawa. She graduated with the Class of 1949 from Little Wolf High School, Manawa. On October 27, 1951, she married James Peterson at Zion Lutheran Church, Manawa where she was a lifelong member. He preceded her in death on January 16, 2013.

Ihla stayed home to raise all her five children until they were in school and then she worked at several Manawa businesses where she made many friends. Her and her husband, Jim, owned a small farm where they collected Farmall tractors. They enjoyed traveling with family and friends. She was an avid Milwaukee Brewers and Green Bay Packers fan. She was very special to her family, especially the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children all of Manawa: Linda and Steve Bauer and their children Matthew (Allison) Bauer, Alissa (Dan) Truel, Gena (Ryan) Gullixon, Jeremy (Katie) Bauer; Cheri and Randy Hass and their children Jesse (Julie) Hass, Luke (Tiffany) Hass; Rick Peterson and special friend Kelly and his children Dana (Corey) Bogenschutz, Tony Peterson, Jana (Cole) Rasmussen, Austin (Olivia) Peterson; Lana and Duane Draeger and their children Cara (Jeremiah) Johnson, Briana (Kyle) Bosquez, Kali Draeger; Kay Suehs and her children Nicki (Luke) Seeger, Brandon Suehs, Shauna (Kris) Zielke; great grandchildren: Brock, Parker, Broghan and Jace Gullixon, Gavin Bauer, Megan and Avary Truel, Bracy, Rohan and Iver-synn Hass, Ty, Lydia and Myles Hass, Alex and Rhys Bogenschutz, Juna Rasmussen, Charlie and Lila Peterson, Rylee and Owyn Bosquez, Aubrie, Emrey Ihla, Cashton, Brihla and Jovie Seeger, Christiana, Ashland and Bennet Suehs, Brayden and Brystal Zielke, future baby Peterson; step grandchildren: Cameron, Dallas and Macin; sister-in-law, Vivian Losselyong and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her mother and father-in-law, Irvin and Clara Peterson; special son-in-law, Mark Suehs; sister: Millie (Burton) Malnory; brothers: Harry (Jeanette) Nelson, Eppie Nelson, Emery (Betty) Nelson, George (Dorothy) Nelson; sister and brothers-in-law: Irene (Lloyd) Schimke, Donny Losselyong; granddaughter, Tanna Hass; stepfather, Carl Dain; many nieces and nephews.

The Christian Funeral for Ihla will be held on Friday, December 20, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Manawa with Rev. Kelly Loken officiating. Burial will be in Little Wolf Cemetery, Town of Little Wolf. A visitation will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Dahlke Life Celebration Center in Manawa and at the church on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Friends may visit www.dahlkefh.com to share memories and condolences with Ihla's family.

Weller's



Jack & Robbie Weller went into eternal life in 2024, after 60 wonderful years together that sparked from a chance encounter in Naples, Italy in 1964. They are survived by their loving family, including their children, Nicole (Bomber) Wanty, Eve (James) Barrett & Michele Ray, several grandchildren & great grandchildren. This obituary serves as our final act for our parents, who made us who we are today, so we celebrate their lives, as we enjoyed being a part of their journey.

In 1964, Dad, a dedicated career Navy man, met Mom, a talented teacher from Liverpool, England, while sailing the seven seas. Their encounter blossomed into a loving partnership that spanned over five decades. Together, they raised their family at multiple stations, settling in Cherryfield, Maine, where Mom taught at Narraguagus High School for 30 years, inspiring generations of students with her passion for literature and the fine arts. Dad continued to serve his community and country, fostering a deep devotion to Patriotism that inspired those around him.

Following their retirement in 2006, they returned to Dad's home in Waupaca, Wisconsin, where they enjoyed their final chapter together. They spent their golden years traveling, reconnecting with friends, and cherishing time with family. Mom and Dad's final home was at the Wisconsin Veterans' Home, in Waupaca, where Dad was able to be surrounded by his Patriotic compass and Mrs. Weller had her 'room' back. Our frequent visits allowed us to see Mom surrounded by staff, enjoying her stories and memories of her life in England, as well as her students and friends at Narraguagus High School.

Their love, commitment and generosity of spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew them. The family will be having a private celebration of life for them in the next coming months.

During their final years, the staff at Wisconsin Veterans' Home became an integral part of the Weller Family. Our family was able to enjoy our many visits and allowed us to spoil Mom and Dad with trips, dinners & walks around their 'Lake Home', as the staff provided superior care with their needs. Theda Care Hospice also went above and beyond to provide our family the comfort our parents needed in their final days & hours.

