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Building people's interest in history

BY CASSI GARRISON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

GREEN BAY – Although the Civil War ended more than 150 years ago, its legacy continues to shape our understanding of history, thanks to groups like the Wisconsin Civil War Reenactors.

Originally founded in 1960 as the nation approached the war's 100th anniversary, the group sought a way to honor soldiers and preserve history within Wisconsin.

Once the anniversary celebrations were over, the group became

“Hopefully they walk away from the event having learned a few things or maybe wanting to read more books or watch a movie,”

—DAVE SIELSKI, WISCONSIN CIVIL WAR REENACTORS

inactive but started up again in the 1990s.

Group president, Dave Sielski shared that historical education is the main focus of the reenactors.

“There is an entertainment element because we want to make it interesting enough that people get something out of it,” he said, adding that from hardcore history buffs to those who know little about the Civil War, everyone can take away something new.

Their events include full-scale reenactments, living history demonstrations, school presentations, parades and cemetery dedications.

These activities bring history to life, creating a deeper understanding of the Civil War and its impact.

Wisconsin's connection to the Civil War is significant, with about 11-12% of the state's population serving in the war.

The Wisconsin Civil War Reenactors aim to educate the public about this legacy and the broader history of the conflict.



The Wisconsin Civil War Reenactors events include full-scale reenactments, living history demonstrations, school presentations, parades and cemetery dedications.

Submitted photos

“A lot of the public doesn't know Wisconsin's role in the Civil War,” Sielski explained, noting connections such as Camp Randall, which served as a Union training ground and later as a Confederate prison camp.

The group welcomes members from all walks of life, ranging from history enthusiasts to families seeking a fun activity.

“Everybody comes from a different background and they just have a love of history,” Sielski said. “You develop a lot of friendships over all the years.”

He added that a few marriages have even come from the group.

Organizing a reenactment involves extensive collaboration with local sites, such as heritage parks or nature preserves.

“Pretty much every event we hold is in association with a site, like Heritage Hill,” Sielski shared. “First, you have to see what kind of site they have as far as what you'd be able to do. Is it a site that has a large enough space to have a battle?”

He added that they don't need

See **CIVIL WAR** page 3



The Wisconsin Civil War Reenactors aim to educate the public about this legacy and the broader history of the conflict.

Parallel 44 & Door 44 earns 25 medals at San Francisco Wine Chronicle Competition

BY STAR-NEWS STAFF

Parallel 44 & Door 44 Wineries recently took home 25 medals from the San Francisco Wine Chronicle Competition.

“This total resulted in more medals than 99% of the total competition involving over 950 wineries. The San Francisco Wine Chronicle

Competition is the largest Wine Competition in North America with over 5,500 wines from over 950 wineries competing and over 50 judges who range from sommeliers, wine writers, wine makers, wine buyers and

See **MEDALS** page 4



Parallel 44 & Door 44 Wineries recently took home 25 medals from the San Francisco Wine Chronicle Competition.

Submitted photo

Algoma City Council approves one-year contract with Wisconsin Humane Society

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
SENIOR EDITOR

ALGOMA – During its Feb. 3 meeting, the Algoma City Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing a contract with the Wisconsin Humane Society for the “sheltering, care, treatment, and humane disposal of abandoned, stray, unwanted, mistreated, aggressive, quarantined, or otherwise impounded animals located within the city of Algoma.”

“There is not a shelter in Kewaunee County, so they would either go up north to Door County or into Brown County,” Algoma City Administrator Matt Murphy explained.

The contract will run Jan. 1, 2025, to Dec. 1, 2025, with the first year funded by “A Cause for PAWS” — an organization that has

See **CONTRACT** page 6



The Algoma City Council unanimously passed a contract with the Wisconsin Humane Society on Feb. 3. Pictured from left are Suzie Leist, Algoma Mayor Steve Lautenbach, Julie Jacobs and Algoma Police Chief David Allen.

Submitted photo

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Kewaunee students selected as Wisconsin State
Education Conference videographers



School Scoop

BY SCOTT FRITZ
KEWAUNEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

Kewaunee High School's video and broadcasting program has earned statewide recognition after being selected as the official videographers for the 2025 Wisconsin State Education Conference.

Held in Milwaukee from Jan. 21-24, the conference brought together educators and administrators from across the state.

The Kewaunee video and broadcast club has been broadcasting and adding commentary to Kewaunee High School Athletic events for a couple years.

In November, this group of students, under the guidance of Ms. (Julie) Derenne, wanted to broaden their experience in videography and applied for the prestigious role of official videographer with the Wisconsin Association of School Boards for this year's

state convention.

Their application was successful, earning them the opportunity to document the convention.

The team of Henry Annen, Toby Kunkel and Blake Temme embarked on their Milwaukee adventure early Wednesday morning, Jan. 22.

Meeting Ms. Derenne at 5 a.m. they set off to capture the events and presentations at the conference.

The students gained invaluable real-world experience, conducting interviews with presenters and attendees, including State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly and Gov. Tony Evers.

Their work included filming breakout sessions and two keynote presentations focusing on leadership and the power of a positive mindset.



