## **KEWAUNEE COUNTY**

## Star-News

KEWAUNEE COUNTY'S WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

kewauneecountystarnews.com

Daily online, weekly in print

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### SERVING ALGOMA, CASCO, KEWAUNEE, LUXEMBURG AND ALL OF KEWAUNEE COUNTY





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## Free online tax-filing system now open for people in Wisconsin

BY PETER CAMERON
THE BADGER PROJECT

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN – Americans spend billions getting help filing their taxes every year.

But a new online system with the IRS allows eligible taxpayers to file for free, including in Wisconsin.

The federal Direct File System "integrates seamlessly" with the state's free online filing program WisTax, the state Department of Revenue said in a press release, allowing eligible filers to submit their state return as well.

You can check if you are eligible on the IRS website.

More than 600,000 Wisconsin residents, those who have simple tax situations, can use Direct File in 2025, the IRS said.

The systems began allowing usage on Jan. 27. Tax filings are generally due by April 15.

Direct File can save taxpayers time and money by importing their tax information directly from the IRS, the agency says.

Live support from IRS staff is available Monday through Friday.

Funding for the Direct File System was included in the massive American investment bill the Inflation Reduction Act, passed by congressional Democrats with no votes from Republicans, in 2022.

After seeing its funding cut for many years, the IRS got a restoration of \$60 billion in that bill to do things like increase enforcement on corporations and the wealthiest Americans, which projects to raise tax revenue, as well as provide better customer service for tax filers.

The bill also paid for the Direct File system.

A trial run in 2024 allowed tens of thousands of taxpayers in several states to use the free program.

They saved about \$5.6 million in filing costs, according to an IRS estimate.

Receive in-person tax help from a volunteer instead

For those who would rather get help from a person and have income under \$67,000, you can use the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which provides free tax prep services. The program can handle a broader range of tax situations than Direct File.

## **Kewaunee County Board hears presentation on creation of economic development committee**

**BY KRIS LEONHARDT** SENIOR EDITOR

KEWAUNEE COUNTY – During its Feb. 11 meeting, the Kewaunee County Board of Supervisors heard a presentation by Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation Board Member August Neverman of Neverman Consulting regarding the creation of a county economic development committee.

"The main thing here is setting up an economic development committee that would include you and local government, focusing on future development.

"This is business development. You've probably heard that kind of stuff before, but this is focusing more on the government side of it — any sort of federal grants, any

sort of ordinance changes, that kind of thing that government would have to do on behalf of or lobby on behalf of.

"That could be state level, could be federal level — goals, prepare for the future, work to retain businesses, the population, the public so we don't keep evaporating, create an avenue for communications between the local towns, because Home Rule, they can do what they want, and that's town, village, city and county could all participate. And I say could. It would not be a required thing. Only required ones would be the county board members, and then you would appoint other members. And each town, village, city would have the option to have a representative.

Why? 80% of counties in the See **COMMITTEE** page 3



During its Feb. 11 meeting, the Kewaunee County Board of Supervisors heard a presentation by Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation Board Member August Neverman of Neverman Consulting regarding the creation of a county economic development committee.

**Kewaunee County image** 

## Rockers annual 'Educators Appreciation Night' to feature additional fun Local teachers asked to register

FOR THE STAR-NEWS

ASHWAUBENON – The Green Bay Rockers will hold their annual "Educators Appreciation Night" on Friday, June 6 this summer, partnering with Green Bay Packers Give Back to provide extra incentive for all area teachers to be in attendance.

Local educators will have an opportunity to win funds for their classrooms through a unique promotion tied to the game.

Starting today, all teachers can sign up for a complimentary ticket to Educators Appreciation Night through greenbayrockers. com.

By signing up, the teacher is automatically entered for a chance to win funds for their school classroom.

Green Bay Give Back is also providing an opportunity for educators to purchase additional tickets at a discounted price for friends, family and neighbors.

As part of the promotion, three Rockers players in the June 6 lineup will be using Rawlings painted bats resembling pencils.

Each player's successful at bat

result will correlate to funds donated to a teacher in attendance to use for their classroom.

The following 'at-bat success' scale will be used to distribute the funds from the results of the three players: \$250 donation to one teacher if the player reaches first-base via single or walk; \$500 donation to one teacher if the player hits a double; \$750 donation to one teacher if the player hits a triple; and \$1,000 donation to one teacher if the player hits a home run.