Dad, you'll be thrilled to know TRUMP will be our President again, promising to Make America Great Again! And Mom, don't forget to curtsy when you see the Queen, enjoy a sniffer of brandy with Churchill and get that red pen out for Shakespeare's latest playscript. We're celebrating your reunion, Mom & Dad!

The Maple Crest Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Kobs, June



June V. Kobs, age 98, of Waupaca, WI passed away on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at Bethany Home in Waupaca. She was born in Kaukauna, WI on August 21, 1926, she was the daughter of the late Herman and Ruth (Krueger) Keil.

She married Donald Kobs on May 1, 1948 in Kaukauna, WI. He preceded her in death in 1980. June was an avid Packer and Cubs fan. She loved to sing, enjoyed gardening, and was a proficient woodworker who made many pieces of furniture.

She is survived by her Daughter: Cheryl Schmit, Waupaca, WI; Grandchildren: Jaime Schmit-Burskey, Hortonville, WI; Christopher (Abbie) Schmit, LaGrange Park, IL; Great Grandchildren: Aiden Burskey; Emma (Wayne); Norah Schmit; Miles Schmit; Sister: Marlene (Burskey) Iverson, Hartland, WI; Niece: Ann (Pat) Mahaney, Hartland, WI. Besides her parents and husband, she was also preceded in death by two children - Guy Kobs and Kevin Kobs, a granddaughter - Jennifer Schmit, son-in-law - Don Schmit, two brothers - Paul Keil and Donald Keil, and three sisters - Virginia Erdman, Karol Chapman and Jane Jungenberg.

As per the wishes of the family, there will be no services held at this time. The Holly Funeral Home of Waupaca is assisting the family with arrangements.

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“ROOTed,” a collection of works from students graduating from the UW-Stevens Point Interior Architecture program, is on display at the Edna Carlsten Gallery through Jan. 9.

Contributed Pphoto

Interior architecture on display

STEVENS POINT – Works by interior architecture students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are now being featured at the Edna Carlsten Art Gallery.

“ROOTed,” an exhibition presented by interior architecture students graduating this fall, will be free and open to the public Dec. 13 THROUGH Jan. 9 in the Noel Fine Arts Center Edna Carlsten Gallery, 1800 Portage St., Stevens Point.

Gallery hours run from noon-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday.

The exhibition’s name comes from four philosophies identified by the group of seniors as being fundamental to their experience attending UWSP:

Resilience - Working long hours, meeting tight deadlines and solving problems, students are strong individuals that can withstand any obstacles presented to them.

Origin - Coming from different backgrounds, students all provide a unique design perspective.

Opportunity - The Interior Architecture program at UWSP provides designers with both experience and organizations to immerse themselves in the design industry.

Transformation - Beginning their journey with minimal design experience, students have grown into a group of bright and creative professionals, ready to branch off into the world of interior architecture.

The Interior Architecture

program at UW-Stevens Point provides a well-rounded education, focusing on a wide variety of project types including residential, hospitality, corporate and senior living. Throughout the program, students develop both technically and professionally. Design techniques and methodologies such as schematic planning, drafting, 3D modeling, photorealistic rendering and presentations are used to create a cohesive design.

Parking is available for attendees in lot R located to the south of the Noel Fine Arts Center. This lot is metered and requires payment of \$1 per hour. This can be done through the Passport parking app.

Patrol officers to enforce sober driving

STATE – The Portage County Sheriff’s Office is joining law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin in the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign from Friday, Dec. 11 through New Year’s Day, Jan. 1.

During the national holiday campaign, law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin will patrol in greater numbers, for longer hours, watching for impaired drivers.

Last year in Wisconsin, there were 5,976 alcohol-related crashes that resulted in 159 deaths – approximately one-quarter of all traffic fatalities.

According to the sheriff’s office, this campaign is not about stopping and arresting motorists. It is about saving lives and preventing needless tragedies during the holiday season.

To help combat impaired driving, Wisconsin has:

- Nearly 7,500 law enforcement officers are trained in Advance Roadside

- Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) to help detect and remove impaired drivers.

- Almost 400 highly trained Drug Recognition Experts – among the nation’s most.

- 30 multi-jurisdictional high-visibility enforcement task forces.

Bridge winners at Lincoln Center

STEVENS POINT – Social bridge winners on Dec 9 at the Lincoln Center were: Beryl Amund, Elsie Glodowski, Patrick Steffen and Diane Shufelt.

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

Duplicate bridge winners on Dec. 12 at the Lincoln Center were Jay and Cathy Quella, Tom Rowe and Art Flashinski, Barb Stiff and Debra Breunling.