The team of Henry Annen, Toby Kunkel and Blake Temme were selected as the official videographers for the 2025 Wisconsin State Education Conference. Submitted photo

Throughout the convention, the Kewaunee team impressed attendees with their professionalism and respectful demeanor.

Ms. Derenne reported receiving numerous compliments on the students' tireless work ethic.

Kewaunee Superintendent Scott Fritz was stopped at the conference by the WIAA Director Stephanie Hauser, and she commented how impressed she was with their professionalism and expertise when she visited with the video team at the WIAA booth at the convention.

By the time the group

headed home Thursday evening, they were tired but also energized by the experience.

They reflected on the presentations they had witnessed, discussing the insights they gained.

However, their work wasn't over as they began planning the next step editing all the footage into a compelling five-minute highlight reel.

The final product will showcase the convention and the valuable contributions of Kewaunee High School's talented video and broadcasting team.

Algoma School Board closes open
enrollment for several grade levels

BY AVERY BIEROWSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ALGOMA – On Jan. 27, in a move aimed at maintaining the quality of education

for all students, the Algoma School Board voted unanimously to close open enrollment for regular education seats in fifth grade and for special education seats in fifth, 10th and 11th grades for the 2025-26 school year.

The decision comes as Algoma's schools prepare for projected enrollment numbers that highlight a growing need for specialized educational support.

According to district data, Algoma Middle and High School anticipates an enrollment of 295 students in the 2025-26 academic year, with 50 of those students requiring special education services.

Meanwhile, Algoma's elementary schools are projected to serve 300 students,



According to district data, Algoma Middle and High School anticipates an enrollment of 295 students in the 2025-26 academic year, with 50 of those students requiring special education services. File photo

with 60 identified as needing special education support.

Of particular concern to school administrators is the fifth-grade class, which currently consists of 43

students, 12 of whom receive special education services.

This high concentration of students with specialized needs has prompted school

See ALGOMA page 7



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ADRC to host ‘Boost Your Brain and Memory’

FOR THE STAR-NEWS

KEWAUNEE – The Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of the Lakeshore will be holding a six-week course called “Boost Your Brain and Memory.”

The class will be every Wednesday beginning on Feb. 12 until March 19, 2-3:30 p.m. in the Balkansky Room at Kewaunee County Human Services, 810 Lincoln St., Kewaunee.

“Boost Your Brain and Memory is an instructor-led class with a holistic and evidence-based approach to improving brain health. This class will teach you new habits to help you maintain cognitive health as well as practice new skills for better memory performance. This program is intended for those who are not diagnosed with dementia to learn ways they can lower their risk of developing dementia,” an ADRC release stated.

Registration is required and there is no cost.

Contact the ADRC at 1-877-416-7083 to register or for more information.

CIVIL WAR

from page 1

much and a wood source for cooking fires is often enough.

Once the site is confirmed, the group coordinates with artillery units, equestrians and others to make the event as immersive as possible.

Reenactments typically take place between May and October.

Though Sielski admitted the organizational aspects of a reenactment can be less than glamorous, his favorite part of his role is interacting with the public.

“Hopefully they walk away from the event having learned a few things or maybe wanting to read more books or watch a movie,” he said. “The goal is to just build people’s interest in

In this week’s article I would like to continue my year-end report by sharing some information and data in regards to our jail facility.

The current Kewaunee County Jail was built in 1968. It has a housing capacity of 22 with three short-term holding cells which brings the total to 25.

By law, a county jail is intended to hold sentenced individuals for up to one year.

Any sentences beyond one year are remanded to a state correctional facility.

While we do hold the title of the oldest and smallest jail in the state of Wisconsin, I am deeply grateful to the county board and the community in general for the support which has been provided in regards to the planning and ultimate updating of our facility.

At this time, the main impediment to moving forward on this project is the shortage of staff. This shortage of applicants is not exclusive to our agency nor our county, and we are currently working on increasing our outreach and streamlining our hiring process.

It is my hope that in the upcoming year we will be successful in drawing the

history.”

For more information or to join, visit the group’s Facebook page, “Company E 2nd Civil War Reenactors.”

Continuing the year-end report



Sheriff’s Corner

BY MATTHEW JOSKI
KEWAUNEE COUNTY SHERIFF



best and brightest into these roles as we have in the past so as to get this project back on track.

The jail is staffed by 14 deputies, who carry out the various duties which are set forth by state statute, federal law, as well as department policy.

These men and women are also tasked with the duties of dispatcher which is very unique in the state of Wisconsin.

I believe that there are only a handful of departments which are still configured in this manner and it speaks volumes as to the professionalism and competence of these men and women.

Every person arrested in Kewaunee County is processed through our jail and the following are some of the most common criteria for bookings, which for 2024 were a total of 742 compared to 679 from the previous year.

The first is what we call non-custody bookings.

These are bookings that occur when the individual is not physically arrested.

This may be in the case where the offense was not immediately reported, and it is through investigations that the probable cause for an arrest summons was completed.

It could also be where we

are not able to locate the suspect at the time of the event, and we are able to send charges up to the District Attorney’s Office for his consideration.

These bookings accounted for 397, as compared to 276 of the total bookings in 2023.

The next most frequent category is pre-sentence bookings which totaled 178, in comparison to 179 last year.