If the success of all the combined at bats does not equate to giving away the entire \$5,000 during game play, the remaining funds will be split up and distributed among the teachers in attendance

"This new Educators
Appreciation Night
'pencil bat' promotion is going to
provide both a
unique twist
to engage

fans in the play on field while also providing support to teachers with funds to use for their classroom. We are appreciative of the hard work all teachers do to shape the lives of our youth and are thrilled to partner with Green Bay Packers Give Back to make this happen," said

Rockers Vice President & General Manager John Fanta.

For more information, visit www. greenbayrockers.com.

As part of the promotion, three Rockers players in the June 6 lineup will use Rawlings painted bats resembling pencils. **Submitted image** 

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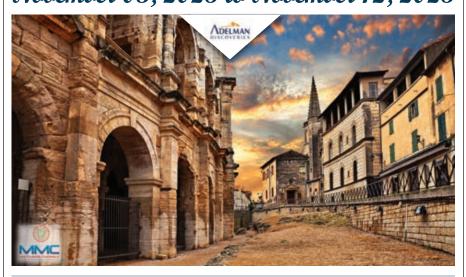
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### Ropsons mark five generations

Roland and Carol Ropson, from Champion, front row, recently commemorated five generations with a photo in the town of Eaton. The Ropsons are pictured with daughter, Debbie Falish from Denmark, Alyssa Bruce holding Wesley from Suamico, and Paula Posey from Suamico.

Submitted photo

## What do you want to be when you grow up?

A s children grow, they begin to dream about the future, often envisioning themselves in exciting, adventurous or meaningful careers.

For primary-aged students, the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" can spark curiosity, creativity and excitement.

While some of the answers you hear might be an astronaut, firefighter, police officer, doctor/nurse or even teacher, there are many other answers you might hear.

Teachers and parents play an important role in helping



**SUPERINTENDENT** 

children see the broad array of career paths available to

At this age, students may not yet fully grasp the details of different jobs, but they are excited to explore.

It is fairly well documented that the Luxemburg-Casco High School has a robust Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program set up for students to gain experience in various jobs while earning credit toward graduation.

The on the job training benefits the student as well as the employer.

The student gains experience and can see if they enjoy that profession, and the employer benefits by adding staff and training the candidate for what they need.

At the primary school

level, our students can begin exploring and dreaming about careers through play, discussions about what mom or dad do for a living and through our classroom counseling program.

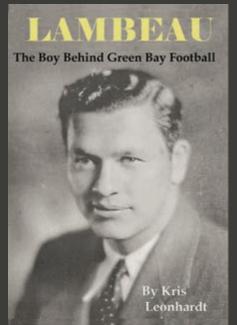
In recent classroom activities and discussions, many young students have shared surprising insights into what they envision for their futures.

From paleontologists to space explorers, the range of careers is as diverse as their imaginations.

In addition, the primary school and intermediate school have partnered together for a number of years to provide an event called "Careers on Wheels."

See **SCHOOL** page 5

# Afascinating TALE



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

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

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

Like the Packers, Lambeau's story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay

community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

Purchase online

**Amazon:** https://a.co/d/5TtKgq3

**ShopMMC:** https://shopmmclocal.com/product/lambeau/

## **BOOK SIGNINGS**

Tuesday, Feb. 25

at Heritage Hill State Historical Park.

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

## Wednesday, March 5

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Neville Public Museum of Brown County, 210 Museum Pl., Green Bay



## **UW-Stevens Point** undergraduates honored

UW-Stevens Point honored more than 2,600 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

undergradu-Full-time ates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 are given the highest honors designation.

High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89, and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to

Local students who received honors include:

#### Algoma

Noah Lukes, Honors Natalie Moen, **Highest Honors** Morgan Servaes, Honors

#### Casco

Mason Lefevre. Honors

#### Kewaunee

Christopher Cullen, **Highest Honors** Chelsea Dax, Highest Honors Vanessa Guillen. **Highest Honors** Celestina Rios Diaz, Honors

Honors Luxemburg

Max Severin, High

Abigail Beth, Highest Honors Madelyn Bouche, High Honors Ellie Delebreau. Honors Brooke Derenne, Honors Mackenzie Finger, High Honors Heather Iverson, **Highest Honors** Emily Ropson, **Highest Honors** Emily Thern, Highest Honors Joseph Thuecks.