Duplicate bridge winners on Dec 13 at the Lincoln Center were Mary Beth An-

day and Polly Garbe, John Herder and Rick Jansing, Mark Thomas and Mary Olson.

New duplicate players welcomed. People who are interested in playing duplicate bridge on Fridays, call Sandy Davis at 715-252-3365.

RECYCLING

FROM PAGE 4

dropped off at a facility that accepts scrap metal such as the Portage County Transfer Facility.

Many popcorn tins are too large to be properly sorted by equipment.

Before recycling, remove any left-over kernels and paper dividers (all are trash). When recycling other steel or tin cans, rinse them to remove the majority of the residue and push lids back in cans. If not pushed back in or left loose in the bin these metal tops will fall through our sorting equipment and end up with our glass or paper and tossed by the mill.

Labels and glue do not need to be removed. When steel cans get processed into new steel, it’s melted at temperatures upwards of 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit. Thus, incinerating labels and glue in the process.

Wrapping and Tissue Paper

Due to the limited amount of recoverable fibers in wrapping and tissue paper, they are unrecyclable by our paper mills (even if it has the chasing arrows symbol or words “recyclable” on it). When paper gets recycled

the fibers get smaller and smaller to a point where they can no longer be captured and reused in new paper or cardboard.

Most wrapping and tissues papers are made from the shortest fibers. Many also contain small pieces of foil or plastic to make them shimmer and shine. These small pieces are very difficult to remove during the recycling process and therefore are not wanted by the paper mills. Please toss all wrapping and tissue paper in the trash.

Gift Bags

Holiday gift bags are reusable and recyclable. If recycling, remove any non-paper handles before placing them in your curbside cart.

Greeting Cards

Holiday cards and envelopes, if they are not on photo paper, can be recycled. If the card is drenched in glitter, we ask that you toss that portion into the trash as it’s difficult for paper mills to remove glitter from the mix.

Much of the paper recycled here in Portage County gets recycled into hand paper towels or toilet paper and no one, except maybe a 5 or 6-year-old, wants to use glittery toilet paper.

Cardboard Boxes

Cardboard boxes need to be broken down before placing them in your cart or bin. Before recycling, large plastic windows should be removed and tossed into the trash. Protective packaging such as molded plastic, Styrofoam, or twist ties need to be removed and tossed into the trash as well.

Molded paper or cardboard can be recycled as long as it has been flattened, a few good foot stomps should do the trick. Paper directions or booklets are recyclable as well.

Single Use Items

Single use items are just that, single use. If you don’t want to save and reuse them at the next gathering, then they do need to be disposed of in the trash. All plastic single use cups, silverware, bowls, plates, etc. are trash. Paper plates and napkins need to go into the trash as well.

Ornaments

Broken or unwanted ornaments are trash, even if made from glass or ceramic. Same with broken cups, plates, or baking ware. These items are not compatible with glass bottles or jars. Only glass bottles and jars are recyclable. A general rule for



Frank and Kathleen Haeni, honored in 2021 with the naming of a lecture hall, will again be recognized for their contributions to UW-Stevens Point with the naming of the Haeni Chemistry Biology Building.

Building’s name recognizes donors

STEVENS POINT – The Chemistry Biology Building (CBB) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will be named in honor of an alumni couple in recognition of their contributions to the university.

Frank and Kathleen Haeni, 1970 UWSP graduates and longtime educators prior to their retirement, have supported students at their alma mater through four endowed scholarships in the College of Letters and Science (COLS) and the College of Natural Resources.

They have also supported faculty-mentored undergraduate research, the COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Olson Museum of Natural History.

Their most recent commitment created an endowment to fund laboratory repairs and equipment

purchases and maintenance for what will be the Haeni Chemistry Biology Building.

Previously the couple was honored with the naming of the CBB Haeni Lecture Hall in 2021.

“The Haenis have remained committed to education and student success throughout their careers as educators and in retirement in their support of UWSP students, programs and facilities,” said Chancellor Thomas Gibson. “Their gifts encourage growth and purpose for our students, as well as allow our faculty and staff to retain state-of-the-art classroom instruction and hands-on research opportunities that prepare students for professional careers in the sciences, health care, natural resources and education. We are so grateful for their generosity.”

The Haenis both earned degrees in biology from UWSP, then Frank earned a master’s degree in biology from Southern Connecticut State University in 1976 and Kathleen earned a master’s degree in education from Viterbo University in 1996.

Kathleen was a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher for 24 years and Frank taught science education for 33 years.

Now retired, the couple spend time maintaining their property in Crivitz, where Frank is a naturalist and woodworker. He donated more than a dozen wooden benches and tables to the university which he carved from an oak tree grown on campus.