These are bookings which are for those who are currently awaiting the completion of their court process but do not meet bail criteria.

These can be some of our lengthiest stays as the legal process itself is complex and lengthy at times.

In third place we have a tie between warrant pickups and probation holds.

These two are actually quite similar as they are the result of a failure to comply with either a court order in the case of warrants or probation rules in the case of Community Corrections.

These tend to be our shortest stays but account for a great deal of the total bookings.

If you have found yourself within the courts system it is vital that you understand and comply with the various courts dates as well as requirements so as to avoid

being one the unfortunate within this category.

The same is true for probation clients.

Many of those on probation forget that this is a privilege and an alternative to incarceration which brings with it many rules.

It is incumbent on the individual to know and comply with these rules to avoid a return visit to jail or in some cases a state correctional facility.

So many ask what our daily population is here in Kewaunee County.

As I stated earlier, our maximum capacity is 22 and for 2024 our daily population average was 35.3 with males representing 29.47 and females 5.83 throughout the year, as compared to 2023, which was 34.84 with males representing 29.39 and females 5.45 throughout the year.

The average stay is approximately 11 days with

the shortest stay at approximately one hour, and the longest stay at 365 days.

To meet the daily overcrowding in our facility, we make use of two primary resources: out-of-county facilities — primarily Door County — and the use of electronic monitoring.

For the most part, those who we send to Door County are the female inmates which takes pressure off of our scheduling requirements to have both male and female staffing when we have females in our facility.

Electronic monitoring is utilized for those who have been granted work release by the courts and meet the many requirements we have to guarantee compliance in return for this privilege.

I want to acknowledge Lt. Chris VanErem, our jail administrator, for the amazing work that he and his staff do

See SHERIFF page 7

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MEDALS

from page 1

chefs,” a release from the winery stated.

Parallel 44 & Door 44 received two Best of Class, three Double Golds, six Golds, 10 Silvers and four Bronze.

Wines awarded

Marquette Reserve — Best of Class
Red Frosting — Best of Class
Frontenac Blanc — Double Gold
Vibrant — Double Gold
Brianna — Double Gold
Sparkler — Gold
Lacrescent — Gold
Frozen Tundra White — Gold
Frozen Tundra Red — Gold
Red Door — Gold
Vintners Reserve — Gold
“Let’s face it, even though there are wineries making quality wines in Wisconsin, this state still has a reputation of producing wines that are either not actually grown in the state or wines that are overly sweet and

not considered capable of rivaling wines from the West Coast or Europe in terms of quality or distinction. Getting recognition like this, in this type of competition, really is starting to put Wisconsin on the map of the nation’s and world’s fine wine regions,” said Steve Johnson, co-owner and winemaker at Parallel 44 & Door 44.

“We are on a mission to redefine the perception of Wisconsin wine. No doubt it’s going to be an uphill battle due to perceived infancy of our industry compared to places like Napa Valley or Oregon, but the reality is that there is a growing number of wines grown right here in Wisconsin that are receiving national and international awards. And plus, it’s way more fun to have a challenge and surprise the heck out of other people.

“The best is yet to come. I am confident that winning awards like this will redefine Wisconsin wine and eventually reach recognition well beyond the borders of this state.”

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OBITUARIES



Owen C. Vaughn June 1, 2007 – February 3, 2025
Owen C. Vaughn, 17, Kewaunee, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, February 3, 2025, after losing a battle with mental health. He was born June 1, 2007, to Chris Vaughn and Ashlee (Malvitz) Vaughn. He was a Junior at Kewaunee High School where he was a member of the Football, Wrestling, Baseball and Trap teams. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, skiing and snowboarding.

Owen was a great big brother, cousin and friend. He loved nothing more than spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed trips to the cabin in Brussels, spring break trips to Gulf Shores and fishing trips to Rice Lake. Owen had a memorable laugh and infectious smile that could light up any room.

Owen will be deeply missed by his parents, Chris Vaughn (Holly King) and Ashlee Vaughn (Matt Wojta), siblings: Drew and Bryn Vaughn, his dogs: Daisy and Ace, his grandparents: Brad and Mary Vaughn, Greg and Sheree Malvitz, his aunts and uncles: Kerry Verheyen, Josh and Alicia Kleiman, Travis and Abby Bruening; cousins: Sydney Verheyen, Miles, Tate and Davis Kleiman, Ellie, Henry and Willa Breuning; great grandmother, Jan Vaughn and many friends, teammates, classmates and family members that loved and cherished him. He was preceded in death by his great grandparents, Delbert Vaughn, Raymond and Joyce Ebben, Harold and Joyce Malvitz, Allan and Barbara Smith. The family would like to send sincere thanks to the Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department, the entire Kewaunee Community and School District, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, especially Pastor Daniel Olson.

Visitation will take place on Friday, February 7, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Kinnard Funeral & Cremation Services - Kewaunee. Prayer service will follow at 7:00 pm. Visitation will continue Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Montpelier. Funeral service will take place at 11:00 am with Pastor Daniel Olson officiating. Kinnard Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Online condolences can be shared at KinnardFCS.com. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund will be established in Owen's name.