"That's the kind of

No action was taken fol-

## Rotary clubs to host Rotary Four Way **Test Speaking contest**

#### FOR THE STAR-NEWS

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN - Rotary Clubs in communities throughout northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula are sponsoring local Rotary Four Way Test Speaking contests with students able to win up to \$1,500.

The Rotary Four Way Test was developed more than 100 years ago to teach ethics to Rotary members and the business community.

It states, "In all the things we think, say and do, is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendship, and will it be beneficial to all concerned."

Ninth-grade students are invited to write a five minute speech on how to apply the Four Way test to social media and how people are treated. Detailed information about contest rules and how to enter is available at "redistricting6220.org."

Local winners will be awarded a cash prize of \$500 and enter in a competition on the Rotary district level where first place will be \$1,000, second and third place prizes will also be

awarded locally and by the be teen mental health. A

Rotary District 6220 is comprised of 41 clubs Wisconsin throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Rotary International is one of the world's largest service clubs with more than 1,400,000 members in more than 200 countries.

"The next pandemic in America may very well speaking contests that encourages students to think about their social media activity and how they treat others may be one ways to deal with the rising problem of teen anxiety and depression," Rotary District Governor Roger Utnehmer said.

The thoughts shared by students in these five minute speeches can be very helpful assisting adults to relate more effectively to young people, according to Utnehmer.

The deadline for local competitions is April 1, with the district competi-

tion scheduled for April 12. Local competitions may be online or in person. District competition will be online only.

For more information, visit ridistrict6220.org.

## **COMMITTEE**

from page 1

state of Wisconsin have an economic development committee; 96% have some sort of KCEDC-type thing — like an economic development corporation — and a bulk of them are 501(c)(3) and 501(c) (6), but those entities can't do ordinance, they can't make changes in policy, that sort of thing.

"So, 80% have that other committee, so they're kind of government side, private sector side. They do, in many cases work together, but they don't have to be on the same they could be a completely unrelated activity too.

"So there could be something happening at the Economic Development Committee that KCEDC doesn't care about, and vice versa. So, it's not necessarily an overlap.

"The KCEDC wouldn't change what it is doing. That is private development... they are going to fund things through the private sector elsewhere, but there are certain grants that only local government can apply to. Like the BEAD thing, KCEDC can't do the resolution you supported last month.

stuff that this committee would do.'

Honors

Kaden Tyson, Honors

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**Obituaries:** Submit article and picture to the following e-mail at KewauneeObits@mmclocal.com. Any kind of picture, B&W or color, size does not matter. Please call 920-799-4687 for pricing information.

Story Idea: If you have information you would like to share with our editorial staff, regarding a news or feature story, or you would like to submit a press release, please email KewauneeNews@mmclocal.com or call 920-499-1200.



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#### **PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

### The Fragility of Life

Dear Reader,

The other day, I had a close call that left me reflecting deeply on how fragile life truly is. I was a

ing deeply on how fragile life truly is. I was a passenger in a car, riding along on a snowy day. The roads were slick, and we were descending a steep hill when we encountered a stationary car in the middle of the road. To avoid a collision, our driver veered into a snowbank and a rock instead.

Shaken but unharmed, we got out to assess the damage. As I stood there, I saw other vehicles attempting to navigate the hill, at speeds too reckless for the conditions. I waved to warn them to stop and turn back, knowing the danger they faced. Thankfully, our car was still operational, and we managed to drive away carefully. Later that day, I learned that a massive pileup had occurred in that very spot. Numerous vehicles were involved, and I couldn't help but feel fortunate to have avoided the catastrophe.

This experience got me thinking. Life is

unpredictable. You wake up in the morning with plans, but everything can change in an instant, with

no warning whatsoever. Those 15 seconds as we swerved away from the stalled vehicle could have been our last moments. But it wasn't. For others, tragically, it was.

Life is so fragile. There are no guarantees, no flashing signals warning us when our time is up. One moment we're here, and the next,

we're not. This realization isn't meant to instill fear but to inspire gratitude. Each day we're given is a gift—precious, fleeting, and worth cherishing.

Let's not take it for granted. Let's love fully, live purposefully, and appreciate the time we have. Because in the blink of an eye, everything can change. We can't control when or how the end comes, but we can make the moments we still have truly count.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

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

## UW-Eau Claire Fall Dean's List announced

UW-Eau Claire recently announced the students that have been named to the fall 2024 dean's list.