The Haeni Chemistry Biology Building will be dedicated at a later date.

Community Foundation offers grants

STEVENS POINT – The Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin will be accepting grant applications from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31. Several grant cycles will be available with awards announced in March.

The Women’s Fund of Portage County will welcome applications from nonprofits and established charitable organizations serving women of Portage County.

This year, the Women’s Fund will be granting \$14,360 to programs focused on mental and behavioral health access, childcare expansion, and

support for financial wellness and independence for Portage County women.

The Partner Grants process is designed for one-time requests from nonprofit or charitable groups. Applications may ask for up to \$5,000 and must be focused on a particular project. This grant cycle is open to programs and projects in Portage and Waushara counties that align with the foundation’s values and five mission areas. Up to \$75,000 in Portage County and up to \$30,000 in Waushara County will be distributed to Partner grantees in total.

Eligible organizations

include nonprofit 501c3 agencies that are state and federal tax exempt and in good standing with the IRS. The Community Foundation will consider applications from public, charter, parochial schools or government entities. Also eligible are established community groups wishing to complete a community project for the benefit of the general public of Portage or Waushara County.

All applications can be accessed and completed through the foundation’s website. To learn more about grant opportunities and apply for this year’s awards, visit www.cfzwi.org.

ADRC senior support programs

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

- Almond Bancroft School, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

- Village Park in Junction City, 3-6 p.m. Friday, March 7.

Everyone is welcome to join for fun activities and free food. To find out more or to get involved go to www.co.portage.wi.gov/RCCT.

Community Connections

Rural Community Connections Task Force of Portage County helps combat social isolation and loneliness with community winter celebrations:

- Food & Farm Exploration Center in Plover, 3-6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17.

- Amherst Jensen Center, 3-6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31.

- Rosholt Lions Camp, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Stevens Point: Lin-

glass recycling, if it packaged a beverage or food item, and this does include mason jars, then it’s recyclable. Please remove corks and caps and toss those into the trash before recycling the bottles.

Holiday Lights

Stands of holiday lights are not a curbside recyclable item. They wrap around sorting equip-

ment, similar to how hair wraps around the vacuum cleaner, and causes expensive shutdowns and inefficient sorting.

Strands of holiday lights and netting, can be dropped off for recycling at one of the following locations through the end of January: Portage County Solid Waste in Plover, Veterans Memorial Park parking lot in the Village of Plover,

City of Stevens Point Public Drop-off, Recycling Connections in Stevens Point, the Village of Amherst Village Hall, Village of Park Ridge Village Hall, Town of Amherst Town Hall, or Town of Hull Municipal Building.

If you have any questions give us a call at 715-343-6297 or join our Facebook community @ PortageCountyRecycles.



This 1969 Bolens Diablo Rouge owned by Larry George took first place at the Fort Fremont Vintage Snowmobile Show. Submitted Photo

Vintage sleds at Fort Fremont

BY JAMES CARD
STAFF REPORTER

FREMONT – Following up on their Thanksgiving Day Ski Plunge where local water-skiers braved icy water on the Wolf River, Fort Fremont Marine hosted their annual vintage snowmobile show.

On Dec. 14, snowmobile aficionados hauled in their antique sleds and spectators voted on their favorites.

Larry George took first place with his 1969 Bolens Diablo Rouge, a red machine that looked like a cross between a sit-behind rototiller and a snowmobile. Randy Loughrin came in

second with his 1978 Polaris TX 340. Steve Lache took third with his Yamaha SS 396 and in fourth was Randy Pankratz with his 1965 Lil Andy. The show also featured a wall decorated with vintage snowmobile memorabilia such as caps, advertisements, jackets and old photos.

ROTARY GRANTS

FROM PAGE 3

With \$75,000 available, proposals of any size are welcome, and there is no matching requirement. Applications are due by Feb. 15, 2025.

To apply, visit www.waupacarotary.org and click "grants, awards & scholarships" in the top navigation bar.

"The Community Impact Grant program is the latest initiative our club has

undertaken to serve our community and world" said Wes Klages, the club's President Elect. "A sample of recent projects includes over \$9,000 in grants provided to support teacher innovations in Waupaca, Iola-Scandinavia, and Weyauwega-Fremont schools, community service grants, environmental projects benefiting local parks, scholarships, and the installation of Rotary Clock in Waupaca's town square. Additionally, the club supports international programs to improve

literacy and provide access to clean water in Guatemala, provide temporary shelter for those displaced by natural disasters and conflicts, and eradicate polio."

The Rotary Club of Waupaca has more than 100 members who represent different backgrounds, vocations, and perspectives, and who share a common commitment to serving others in our community and around the world. More information is available at www.waupacarotary.org.