In Loving Memory of

TIVOLI O'NEIL

Dec 27, 1975 - Feb 7, 2010



It's now 15 years since you left us. But it feels like yesterday you were here. Probably telling us about a co-workers kids you were spending time with or some intellectual customers you had meaningful conversations with. You were excited about soon going back to school after spending 2 1/2 years in Pre-Med at Madison a decade earlier. We remember the young, vibrant, brilliant, woman who made a lasting impression on everyone who was blessed to know you. You especially had a kind heart for children and those in need, often giving from your own needs without worry about tomorrow. You extended your hand equally to all, always noticing the invisible among us. Your beautiful spirit lives on.

Forever Loving & missing our Irish Princess.

Mother Joanne, Son Griffin, Sisters Marisa & Salina,
Aunt Jax, Nephew Nolan, their families &
your numerous friends.

444015



Arletta M. Bertrand, 80, Luxemburg, was born on August 24, 1944, in Lincoln, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 30, 2025, in Luxemburg, Wisconsin. On May 14, 1966, Arletta married Gerald P. Bertrand, at St. Peter Church, Lincoln, and together they shared 58 wonderful years of marriage. The couple ran the family farm for 35 years before retiring in 2000. In Arletta's earlier years, following graduation, she worked at Plumbers and AC Nielsen Co. After retirement she worked for the APAC Customer Services Company.

Arletta was deeply committed to her community and her faith. She served as treasurer for St. Mary School Board for 18 years and was head cook for funerals at St. Mary for four years. She also led St. Mary Christian Mothers as president for seven years. Her dedication extended to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 262 in Luxemburg, where she also served as treasurer.

In 2011, Arletta joined the Kewaunee County Historical Society, where she became a valuable member of the board of directors and served as treasurer until her passing. She also contributed as assistant editor of the society's newsletter, *Reflections in Time*. Her tireless efforts were recognized with the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award in 2013 and the Kewaunee County Historical Society Volunteer of the Year award in 2017.

Arletta is survived by her beloved husband Gerald; her children Jerry (Pam) Bertrand, Jackie (Duane) Srnka, Jodie (Mike) Glish, and Jenny (Chris Conley) McCaffrey; her grandchildren Jerry and Josh Bertrand, Dustin (Maggie) Wilson, Melissa (Ben) Joniaux, Sarah (Jared) Lemens, Kimberly (Kory) Stepanek, Danae (Max) Bruss, Dakota (Rebecca Kroll) Srnka, Riley and Reece (Kassi Kissinger) Glish, Maya and Mason McCaffrey; great-grandchildren Lucy and Ronnie Joniaux; one sister Karen (Ken) LuMaye; sisters in law and brothers in law Lenore Deprey, Richard (Karen) Bertrand, Carole (Gary) Margotto, Pat VandenHouten, Sandra Bertrand, and Marion Jauquet; nieces and nephews. Arletta was preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Dolores (Stache) Deprey; one sister Vernalda Deprey; one brother Ronald Deprey; brothers in law and sisters in law Hubert Jauquet, Ray VandenHouten, Donna and Marvin Kinnard, Bob Bertrand; her father in law and mother in law Robert and Angeline Bertrand.

Friends may call between 8:45 and 10:30 am at St. Mary Church, Luxemburg, Friday, February 7, 2025. Funeral 10:45 am on Friday with Rev. Daniel Schuster officiating. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery, Luxemburg. McMahon Funeral Home, Luxemburg, is assisting the Bertrand Family. Funerals@McMahonFH.com
A special thank you is extended to everyone at Unity Hospice, for their care given during our time of need. Arletta's life was a testament to hard work, faith, and service to others. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. In lieu of flowers and other tributes of sympathy, a memorial fund will be established in Arletta's name.




Wallace J. Pelnar December 24, 1932 – February 3, 2025
Wallace J. Pelnar, 92, husband, father, and friend, left this world on February 3, 2025, surrounded by his family. Born on December 24, 1932, to the late Jim and Alice (Olson) Pelnar.

After graduating from high school, Wallace proudly served in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1955. In 1967, he began life as a dairy farmer in Algoma. In 1956, Wallace married the love of his life, Carol Dhuey. Together, they built a life rich with cherished memories, raising a family that was the heart and soul of his existence. He was a devoted family man who found delight in his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. He enjoyed working on a puzzle, capturing the world through his camera lens, painting beautiful pictures, or making canes, and continued to serve his community as a member of the American Legion for 12 years.

Wallace is survived by his children, Jeff (Heidi) Pelnar – Thompsonville, MI, Becky (Mike) Jeanquart – Algoma, Greg (Gretchen) Pelnar – Chicago, IL, Susan (Bruce) Tomei – Gurnee, IL; grandchildren, Jessica (Scott) Ingersoll, Jenny (Erik) Brown, Jacob Pelnar, Jeremy (Cassandra) Pelnar, Karen Stoller, Amy (Jake) Lardinois, Danny Pelnar, Ellie Tomei, Joseph Tomei, Kim (Levi) Zahn, Kirk Jeanquart, Daniar Pelnar, and Dustin Finkhouse; great-grandchildren, Abagale, Hunter, Lydiya, Evan, Damien, Connor, Paisley, Ryan, Sam, Cash, Ellie, and Abigale; and great-great-grandchildren, Liam and Atlas, brothers, Mitchell (Sandy) Pelnar – Tish Mills, Jack (Janet) Pelnar – Colorado, Ronnie (Barb) Pelnar – Kewaunee, William (Cary) Pelnar – Two Rivers; as well as by many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol Pelnar; son, Ricky Pelnar; grandson, Kevin Jeanquart; parents, Jim and Alice Pelnar; brother, James Pelnar; and sister, Shirley Brusky. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 14, 2025, from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm at Kinnard Funeral & Cremation Services - Casco. Closing Prayer service will be at 7:00 pm. Entombment will take place at the Shrine of the Good Shepherd Mausoleum at a later date. Online condolences can be made at KinnardFCS.com.