Dean's list eligibility requires minimum semester GPA of 3.70 with 12 completed credits during the semester.

Local students from Kewaunee include: Eva Hau, College of Arts and Sciences; Maya Kunkel, College of Health and Human Sciences; and Ashley Petrina, College of Arts and Sciences.

Luxemburg students include: Ashlyn Naze, College of Health and Human Sciences; and Melanie Schleis, College of Nursing.

## Swenson named to MSOE Dean's List

Kade Swenson, of Luxemburg, was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Dean's List for the fall semester.

Swenson is pursuing a bachelor of science in computer science. Students taking undergraduate courses who have earned at least 12 credits in residence at MSOE, are in good academic standing and have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher are on the dean's list.



## National FFA Week // Feb. 15 – 22, 2025

### We salute our local FFA clubs for all the great work they do

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



#### Luxemburg-Casco FFA

BY JUSTINE SELK

L-C Agricultural Educator/FFA Advisor

This year, to celebrate FFA Week, the Luxemburg-Casco FFA planned school-wide dress-up days and lunch activities. FFA members will also decorate the agricultural hallway to get students excited about this important week. We have an FFA Emblem Challenge with the whole school, where we give hints and students have to find the FFA emblem and return it to Ms. Selk for a prize.

This year's dress-up days:

Farmers Day Off: Wear your pajamas and relax

Gone Hunting: Wear camo and orange

Flannel Day: Wear anything flannel

Feeding America: Wear red, white and blue Wear National Blue and Corn Gold: Represent the FFA colors

Our lunch activities will include milk bottle bowling, lassoing a boot, tug-of-war, feed sack

races and an ice cream social for anyone wearing FFA colors.

We will host our FFA petting zoo with primary school students in April. The annual greenhouse plant sale will take place from April 28 - May 3.

Additionally, we will have our Food for America event sometime in April or May.



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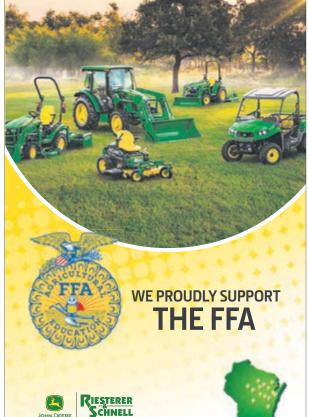


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#### **SCHOOL**

from page 2

This event brings in various local businesses and other professions that use a vehicle of some sort in their iobs

Classes rotate through the various businesses who set up in the parking lot between the schools and learn about each of the different careers.

Some of the various stations include fire and rescue, landscaping, truck driving, police, bus driving, cabinetry, Coast Guard, farming and a funeral home just to name a few.

While young children might still be in the early stages of discovering their interests, they are already shaping their visions of the future.

As they continue to learn and grow, they will be inspired by the possibilities around them — through their education, hobbies and the ever-evolving world of work.

The future is wide open, and for the youngest students there's no limit to the careers they could one day pursue.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Ask a child today, and you might just hear something surprising, creative or even inspiring.

## Remschneider receives degree from Georgia Tech

Tracy Remschneider, of Kewaunee, has earned a master of science in computer science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Remschneider

among approximately 6,400 undergraduate and graduate students to be presented Georgia Tech degrees during the Institute's 267th Commencement exercises.

Institute

business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts and sciences degrees, as well as professional development and programs.



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## National FFA Week // Feb. 15-22, 2025



The week-long tradition began in 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors designated the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week in recognition of his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer.

#### Kewaunee FFA

#### BY SARAH CALAWAY **Kewaunee FFA Advisor**

Kewaunee FFA is excited to celebrate FFA week this year with various activities throughout the week of Feb. 15-22.

We look forward to celebrating with our members and school community through events and activities in the school that will span the entire week.

Our members do not just celebrate FFA during FFA week, they participate in local, state, and national leadership conferences, career development events, as well as state and national conventions throughout the year.

Many of our members also have active supervised agricultural experiences from woodworking projects to

24/7 Emergency Service!

We are proud of our members' involvement, willingness to try new things, help with new events and are excited for the year ahead.

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## **OBITUARIES**



Lois A. Boudnik August 22, 1942 – February 9, 2025 Lois A. Boudnik, 82, Algoma, died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, February 9, 2025, after a long battle with dementia. She was born in Algoma, Wisconsin on August 22, 1942 to Rudolph and Eleanor (Lardinois) Rackow. Lois attended St. Mary's Catholic School and Algoma High School. She married Roger Boudnik with whom she had her first three children with. Lois worked at and retired from Plumbers

Woodwork Company in Algoma.