BEER GARDEN

FROM PAGE 1

the negotiations, it was determined it would be better for the developer to have the city give a development incentive grant equal to the sum of what the determined value of the property is.

"Essentially we are saying the property is valued at \$46,200, we are countering that by saying that we are going to provide a development incentive grant of \$46,200, so that there will be no exchange of money for the purchase of the property," Hoerth said. "But again, there is no TID increment grant provided after that. So, the city would collect 100% of the TID increment that is going to be created by the development."

If approved, all parties agree to execute the sale and conveyance of the property to the developer no later than March 1, 2025.

Hoerth added that the agreement includes a clause, that if the development is not started by July 1, 2025, the parcel of land would revert back to the city.

The development agreement also includes stipulations about "substantial completion of the project."

"So that we can start collecting the TID increment on the parcel itself," Hoerth said.

Parcel history

Hoerth said he researched the history of the parcel of land the city would be selling to Der Wolf Garden. He

said the site used to house Wolf River Lumber Company, and was donated to the city, which at the time also included the parcel of land the SC Swiderski development currently sits on, in 2004.

"There was no money that the city had (to use) to purchase the property," Hoerth said.

In 2006, Hoerth said the city was responsible for razing the buildings that were on the property. It cost the city \$86,500 to raze the buildings and excavate and clear the land.

"Maybe the city has spent \$8,000-\$9,000 over time on that parcel (to be purchased by Der Wolf Garden)," Hoerth said. "So, it's not like the city has spent a lot of money up to this point on the parcel. But it's really exciting, and something we want to see development occur."

WATER

FROM PAGE 5

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding this decision and the potential environmental impacts of this project. Submit comments by Dec. 31, 2024 to: WisconsinDepartmentofNaturalResources, C/O Brian Boelkow, Community Financial Assistance, CF/2, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Comments may be emailed to DNRCELEnvironmentalReview@wisconsin.gov Based on the comments

received, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program may prepare an environmental analysis before proceeding with the funding process. The analysis would summarize the DNR's consideration of the project's impacts and reasonable alternatives.

DELLWOOD

FROM PAGE 5

child care (center), but the question I ask, 'What if tomorrow, that child care (center) closed? Where are

all the kids going?' Child care is a hard business right now. When we get really good employees, we do our best to keep those employees. Another positive is, though, when we get re-

ally great employees, they see the benefits of working with kids, and they want to go to the next level. They want to become a teacher. They want to do something above."



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Christmas Day Worship: 9 a.m.
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Watch live or recorded at TrinityNewLondon.com

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709 W. Pine St., New London
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nlumc@mynewlondonumc.org
Rev. Debi VanDerBoom
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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.
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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

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WAUPACA County Post 

Sports



Weyauwega-Fremont Warhawks boast a No. 1 ranking in Division 3 to start the 2024-2025 season.

Warhawks wrestling ranked number one

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

WEYAUWEGA - The Weyauwega-Fremont Warhawks are flexing their mus-

cle in the early portion of the wrestling season, ranking number one in Division 3 after an appearance in the 2024 WIAA state semifinals.

The opening rankings for this season have Weyauwega-Fremont at the top of the team polls and have placed several individuals near the top of their weight classes,

according to wisconsinrappler.com.

Zander Baehnman is ranked fourth in the 106-pound division, Jayden LeNoble is ranked fourth in the 113-pound di-

vision, Carter Birdyshaw is ranked fifth in the 144-pound division, Connor Johnson is ranked fifth in the 157-pound division and Carter McDaniel is ranked fifth in the 175-

pound division, respectively.

The Warhawks will host Rosholt, Little Chute and Bonduel in a quad meet at home on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Truckers get the win over Luxemburg-Casco

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE - A balanced offensive attack by the Truckers led to a 57-52 victory over the Luxemburg-Casco Spartans on Friday, Dec. 13.

The Truckers took the early lead 26-20 as senior Sam Wegener buried a three-point shot in the first half.

Bryar Hagberg was fed the ball in the post early and finished the game with 15 points for the Truckers.

Wegener held on to the ball at the top of the key in the closing minute of the first half. The seconds ticked down, and Wegener drove into the lane and kicked out to an open teammate, who hit a buzzer-beating three-point shot to send the Truckers into the locker room with a 29-20 lead.

In the second half, Truckers Jaxson Baribeau connect-



Clintonville's Sam Wegener goes up for the jumpshot against Luxemburg-Casco on Dec. 13.

Nick Griesbach Photo

ed on three three-pointers to help ice the game away for Clintonville.