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444721

Early Ad Deadlines

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Ad Deadline is
Tuesday, Feb. 11th by 3:00pm



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Star-News
KEWAUNEE COUNTY'S WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

444721

City of Kewaunee to host public involvement meeting /open house

KEWAUNEE — The City of Kewaunee will be hosting a public involvement meeting /open house as a way for community members to share their up-front thoughts on the city's outdoor recreation facilities and activities.

The first of two open houses will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 4:30-6 p.m., at Kewaunee City Hall, 401 Fifth St., Kewaunee.

Attendees can view information at a variety of display stations and provide feedback to inform the goals and objectives of the 2025-29 Comprehensive Outdoor

Recreation Plan.

Displays will include a summary of the recent Recreation User Survey taken earlier this winter.

A second open house will be held once the draft plan is prepared.

Every five years, the city updates this plan to assess the condition of its parks and open spaces and guide the expansion, enhancement and preservation of open space and recreation opportunities, as well as to remain eligible for state grant funds.

The city is seeking the public's input on its current



The City of Kewaunee will be hosting a public involvement meeting /open house as a way for community members to share their up-front thoughts on the city's outdoor recreation facilities and activities.

File photo

facilities, future needs and goals, objectives and action items for the next five years.

For more information, please contact Heath Eddy, city administrator, at (920) 388-5000 or admin@cityofkewaunee.gov.



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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Current Spaces and Empty Chair Echoes

Dear Reader,

Yesterday afternoon was bitterly cold, yet the sun shone brightly—a fitting reflection of the emotions in my heart. As I walked into the memory care unit of a Senior Living home I'd been visiting regularly to see my father-in-law Francis for the past two years, the familiar faces greeted me like old friends. They were scattered around the big room, watching yet another rerun of Mary Tyler Moore—or maybe it was The Dick Van Dyke Show. Their smiles, warm and welcoming, made me feel that despite not living there, I still belonged.

Lark stood up the moment she saw me, her arms outstretched for a hug. "You just made my day!" she exclaimed. "Where have you been these past few weeks?" I laughed, feeling a rush of appreciation for her words. Jimmy, wearing the black fedora I'd finally given him after months of promises, tipped it with a grin. I was wearing one too. We traded stories about "the good old days," and he launched into a tale I'd heard before. I didn't mind. I never did.

But my visit was more subdued this time because not everyone was there anymore including Francis, whose presence had always been both tender and sharp. Nick and Jack were also gone; their chairs, once as familiar as their faces, sat empty around the tables. I had been there to say goodbye to Nick, holding his hand and asking him to watch over his family, who clung to one another in quiet grief around his bed. Those goodbyes leave a mark, even as they remind us of the beauty in connection.

Karen, seated near the corner, reached for my hand. She launched into a vivid story about her days as a nurse in



the ER. Her eyes sparkled with pride as she spoke. Beside her, Mary Lou motioned for me to come closer to her wheel chair. When I asked how she was doing, she lifted her hands like she was holding onto an invisible ledge. "Just hanging on," she said with a wry smile.

The aides began rounding everyone up for dinner so I made my last rounds, shaking hands, giving hugs, and sharing brief, meaningful exchanges. Lark pulled me into one last embrace before I pushed the buttons at the exit door to let myself out.

As the door clicked shut behind me, I couldn't help but reflect on the inevitable. Someday, I'll be in a place like this. Everything will be taken care of—meals, medications, and all the needs of a frail body. But even with all the care in the world, the loneliness lingers. Most of the residents were waiting, one step away from the reunion that comes when the spirit departs a worn-out body. Still, there was beauty in that waiting. It wasn't despair but a quiet anticipation of something more—a peace I could almost feel as I walked to my car.

Driving away, I thought about the rest of my day and all my tomorrows. I made a promise to myself: I'll savor the moments, big and small; I'll hold tight to joy, squeezing every drop from the time I have left. And one day, when I find myself in a room like that, I hope someone will walk through the door to remind me then of the life I'm living now.

PATRICK J. WOOD
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12.5 acres of farmland in the Town of Luxemburg on Lowell Road, for a three-year period beginning March 1, 2025 thru February 28, 2028. Sealed bids must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 21, 2025. Rent must be paid on or before March 1 of each year. The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids can be mailed to: Town of Luxemburg, P.O. Box 28, Luxemburg, WI 54217. Attn: Linda Jonet
Bids will be opened at our Town Meeting on February 26, 2025, at 7:00 PM.
Glenda Daul, Town Clerk
Publish 02.01.25, 02.08.25 & 02.15.25 WNAJLP

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CONTRACT

from page 1

been working to bring this to fruition.

