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2025 Sturgeon spearing starts slow



Tim Sommer, the newest member of the 100-pound club with a 108.8 pound F4 female, speared on Poygan and registered at Critter's.

By Matt Harp, Outdoor Reporter
Reports from spearkers indicate that Lake Winnebago and the Upriver Lakes are experiencing a shift in water clarity. Areas with clear water one day were murkier the next, even with the sun shining through the ice. Despite the less-than-ideal conditions, spearkers overcame the adversity and found success. So far, 121 lake

sturgeon were speared throughout both systems, including 25 juvenile females, 34 adult females and 62 males. There were 3,340 shanties counted on Lake Winnebago this weekend. Most of the shanties were located off the west-central portion of Lake Winnebago near the Oshkosh area. This observation is reflected in the number of fish registered at the Downtown

Oshkosh and Neenah registration stations, with 19 each. These stations continue to register the highest number of harvests for Lake Winnebago. The Southwest Winnebago registration station continues to have the most fish weighing over 100 pounds, with five for the season thus far. A to-

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County executive candidates discuss issues at forum

Sales tax, transparency among mix of topics

By Bethanie Gengler

The three candidates for Winnebago

of the county.

The event, hosted by the League of

County executive participated in a public forum late last month, giving voters a clearer view of their priorities and plans for the future



Jon Doemel



John Matz



Gordon Hintz

Women Voters of Winnebago County, highlighted some of the key issues affecting residents. The county executive is the top elected leader in charge of county departments, policies, programs and services.

Incumbent Jon Doemel will face challengers Gordon Hintz and John Matz in the primary Feb. 18, which will narrow the field to two.

Doemel is a former restaurant owner, making his second run at public office after ousting 16-year incumbent Mark Harris in the 2020 election.

"When you run a restaurant, you

are HR, you are marketing, you are payroll, you're also customer service and labor and the dishwasher and the server and the cook," he said during his opening statement. "So it translated to the multiple facets of county government really well."

Hintz most recently represented Oshkosh and parts of Winnebago County for 16 years in the Wisconsin Assembly.

"I believe government has a positive role to play in creating opportunity in

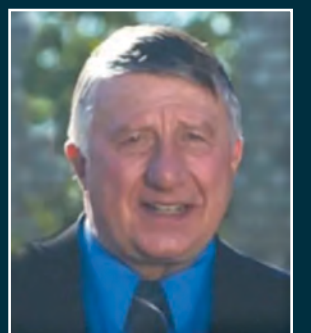
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County candidates

FROM PAGE 1

people's lives and I am running to help create a stronger and more prosperous Winnebago County," he said.

Matz is the current Winnebago County sheriff, a position he has held for 14 years.

"In county government, I have been involved with the county board and with committees," he said. "So, I have an open and trusted relationship with the board and with the committees already."

Transparency in government was a focal point in the forum, with the candidates discussing improving public access to information.

"County government is easier to follow now than it's ever been," Doemel said. "Our meetings are recorded, agendas are accurate, we have agenda item reports, we have draft resolutions, and none of those things existed before I got here."

Hintz emphasized the importance of promoting meeting agendas, providing meeting recaps and informing the public of decisions made.

Matz pointed to the Sheriff's Department's annual report, which provides data on use-of-force incidents and internal investigations. He said he would like the county to do both program budgeting and line-item budgeting.

The candidates also delved into the ongoing mental health and addiction crisis, with Hintz stating the county is fortunate to have quality staff in public

health and human services and emphasized the need to use evidence-based policies and remove programs not working effectively.

Matz detailed the success of the county's STAR program in the county jail, which has seen "phenomenal results" among those struggling with substance abuse and has reduced recidivism rates.

Doemel stressed the importance of discussing topics and taking a compassionate approach to issues. He also commented on his efforts to get the County Board to reconsider accepting a grant for vending machines that dispense the overdose-reversing medication Narcan.

On the topic of implementing a countywide sales tax, the candidates provided differing answers.

Doemel cautiously supported implementing a sales tax if it was used to help tackle its capital improvement plan and for property tax relief.

Hintz said Winnebago is one of only two counties in the state that doesn't impose a sales tax, "so other counties are getting out-of-county residents spending the money and we're not," adding that it's a regressive tax that hits lower income people harder.

Matz said he's not in favor of implementing a county sales tax to balance the operational budget, adding that the county missed an opportunity with ARPA funds that could have been used to develop cities, villages and townships for new construction.

When asked about the county administration's increased spending over the past four years, Hintz said he doesn't think the public has seen the value of the investment from the county executive's office. He added that when there's an issue with the County Board or something not being done, the county executive would ask for more staff.