Lois was an avid cook and baker and always enjoyed trying new recipes for her family to enjoy. Outside of the kitchen, she enjoyed gardening, playing with her beloved dogs Charlie and Sophie, and cheering for the Green Bay Packers. Her other joys included winning at bingo, penny slots at the casino, and spending time with her grandchildren. Lois is survived by her children, Kelly (John) LeCompte, New Jersey, Lisa Boudnik, Sturgeon Bay, Lance (Amy Dahlin) Boudnik, Green Bay, and Tina (Dennis Mertens) Pagenkopf, Algoma; seven grandchildren, Dustin (Hilary) Brunette, Karissa (Steve Keller) Brunette, John LeCompte, Brooke LeCompte-Gindi, Morgan (Max Claassen) Pagenkopf, Aaron Godfrey, and Sophia Boudnik; great grandchildren, Lilly and Quinn Brunette, Elliot LeCompte-Gindi, and Ainsley Keller; sisters-in-law Paula (Jack) Zirbel, and Marla (Greg) Mosholder.

Lois was preceded in death by her special companion, Donald DeGrand; her parents Rudolph and Eleanor Rackow; her sister Patsy Rackow; and her ex-husband Roger Boudnik. Lois' family would like to extend a special thank you to Jennie and the staff at Autumn's Journey for going above and beyond in the incredible care they provided and for ensuring Lois was comfortable and well cared for in her final moments. Special thank you to Unity Hospice for their care

Per Lois' request, a private family service will take place at a later date. Kinnard Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Online condolences can be shared at Kinnard-



Marentine Rose "Tina" (Hebel) Peterson, 76, passed away Wednesday, February 5, 2025, under the care of Unity Hospice. She was born April 15, 1948, to Jordan and Margaret "Peggy" (Stokes) Hebel. Tina worked for Associated Bank where she met her future husband William "Bill" Peterson. The two were married on November 11, 1977. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Luxemburg where she served as treasurer and was active in the Christian Service

Guild. Tina maintained many friendships with ladies from both work and church. She enjoyed traveling, shopping, crafting and decorating. While Tina never had children of her own, she cherished her nieces and nephews. Tina is survived by her husband, Bill Peterson; three sisters,

Valerie (Rick) Dalebroux, Holly (Anne Fiorello) Hebel and Michelle (Tom) Bomske; Bill's sons, Michael (Lisa) Peterson and Steven Peterson; Michael's two daughters, Erin Peterson and Emily (Mark) Niemela; a great-grandson, Mikkel; a sister-in-law, Marilyn Sladky; other relatives and

She was preceded in death by her parents. Visitation will be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 9th at Proko-Wall Funeral Home, 1630 E. Mason St., Green Bay. Visitation will continue from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. on Monday at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Luxemburg, N4118 Cty Road AB (corner of Church Road and AB). The Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday at the church with Rev. Dr. Daniel Olsen officiating. Burial will be in St. Lawrence Cemetery in Stangleville at a later date. To send online condolences visit www.prokowall.com.

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Luxemburg

#### WNAXLP FARMLAND FOR RENT

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 WNAXLP

## KewauneeCountyStarNews.com

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### **STANDINGS**

from page 8

#### **Packerland Girls Basketball standings** As of Feb. 10

Kewaunee 11-1 Sevastopol 11-2 Algoma 11-2 Oconto 8-4 Peshtigo 6-6 NEW/Providence 5-8 Southern Door 3-10 Sturgeon Bay 1-11 Gibraltar 0-13

#### County boys schedule

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

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

Feb. 15: Algoma at Southern Door

Feb. 18: Algoma at Sturgeon Bay, Sevastopol at Kewaunee

Feb. 21: Kewaunee at Southern Door, Freedom at Lux-Casco

#### County girls schedule

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

Feb. 13: Suring at Algoma, Valders at Kewaunee

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

Feb. 17: Gibraltar at Kewaunee Algoma, at Sturgeon Bay, L-C Mishicot

Feb. 20: Algoma at Kewaunee, L-C at Waupaca Feb. 21: Peshtigo Kewaiinee

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## Snow, cold a boost for winter sports lovers

should be enough to get snowmobilers out in more areas, and certainly will improve cross country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities.