“Any animal, cats or dogs that are picked up in the city of Algoma, the humane society is contractually obligated to take them in as a stray from the city of Algoma. There weren’t any municipalities in Kewaunee County that have contracts with the Humane Society. So if someone finds a stray animal in Kewaunee County somewhere, and they try to bring it to the Humane Society, none of them are contractually obligated to take them in. So a lot of times, when they’re full, they may turn them away just because they still have to have space for ones that they are contractually obligated to take yet. So by securing this contract between Algoma and the Wisconsin Humane Society, now the animals that are found in Algoma, the Wisconsin Humane Society is obligated to take them in,” said Rachel Parsley Charles, one of the five women who run the nonprofit, A Cause for PAWS.

“We also knew, in doing that, one roadblock may be funding, because Algoma now has to pay Wisconsin Humane Society to take in the stray animals. So

our concern and what we viewed could possibly be a roadblock with the city of Algoma or any of the other municipalities that we work with, is saying, ‘Hey, we’d love to, but we don’t have this money in our budget to do that; so, we aren’t going to enter a new contract.’ So we saw that as a potential roadblock, and in order to help facilitate that, we did fundraising.”

Murphy said that while the city would be responsible for delivering the animals to the shelter, A Cause for PAWS was also willing to assist with transporting the animals.

And, their assistance in helping homeless animals does not stop there.

“We’re looking on to our next municipality. So we’re looking to work with the city of Kewaunee next and see what we can do because each municipality needs a contract. So we’re starting with our three biggest Algoma, Kewaunee and Luxemburg is kind of our plan right now, and see where it goes,” Parsley Charles added.

The organization will host a fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 16 at JW’s Place, N5685 County Rd E, Casco, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/kewauneePAWS.

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

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Tuesday, Feb. 25

at Heritage Hill State Historical Park.

For more information, visit heritagehillgb.org/event-calendar.

Wednesday, March 5

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OUTDOORS

from page 8

feeders, or head outside to some of your favorite bird-watching spots.

If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions Feb. 14-17 will count toward the GBBC.

Read all about it at www.birdcount.org.

There will be a live, online event Feb. 12 to learn how to participate.

White perch explosion

Reader Alan Johnson was wondering about what he called a white perch explosion in lower Green Bay, seen by both sport and commercial anglers in recent years.

Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Tammie Paoli said record 2020 and 2021 year classes of white perch seem to be driving the increase, along with another solid year class in 2022.

“White perch young of the year were the most abundant species captured in the 2024 Green Bay trawling survey,” Paoli said. “The record 2021 year class accounted for 32% of the adult catch with an average length of 8.3 inches. The largest white perch was 11.3 inches and was estimated at age eight.”

Some anglers thought white perch — first discovered in the late 1980s and

very abundant in the 90s and early 00s — had disappeared. Paoli said their numbers have always fluctuated.

At times they were just in low enough numbers to be less of a nuisance, and mainly during spring spawning.

Considered an invasive species, white perch are edible, though definitely not as popular as yellow perch.

“I have talked to a few anglers who do keep and even target them at times, but that is the minority,” Paoli said. “They can be harvested commercially, but there is not enough of a market to make it worthwhile. Maybe someday that will change and there will be a processor in the area that wants them.”

Winter bird feeding

February is National Bird-Feeding Month.

While many backyard birders simply put out a mix of seeds and suet, others add heated bird baths and shelter boxes.

Experts recommend keeping your feeders clean and full of sunflower seeds and other treats.

In addition, suet cakes — whether you buy or make your own — are excellent high-energy additions.

Need more tips?

Download a free guide to winter bird feeding from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at dl.allaboutbirds.org/birdcams-winter-bird-feeding.

Contrary to some beliefs, these deputies are law enforcement officers just as their counterparts in patrol and investigations and are a vital component of the Criminal Justice System.

Next week, I will share some information from 2024 as it relates to our patrol division.

Watch salt use

Salt not only corrodes vehicles, it can also contaminate water and soil — harming plants, fish, insects and animals — and attract wildlife to roadsides, increasing the risk of accidents.

The Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium promotes practical strategies like proper snow removal, salt application and public education campaigns with a goal of reducing chloride pollution.

Shovel first and salt sparingly to reduce costs, protect infrastructure and safeguard plants, wildlife and freshwater systems.

Learn more at wintersalt-week.org.

Walleye meeting

An informational meeting on a pair of Peshtigo River and High Falls Flowage walleye movement projects is set for 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 19 at the Peshtigo DNR Field Office.

There’s a virtual option via Microsoft Teams as well.

More information, including login info can be found at dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar.

Weekly water levels

Lake Michigan water levels have dropped three inches in the past month, 11 in the past year and 44 inches since the record high in 2020.

Levels are about seven inches below the 100-year average, and 22 inches above the record monthly low, set in 2013.

L-C wrestlers tie, take ninth in weekend action

LUXEMBURG – On Jan. 30, the Luxemburg-Casco (L-C) Spartan wrestlers traveled to Coleman for a dual meet with the Cougars, where Coleman jumped out to a 31-0 lead, but L-C came back to tie, 35-35, with a clutch pin in the final match of the evening by freshman, Logan Ellwanger over Coleman senior Isaiah Nowak.