The Truckers' next game will be on the road against Wrightstown on Dec. 17.

Warhawks set records in 2024

WEYAUWEGA - According to the end-of-season tabulations by Head Coach Colton Zimmerman, the 2024 Warhawks made school history. They are the first Academic All-State Team in W-F High School. Also the seniors recorded the most winningest cumulative record in 20 years. The team has also accumulated the most community-service hours in the history of the football program.

Twelve Warhawks were

awarded All-Conference accolades, five made First Team All-Conference, three made Second Team All-Conference and there were four Honorable Mention All-Conference.

The First Team All-Conference athletes were Bryce Magdanz (linebacker), Charles Mueller (kicker), Jared Bohringer (offensive lineman), Kameron Zielke (a quarterback who broke the all-time passing record), and Dawson Lind (running back).

The Second Team All-Conference athletes were Kameron Zielke (defensive back), Jared Bohringer (defensive lineman) and Carter Birdyshaw (a wide receiver who broke the single-season receiving record).

The Honorable Mention All-Conference athletes were Carter McDaniel (defensive lineman), Alex Lohrke (linebacker), Blake Ahuna (offensive lineman), and Carter McDaniel (offensive lineman).



Goalie Gavin Hafferman made 15 saves for the Waupaca boys' hockey team Dec. 10 in a 4-2 Great Northern Conference loss to Northland Pines.

Greg Seubert Photo

Comets drop home hockey game

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's still early in the season, but the Great Northern Conference has not been very kind to the Waupaca boys' hockey team so far.

The Comets fell to 0-2 in conference play and 1-5 overall on Dec. 10, losing 4-2 to Northland Pines at the Waupaca Ice & Expo Center.

Waupaca outshot the visi-

tors 37-25, but the Eagles won with a pair of unanswered goals in the third period.

The Comets opened the scoring 2:19 into the game, as Cael Prey scored off of an assist from Colin Everts.

Northland Pines tied the game later in the period on a goal from Julian Merschdorf and took a 2-1 lead in the second period on Sam Schrock's unassisted power

play goal. Prey and Everts combined for Waupaca's second goal later before the teams entered the third period tied at 2-2.

Nicholas Hahn and Michael Schmidt found the net for the Eagles in the third period.

The Comets will host Rhinelander at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, for another GNC matchup.



Addison Bernas collects gold at state in New Berlin.



Hattie Zdorik places first in four individual events at state.

Nick Griesbach Photos

Stevens Point Russell Gymnastics places at State

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

NEW BERLIN- Russell Gymnastics competed at State in New Berlin on Dec. 7-8 and finished second in level 2 as a team.

In level 2, Hattie Zdorik tied for first on vault, first on bars, first on floor, and first on All-Around. Addison Bernas took first on bars with a score of and first on all-around. Anaiah Butt took first on the vault

and first on the floor. Ariadna AdamsScheer took first on vault, first on bars and first in all-around.

Kaelynn King took first on vault and first on floor in level 3 and Jamie Jagodzinski took first on bars.

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Warhawks drop home game

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WEYAUWEGA - Not even Olivia Witkowski's 31 points could save the Weyauwega-Fremont girls' basketball team.

The Warhawks hosted Winneconne on Dec. 16 for a nonconference matchup. The Wolves returned home with a 64-43 win after connecting on 14 three-pointers.

Winneconne had an early 15-5 lead, and the Warhawks eventually cut the lead to four points. However, the Wolves used five three-pointers to take a 32-22 halftime lead.

Witkowski scored the Warhawks' first 11 points of the second half. Weyauwega-Fremont never got any closer than seven points in the second half.

Winneconne led by as many as 22 points late in the game.

No one else scored more than four points for the Warhawks.

Jada Kaiser led the Wolves



Olivia Witkowski hits the floor Dec. 16 during Weyauwega-Fremont's nonconference game with Winneconne. Witkowski led all scorers with 31 points, but the Warhawks fell to the Wolves 64-43.

Greg Seubert Photo

in scoring, as all 21 of her points came on seven three-pointers.

Brooklyn Messerschmidt and Grace Mitchell also finished in double figures for Winneconne with 14 and 12

points, respectively.

The Warhawks are off until they head to Omro Friday and Saturday, Dec. 27-28, for a holiday tournament that includes teams from Omro, Coleman and Wautoma.

Wolves edge Thunderbirds at home

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MANAWA - Sometimes, the biggest spark comes from an unlikely place.

That was the case for the Manawa girls' basketball team on Dec. 10 in the Wolves' 57-56 Central Wisconsin Conference-East win over Iola-Scandinavia.