All the fresh powder has also benefited cottontail rabbit and coyote hunters, and their scent-trailing hounds.

With single-digit and even a few below-zero lows expected, you'll need to layer up for those outdoor adventures.

A chilling 10-day forecast looks ideal for firming things up on Green Bay, where working pressure cracks continued to cause some issues last weekend. As always, check locally for the latest updates before heading out.

Inland lakes have been producing mixed catches of panfish and bass pretty much everywhere. Some also offer pike, walleye and

or katief@gbphof.com.

2011. Katie Foust photo

Nick Collins' Packer Hall of

Fame induction plaque. Nicholas

Cardell Collins was selected by

the Packers in the second round

of the 2005 NFL Draft. The safety

recorded 22 interceptions over

his 102-game career. He played

with the Packers from 2005 to

<u>UN**PACK**ING History</u>

The Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame generously

opened their vault to share pieces of Packers history

with the Press Times to be highlighted each week for

our readers. For more information on the hall of fame,

visit www.packershofandtours.com. If vou would

like to donate Green Bay Packers memorabilia to the

Packers Hall of Fame, contact Katie at (920) 965-6986



### In the Outdoors

BY KEVIN NAZE **OUTDOORS COLUMNIST** 

even stocked trout. The use of electronics can help pinpoint the depths fish are holding, but you still might need to coax them to bite.

Great Lakes tributaries are producing a variety of species, from trout and pike on the lakeshore to walleyes, pike and panfish on the Green Bay side.

The main bay — from Green Bay to Marinette and across to Door County — has been offering yellow perch, whitefish, pike, walleye and brown trout, though it's definitely spotty. Many anglers say they've done best by exploring away from

#### **Giant sturgeon**

More than 400 lake sturgeon were taken the first four days of the spearing season on the Lake Winnebago system, 218 on the big lake and 190 on the upriver lakes.

There were 19 sturgeon larger than 100 pounds speared through Tuesday. That included the fourthlargest in the history of the fishery, a 180.5-pounder that stretched 79.3 inches long taken by 22-year-old Hayley Herzig.

On day two, an even longer fish was speared, 81.9 inches. DNR fisheries staff said it was still about a vear away from spawning and though still large at 161.9 pounds, they believe with mature eggs it could have weighed 40 to 50 pounds more next year.

Though not perfect everywhere, ice conditions are better than the past two years. Water clarity on Winnebago, however, is not very good.

In years with good ice conditions and water clarity, it's not uncommon for 1.000 to 2.000 sturgeon to be registered.

There were 3,340 shanties counted on Lake Winnebago last weekend, with most located off the west central portion near the Oshkosh



Locally raised Canada geese often lounge along the Lake Michigan shoreline all winter, making daily flights inland to try to scrounge waste grains or grasses from agricultural fields. If the snow gets too deep, they may fly just far enough south to find food. DNR banding studies reveal many don't travel farther than Illinois Kevin Naze photo

The record harvest was set in 1995, at 3,173, before harvest caps were set.

Last year, a 177.3-pound, 79.9-inch female geon was speared on Lake Winnebago. At the time it was the seventh heaviest since seasons began nearly a century ago. The record is 212.2 pounds, taken in 2010, and the only one over 200.

But that's not the biggest sturgeon ever seen. DNR fisheries biologists weighed a spawn-filled, 240-pound female in April, 2012 on the Wolf River in Shawano. It measured 87.5 inches.

In recent years Winnebago spearing season has gone the full 16 days. If success is better, it closes earlier.

You can follow the progress of this year's hunt at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/ topic/fishing/sturgeon/ WinnSysSturgeonSpear.

#### **Fish Art Contest**

year's Wildlife

Forever Fish Art Contest has partnered with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to add a Great Lakes Fish Specialty Award.

The new award celebrates fish species that provide valuable ecosystem services and are integral to Great Lakes Indigenous, commercial, recreational and subsistence fisheries. It also raises awareness of non-native fish species that negatively impact the ecosystem.

K-12 students must submit artwork featuring a fish species from the official eligibility list at https:// www.theartofconservation.org/great-lakes-award. There are four age group categories.

This year's contest more at https://www. theartofconservation.org/ fish-art-contest.

#### Walleye reminder

A meeting on two Peshtigo River and High Falls Flowage walleye movement projects is set for 6-8 p.m. 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 https://dnr. wisconsin.gov/calendar.