On Feb. 1, L-C wrestled at the Pulaski Invitational. Kaukauna ran away with the team title, scoring 269.5 points. Hortonville was a distant second with 161.5 points. L-C finished ninth with 109 points.

Sophomore Carson Neubert won the 126-pound championship for L-C with a 5-3 victory over Alois Schlumpf of Bayport in the finals.

Top four

- 126 lbs. — Carson Neubert, champion
- 144 lbs. — Blaklee Bastien, second place
- 132 lbs. — Joseph Jeanquart, third place
- 120 lbs. — Carson Blohowiak, fourth place

The Spartans wrestle in two weeks at regionals at Green Bay Preble High School.

ALGOMA

from page 2

officials to recommend limiting class sizes to ensure that all students receive appropriate attention and resources.

School administrators want to provide the best possible education for every student and in order to do that, there needs to be enough faculty to meet the needs of all learners.

Jesse Brinkmann, superintendent for Algoma schools, stated that “(the faculty-to-student ratio for special education students) is not a direct one-to-one or one-to-two model, it is based on the level of student needs. Some of these grade levels we have some students that need more significant adult support... A good portion of the day they would require more adult assistance.”

This variance in

required attention levels has led the district to strategically cap open enrollment only in certain grade levels where needs are most diverse and support staff are stretched thin.

While the open enrollment closure for regular education students only applies to fifth grade, the restriction for special education seats includes grades five, ten, and eleven.

In other grade levels, school officials believe there is sufficient staff coverage to continue accepting new students through open enrollment.

Board members acknowledged that limiting open enrollment is not a decision taken lightly, but one they believe is necessary to maintain the quality of education in Algoma schools.

The decision will take

effect for the 2025-26 school year, and district officials will continue to monitor enrollment trends and faculty availability to determine if future adjustments are needed.

Parents and community members are encouraged to reach out to the school district with any questions regarding the enrollment changes.

SHERIFF

from page 3

on a daily basis to balance the constant demands of the inmates, the courts and the many regulations with the limited resources both in budget and facility.

Along with the duties of jailer and dispatcher, these men and women also facilitate all of the transports which are required, not only locally but many times across the state to bring inmates to Kewaunee County for court as well as monitoring the Huber Program (work release) and court security.

These men and women give multi-tasking a whole new dimension, and we are fortunate to have them serving in these roles to keep our community safe.

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Snow ‘Storm’ headed north Saturday?
Kewaunee to play red-hot Sevastopol in key girls contest

If a predicted snow-storm isn’t as bad as mid-week projections looked, the Packerland unbeaten Kewaunee girls will face a surging Sevastopol team this weekend with a pair of 1,000-point career scorers in Kayla Ranly and Naomi Rikkola.

Since getting drilled at Kewaunee Dec. 20, 53-35, the Pioneers have won 10 straight, including an impressive 44-28 win at home over an Algoma team Saturday that they had lost to Dec. 12, 42-32.

The Storm, meanwhile, is led by reigning Player of the Year Jade Kroll, but the supporting cast is deep.

Kewaunee is coming off a 45-35 win over Oconto last Friday.

Kroll scored all of her game-high 19 points in the second half, including four three-pointers.

Gabby Stangel added 11, including a pair of threes.

A day later, Rikkola scored 27 points, almost matching the entire Algoma team.

The Wolves started fast, hitting a pair of three-pointers, but had no answer for Rikkola. Jadyn Nellis and Brooke Mattson each scored 7 and Sierra Slaby 6 for Algoma.

The Wolves responded with a 69-37 win over visiting Southern Door. Nellis led the way with 16 points, including a pair of 3s. Bristol Schmidt added 15, Slaby 10 (two 3s), Claire Gerdmann 9, Lauren Loucks 8 and Nora Krause 7.

Algoma boys highlights

Parker Lischka and Braeden Leist combined for 45 points and five



Sometime in the next week, six-foot-one junior Parker Lischka is expected to become the sixth player in Algoma boys basketball history to surpass 1,000 career points.



Sevastopol’s Naomi Rikkola had Algoma back on its heels Saturday, pouring in 27 points as the Pioneers evened the season series. Wolves shown are Sierra Slaby (22) and Bristol Schmidt.

Kevin Naze photos

three-pointers in Algoma’s 68-50 win over visiting Oconto last Thursday.

Leist got 15 of his 22 points in the second half. Carson Leist added 11 and Chase Romdenne 8.

On Tuesday, Algoma led 38-35 in the second half but poured it on after that in a 70-42 win at Sevastopol.

Braeden Leist scored 15 of his game-high 23 in the second half. Lischka added 18 and Romdenne 12.

Kewaunee boys split

Using a balanced attack, Kewaunee beat Valders on the road Friday night, 71-63.

Diesel Bosdeck scored 17, Avery Jerabek 15, Cooper Kolmorgen 13 and Dane Harrell 12. Jerabek and Kolmorgen each netted three three-pointers.

The Storm then lost to a solid Kiel team on the road Monday night, 78-66.

Jerabek had 18, including half of the team’s eight 3s. Kilgore added 15, Evan Maccoux 12 and Bosdeck 10.