Alayna Seeger came off the bench to score all 12 of her points in the second half for the Wolves, gave Manawa the lead four times, and scored the game-winning point.

Manawa played from behind for most of the first half and trailed 12-2 at one point but rallied to take a 29-26 lead into the locker room at halftime after ending the first half with a 7-0 run.

Iola-Scandinavia led by six points twice in the second half before Seeger's second basket gave the Wolves a 48-47 lead. Another bas-



Manawa Wolves get the victory over the Iola-Scandinavia Thunderbirds on Dec. 10.

Greg Seubert Photo

ket gave Manawa a 50-49 lead, and her three-pointer turned a 51-50 deficit into a 53-51 lead. She later connected on two free throws with 58 seconds remaining, which turned out to be the final two points of the game.

The Thunderbirds missed four consecutive free throws down the

stretch, and McKenzie Bonikowske's shot at the buzzer bounced off of the rim.

Abby Elmhurst led three Manawa players in double figures with 15 points. Olivia Tomko-Santos scored 11 to go along with Seeger's 12.

Bonikowske led all scorers with 21 points, and Charlotte Isermann added 11.

Area Basketball players announced to award watch lists

BY NICK GRIESBACH
SPORTS REPORTER

Watch lists for Wisconsin-Sports.net senior awards have been announced for the 2024-2025 boys and girls basketball seasons and include several different players from the area.

Five different awards for both boys and basketball will be awarded at the end of the season for top senior point

guard, wing player, post player, defender and shooter.

Boys point guard watch list includes, Grant Chandonais from Stevens Point and Brody Dernbach from Almond-Bancroft. Girls point guard watch list includes Rainey Welson of Hortonville.

Boys wing player watch list has names such as Sam Wegener of Clintonville, Riley Mueller of Hortonville, Jayden Awe of Stevens Point and Aar-

on Wolff of Waupaca.

Boys Post player watch list includes Ayden Phillips of Almond-Bancroft and the Girls post player watch list includes, Olivia Witkowski of Weyauwega-Fremont.

Baraka Makalin represents Stevens Point on the best senior defender list, and Rainey Welson is on her second award watch list for Hortonville as she is included on the girls best shooter list.

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Senior Spotlight

Lindsey Weiler-SPASH

A third consecutive Wisconsin Valley girls' conference championship is firmly in the sights of the Stevens Point Panthers.

A reason for this lofty goal is senior Lindsey Weiler, who has been a key piece of the 2022-2023 team that won the conference title, was named a 2023-2024 All-Conference Honorable Mention, and was the Panthers leading rebounder with 7.2 per game for the Wisconsin Valley Conference Champions a season ago.

A Bemidji State recruit who plans to major in Sports Management, Lindsey started her basketball career in the third grade. She credits her high energy and physicality, which she brings to each game, as her biggest asset.

Lindsey has been able to manage her time between the classroom and the basketball court, "I make sure to use all my class time wisely so that I can focus on basketball during school hours."

Introduced to the sport by her dad, Lindsey appreciates everything the sport has to offer, "My favorite part of basketball is how competitive it is, how it involves a lot of teamwork, and how it also lets individual talent shine."

Lindsey credits her coach for motivating her throughout her time at Stevens Point: "Coach Janel McCarville, thank you for pushing me beyond my limits and showing me that I am capable of achieving more than I ever thought possible. Your belief in my potential, even when I doubted myself, has been a constant source of motivation. You have not only made me a better basketball player but a better person, and I am so grateful for you."

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New London police warn of scams

NEW LONDON – The New London Police Department and other area law enforcement have taken reports of people being scammed out of \$10,000 up to \$100,000.

According to a post on the New London Police Department's Facebook page, there are several different scams.

In one scam the suspect will contact the victim about a virus on their computer and download a "viewer" like "team viewer or a remote viewer" on their computer and have them access their bank accounts so they can see how much money the victim have.

They may also transfer money from one account to another.

They can also pose as a person from the bank, as someone saying you won \$2 million and you have to pay fees.

They may also pose as someone offering help you with fixing a computer, someone claiming that you

had a fraudulent charge for a purchase or possibly a federal law enforcement officer.

This is typically how the scams are working:

After receiving a phone call related to the unauthorized purchase, a bank account issue, or a computer issue, the victim begins communicating with a scammer. The victim is told about fraudulent charges posted to their bank account or computer issue.

The scammer identifies themselves as a person from the bank, computer person or a federal agent and instructs the victim to remove a large amount of money from their bank account, usually \$10,000 or more.

The scammer then arranges for an "official" to meet with the victim at their personal residence to pick up the money. The victim is given a "password" over the phone that will be repeated by the person picking up the money.