#### Bird count Feb. 14-17

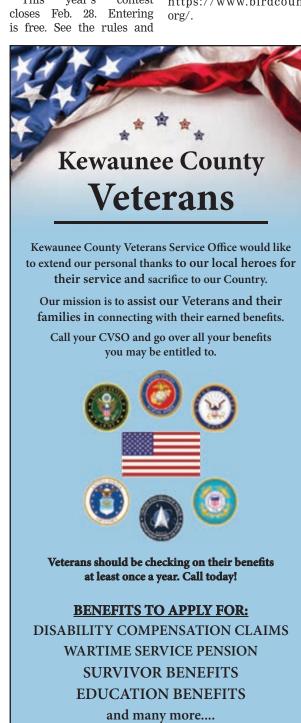
This weekend is the 28th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. You can participate for free and help scientists gather data on birds across the globe. Learn more at https://www.birdcount.







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## Star-News \_\_\_

## SPORTS



## Kroll surpasses 1,000 career points

## Storm suffers first conference loss after emotional week

BY KEVIN NAZE

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER** 

KEWAUNEE COUNTY Kewaunee's bid for an unbeaten Packerland Conference season was derailed at Institute Monday night, 41-37.

It was the Storm's first game in 10 days, with two games postponed due to the

REWAUNEE

tragic loss of 17-year-old with him every day, and Owen Vaughn on Feb. 3.

Junior classmate Jade Kroll sat both halves with foul trouble, but managed to surpass 1,000 career points in the loss.

"It was very hard," a tearful Kroll said after the game. "We had the funeral just on Saturday, and ... I don't know. Going to school

A flurry of three-pointers gave the Pioneers an early 12-5 lead four minutes in, and it was still 17-11 with 9:30 left in the first half. The Storm battled back, tying the game at 17 and taking a 22-21 lead into halftime.

now having to play with

him not in our student sec-

tion, it was really hard."

Neither team could get much going early in the second half.

The turning point may have been at the 14:37 mark, when a driving bank-shot bucket by Kroll — a basket that seemingly moved her from 999 points to 1,001 was whistled as a charging foul. Instead of leading by five, Kroll headed to the bench with her third foul.

Kewaunee's last lead was 27-24 with 10:44 left. Freshman Naomi Rikkola then tied it with a threepointer, then drilled another a minute later for a 32-27

Neither team could buy a basket for the next few minutes, but Kroll made the first of two free throws around the 7:50 mark for her 1,000th point.

She got another point two minutes later and it was 32-29.

But that's as close as

they'd get the rest of the way.

The Pioneers went on an 8-2 run to make it 40-31 with 2:44 left.

Gabby Stangel hit a three-pointer, but the Storm couldn't get enough shots to fall.

"The girls kept battling, that's the main thing,' said Kewaunee coach Lynn Geier. "They battled with Jade being on the bench, they kept it close and were more disciplined in some things that we've asked them to be."

Said Kroll, "All of us, all together, we play with all our heart. Even if one of us is on the bench, the others pick up and we all play together as one."

Pioneers coach Ben Rikkola said his freshman daughter has been hitting big shots against other teams, but her two 3s and another crucial basket in the second half surge was her first time doing that against a big-time opponent.

"She's shooter," Rikkola said. "She has a lot to live up to. We've been waiting for that."

Her two older sisters are both 1,000-point scorers at Sevastopol, Bailey two seasons ago and Naomi this year. The Pioneers' Kayla



All eyes were on junior Jade Kroll as she eyed up what would be her 1,000th career point in Monday's game at Sevastopol. Also shown are teammates Gabby Stangel (14) and Lexi Hanrahan **Kevin Naze photos** 

Ranly also surpassed 1,000 points this season.

"Kayla's not only can score, she usually guards the other team's leading scorer," Ben Rikkola said. "She's a very intense defender."

Naomi Rikkola scored a game-high 14 points. including a pair of threepointers in the first half. Sadie added 10, Ranly 9, Addison Schauske two early three-pointers and Ella Volkman 2.

Stangel led the Storm with 10 points. Kroll added 8, Braelyn Chevalier and Breanna Riha each 5, Brianna Demmin 4, Lexi Hanrahan 3 and Lily Morton 2.

Demmin was 4-for-4 from the line, but the rest of the team missed 10 of 17 free throws.