Kiel led by one at the half, 38-37. Senior point guard Cade Voelker poured in 32 points, including four of the Raiders’ 12 triples.

L-C 3-1 in week

The Lady Spartans beat Wrightstown 46-29 last Thursday, with Brianna Bray scoring 15 (three 3s), Maggie DeBaker 9 and Alayna Deprez 8.

Luxemburg-Casco then hammered winless Little Chute Tuesday, 69-26. Bray scored 16 and Sienna Blohowiak 15 to lead the Spartans.



With the game well in hand, Luxemburg-Casco was able to go deep into its bench in Tuesday’s win over Little Chute. Sophomore forward Autumn Kaye is shown making a move near the basket.

Feb. 11: Oconto at Kewaunee, Sevastopol at Algoma, FVL at Lux-Casco

Feb. 13: Kewaunee at Sturgeon Bay, Lux-Casco at Wrightstown

Feb. 15: Algoma at Southern Door

County girls schedule

Feb. 7: Algoma at Sturgeon Bay, L-C at Denmark

Feb. 8: Kewaunee at Sevastopol

Feb. 11: Algoma at Oconto, Kewaunee at Menasha, Lux-Casco at FVL

Feb. 13: Suring at Algoma, Valders at Kewaunee

Feb. 14: Oshkosh Lourdes at Algoma, Southern Door at Kewaunee, Lux-Casco at Freedom

WIAA Boys Basketball Top 10 All-Time Scorers

(Through Feb. 4 games)
3,391 – Anthony Pieper, Wausaukee
2,794 – Drew Daoust, Southern Door (2025)
2,724 – Mickey Crowe, St. Nazianz JFK Prep
2,685 – Mike Koehler, Elkhart Lake
2,654 – Cody Schmitz, Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau
2,593 – Sam Dekker, Sheboygan Lutheran
2,539 – Sam Okey, Cassville
2,501 – Jacob Ognacevic, Sheboygan Lutheran
2,473 – Jaquan Johnson, Pius XI Catholic
2,490 – Zay Mitchell, Oshkosh North (2025)

Packerland Boys Basketball Standings

(as of Feb. 4)
Southern Door 11-0
Kewaunee 7-1
Algoma 8-2
Oconto 5-5
Sturgeon Bay 5-5
Peshtigo 3-7
Sevastopol 2-8
NEW/Providence 2-8
Gibraltar 2-9

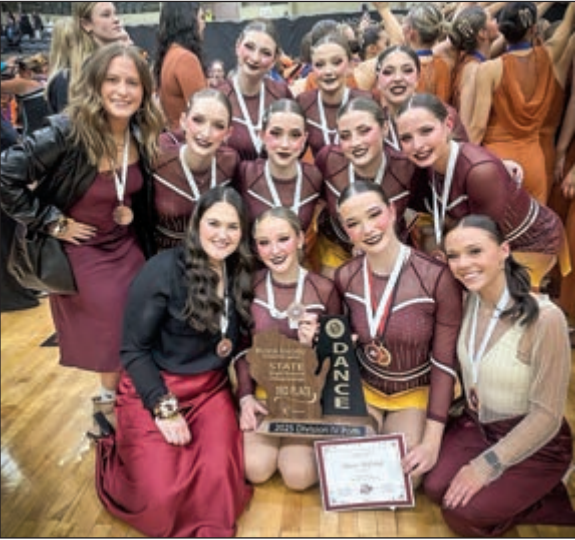
Packerland Girls Basketball Standings

(as of Jan. 31)
Kewaunee 11-0
Sevastopol 10-2
Algoma 9-2
Oconto 8-4
Peshtigo 5-5
NEW/Providence 4-8
Southern Door 3-9
Sturgeon Bay 1-10
Gibraltar 0-11

County boys schedule

Feb. 7: Algoma at Peshtigo, Kewaunee at NEW, L-C at Denmark

Feb. 8: Algoma at Oneida Nation



L-C Dance Team takes third at state, Holschuh makes All-State team

On Feb. 1, the Luxemburg-Casco (L-C) School Varsity Dance team competed at state in D4 Pom and D2 Jazz at the La Crosse Center. The team placed third for their pom routine. In addition, L-C Senior Elaina Holschuh made the All-State team with her senior solo.

Submitted photo

Great Backyard Bird Count next weekend



In the Outdoors

BY KEVIN NAZE
OUTDOORS COLUMNIST

Thousands of Wisconsin nature nuts are expected to participate in the 28th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) next Thursday through Sunday.

More than 4,000 birding enthusiasts from our state recorded 130 species last year, part of the 682 species identified by participants in the United States.

Worldwide, more than a half-million birding enthusiasts from more than 200 countries or subregions found an incredible 7,920 species.

Anyone can join in and report results for free, helping produce data on wild bird populations.

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online participatory-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time.

Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in Canada.

Four years later, the GBBC became a global project when it began entering data into eBird, the world’s largest biodiversity-related citizen science project.

Whether you count one bird or hundreds, participating is easy and fun for all ages.

You can watch your See OUTDOORS page 7



A trio of northern cardinals — two females and a male — probed through fresh snow to get at sunflower and safflower seeds at a backyard feeder.

Kevin Naze photo

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