The scammer may also ask them to wrap the money a

certain way and then bring it to "UPS" to be shipped.

After the money is picked up, the victim is again contacted by the suspect and instructed to remove an additional \$10,000 the following day.

This scam will continue until the victim runs out of money.

"If you experience any of these situations or a similar situation, please don't give them any money or set up a meet to give them money in person," according to the message posted by New London Police Chief Jeffrey Schlueter. "Once the money is gone, it is very hard to recover it. If you question if a situation is a scam, please call the police department or go directly to your bank to talk to them. Never give out any personal information to anyone that calls you. Do not give anyone a copy of your driver's license, passport or any bank information."



Fill the Truck Toy Drive

Plach Automotive's annual toy drive collected two truckloads of gifts for the Christmas for Kids program in New London. From left, Tina Sweet and Dan Plach of Plach Automotive presented Christmas for Kids Program Coordinator Wendy Schmidt with two truckloads of gifts on Monday, Dec. 9. The gifts are a result of customer donations and matching donations from the dealership. New London's Christmas for Kids program will serve over 250 children this season.

John Faucher Photo

Waupaca County sheriff's report

- Dec. 9 – A male caller reported he discovered a man captured on his trail camera. The man appeared to be coyote hunting and was trespassing.
- Dec. 9 – A Clintonville caller on Eighth Street reported being charged by dogs at Pigeon lake Wayside Park. She also noted the dogs poop everywhere and the owner doesn't pick up after them.
- Dec. 9 – An lola man on State Road reported the theft of some tools.
- Dec. 9 – A Clintonville man on Main Street reported a stepchild was punching and kicking the parents and throwing a tantrum. The caller wanted to know about parents' rights and just how much he could punish the youth.
- Dec. 10 – Hometown Pharmacy in Waupaca reported someone broke through a wall and tore out insulation to gain access. The caller had not yet entered the premise.
- Dec. 10 – A Waupaca caller on Main Street reported his child was talking to a person on TikTok and the person sent inappropriate messages and asked the child to send some photos.

- Dec. 10 – The Wisconsin Department of Revenue in Appleton reported a man talked about harming himself and before hanging up he said he was going to "grab the gun and off himself."
- Dec. 10 – Manawa Elementary School reported a sick raccoon on the property with another nearby in a cornfield that was acting strange. Two deputies recently received similar calls and were dispatching raccoons.
- Dec. 10 – An Appleton caller reported she owns property and all of the buildings on the property are condemned. She learned that people are living there but does not know who.
- Dec. 10 – A Marion caller on Second Street reported two women were sending or sharing photos of a minor via Facebook.
- Dec. 10 – An unknown caller reported there was a youth climbing on the side of her house and trying to break into a window.
- Dec. 10 – A Manawa man on Bridge Street reported his girlfriend was suicidal and kept saying that she wants to die.
- Dec. 10 – A Waupaca woman on County Trunk X report-

ed a bunch of Amazon boxes scattered along the road.

- Dec. 12 – Kwik Trip on Fulton Street in Waupaca reported a car and truck were boxing each other in and the drivers were yelling at each other.
- Dec. 12 – A female caller reported a man was stalking her. He found out where she volunteers and stops by everyday to speak to her. He waits outside for her and follows her inside.
- Dec. 12 – A Waupaca man on Apple Tree Lane reported a woman was having a mental episode and she sent the caller the same text message 15 times.
- Dec. 12 – An Ogdensburg woman reported seeing a boy wearing a black hooded run behind Taco Bell and then to Joann Lane. An older dark-colored sedan sped out of the parking lot after the boy.
- Dec. 12 – A Weyauwega woman on Galilee Road reported a shed was on fire.
- Dec. 13 – An anonymous caller reported people that were living in a camper.
- Dec. 13 – A Waupaca caller on Lamplighter Lane reported her solar lights were knocked over again.



New store in town

DG Market in Weyauwega is open. The store was fully stocked with items ranging from mixed nuts to motor oil to mascara. There was a small selection of meats. There are many types of ready-made frozen foods. One employee was the sole checkout clerk on Saturday, Dec. 14. The store is open everyday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

James Card Photo

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

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

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

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

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

Farmington Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 2:00pm

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

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

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)

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

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

Everyone is always Welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM & 5:30PM

FCC FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

N2541 CTY RD K
 FAITHWAUPACA.ORG

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

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

N6412 State Rd. 49 Weyauwega
 920-867-3263
christlutheranwestbloomfield.com

Dec. 24th • 5pm
 Children's Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25th • 9am
 Christmas Day Service

Join us weekly for our Sunday Worship 10am

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

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