Kroll said surpassing

1,000 points, even with the loss, felt great knowing that she had finally accomplished that.

She said she was thinking about it early on, until she started to get in foul trouble.

Now she's got her sights set on finishing the season strong.

"We want to get further than we did last year (in the tournament)," Kroll said.

#### **Packerland boys** basketball standings as of Feb. 10

Southern Door 11-0 Kewaunee 8-1 Algoma 9-2 Oconto 6-5 Sturgeon Bay 6-5 Peshtigo 3-8 Sevastopol 2-9 NEW/Providence 2-9 Gibraltar 2-10

See STANDINGS page 6



Kewaunee's first conference loss was a physical battle. Gabby

Stangel was sandwiched between the Pioneers' Kayla Ranly,

Addison Schauske and Sadie Rikkola on this shot attempt.

## Nicolet PRESENTS Senior Spotlight

## Braelyn Witcpalek, KEWAUNEE HIGH SCHOOL

Sports: Track & cross country Parents' names: Jamie and Steve Witcpalek Siblings: Brooke and Brex Witcpalek

**Position or events:** 300m hurdles, 4x400m relay, 4x800m relay Instagram: @Braelyn\_Witcpalek Career Highlight: I made it to state for cross country and our team received the Academic All-State award for our GPAs. I was also selected for the WI Dairy Female Athlete of the Month.

At what age did you start playing your main sport? Twelve.

Who introduced you to the sport? My friends.

Has this always been your favorite sport? Yes, I love track. You compete as an individual and also as a team!

How has balancing academics and athletics been different for you from your freshman year to your senior year? When I was a freshman, it was more challenging to balance academics and athletics. It could be draining at times. I made sure to focus on school and prioritize my workload around practice and meets. I would try to make the best use of my time during the day so I wouldn't have a lot of homework after practice. As a senior, I have the opportunity to work in

the morning and class in the afternoon. So now I have to organize my schedule between work, school and sports. Even though the few classes I have are college courses, I don't have as much homework as I did as a freshman. My mom has also been a huge help. I would not make it through life without her. Balancing athletics and academics can be challenging but thankfully whenever I was falling behind my mom was there to encourage me.

What is your favorite part about this sport?What about it has caused you to stick with it for this long? My favorite part about this sport is the individuality of it. You have to work for what you want. It is a mental sport and I like that you have to work on yourself to succeed. I also love my team so much and without my team I wouldn't love the sport as much.

Is there a professional athlete you look up to? If so, why? Yes, Sydney Mclaughlin. She is an olympic 400m hurdler, to me she is inspiring.

What would you say is your biggest asset as an athlete? My leadership.

What has been your most memorable experience in high school sports so far? My most memorable experience was making it to State for cross country.

How does it feel as a senior, to look back throughout high school and see your growth (as a person and athlete)? I am proud of the personal growth I made throughout my high school years. I am also proud and sad looking back on my athletic growth because it took a lot for me to get where I am now. I am going to miss mv sports and my team. I am happy for the memories I made.

Do you have any pre-meet rituals/ routines/superstitions? The night before my races I will always make spaghetti with meat sauce and garlic bread. The day of races I make sure to eat a lot of carbs and drink a lot of water throughout the day. An hour before my race I drink a liquid iv and eat a high protein carbohydrate.

Do you take any extra steps to prepare for a big match/game/meet, outside of regular practices? I have attended track camps and worked with personal trainers on my off season. I make sure to take an ice bath or a hot bath to prepare my legs.

Any memorable coaches or teammates you'd like to give a shout out to? I would like to give a shout out to my coach, Marlene Hall. I do not know where I would be without her. She is an amazing coach and is always giving me tips on what I can do to be a better person and athlete. As a freshman I was nervous to run any race. Marlene was always there for me and had my back no matter what. If I was nervous she would calm my nerves, if I was in my



head she would get me out of my head, if I got a knot in my leg she would get it out. It is nice to have a coach that genuinely cares about her team. I would not be as far as I am without her and I want to thank her for that. I am very thankful to have a coach like her, she makes me a better and stronger person.

Any hobbies outside of sports? I like to spend time with my family and friends. I also like to go hunting with my family, and go up to my lake house.

Favorite song? "One Last Breath" by

Sports drinks like Gatorade and Powerade or water? Water and lime Gatorade.

Future Plans? (college, major, career, etc.) I am attending college to earn my bachelor's degree in radiologic science.