Matz said he was in favor of creating one new county administrative position when Doemel took office, "however, it went far beyond one position, and no, I don't believe we have seen the benefit of those positions and seen what the need for all of those po-

sitions (is)," adding the positions are "extremely expensive."

The candidates were asked how they would create a budget that doesn't rely on the county's shrinking undesignated fund for structural, ongoing programs.

Doemel said that finding the truth and accurately examining the county's finances is crucial to creating a sustainable budget.

Hintz noted that the budget deficits have been an ongoing issue, adding that the budget could be used as both a planning document and an evaluation tool to better understand where the county's revenue has historically been coming from.

Matz said he would find ways for the county to save money and suggested offering county employees incentives as an alternative to benefits.

As the forum ended, each of the candidates was given an opportunity to share why they are most qualified for the position.

"I am going to be able to start day one with expectations to the department heads and evaluation of the programs that will start immediately, and we will then be right in the middle of the budget, which I have prepared 14 budgets," Matz said.

"I've done four years of really pulling us closer to truth, getting us to agenda item reports, getting us to fiscal responsibility, getting us to what the numbers actually say, and getting our departments out there ...," Doemel said.

"My values have always been about opportunity, fairness, equality and accountability," Hintz concluded. "I believe in communication and transparency and I think those are strengths of mine that I bring to the office that I always held in my other public roles."

The two county executive candidates with the most votes in the Feb. 18 primary will move on to the April 1 general election.

There will be an additional forum for the two county executive candidates advancing from the primary at 6 p.m. March 13 at Oshkosh City Hall.



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Old Glory Honor Flights set for this year

Old Glory Honor Flight and Appleton International Airport are announcing flights this year for veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit war memorials erected in their honor.

Since its inception, the organization has hosted more than 6,400 veterans and the Appleton airport has been hosting the flights since 2009.

Mission 73 takes off April 16, Mission 74 is set for May 27, Mission 76 is Sept. 2 and Mission 77 is Oct. 28. The Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight that takes off from the EAA grounds during Air-Venture each year is set for July 25 for Vietnam War veterans.

The event travels with trained volunteers who plan the daylong trip to give veterans a red-carpet treatment. The organization provides escorts, a medical team, professional photographers and plans the itinerary in Washington.

Family members and the community participating in a welcome-home celebration at the airport.

“We could not celebrate these heroes without the commitment of our sponsors and partners and the overwhelming support of the community,” said Diane MacDonald, executive director of Old Glory Honor Flight.

Veterans on active duty in any branch of the service between Dec. 7, 1941, and May 7, 1975, qualify for the flights. Registration is open at oldgloryhonorflight.org. Currently, Old Glory Honor Flight has a waitlist of about 12 months for senior veterans.

“Our staff is dedicated to honoring our veterans and looks forward to each of these events as a way to celebrate the veterans and their families,” said airport director Abe Weber.

Winter Funderland to support Honor Flight



By Becky LaDue

The 5th annual Winter Funderland outdoor event is being planned by the Fin ‘n Feather, and organizers are looking to generate an avalanche of fun once again for Winneconne. This year’s event will set aside its significant proceeds to benefit the Old Glory Honor Flight.

Funderland will hit the village Feb. 21 and 22, featuring the popular “Snowball Smash” kickball tournament, a large, heated tent in the Fin’s parking lot with live music both days, great food, 50/50s, and incredible raffle basket prizes all benefitting the Honor Flight endeavor.

Saturday’s Snowball Smash kickball tournament begins at 10 a.m., and teams are still being sought to fill the brackets. The 16-team tournament (six players/team, mixed men/women) utilizes a giant exercise ball as the kickball with the ultimate champion taking home a \$500 prize pot; 2nd place, \$250; and 3rd place, \$50. Register at

the Fin ‘n Feather between now and Feb. 19 to ensure a spot and a chance at some great prize money (and hilarious fun!).

Donations to help support the raffles, which will run both Friday and Saturday in the tent, continue to be collected. One hundred percent of the profits raised on the weekend’s raffles will also benefit the Honor Flight.

If you would like to make a cash or prize donation, please contact Old Glory Honor Flight at 920-257-2563, deliver items directly to the Fin, or use the QR code adjacent to this story for monetary support.

See you at Winter Funderland!



This QR code will link you to the appropriate website to make a donation to Old Glory Honor Flight.



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Winneconne High School honor rolls

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JUNIORS - Albrecht, Ethan W.; Alswager, Alexavior J.; Bartel, Gage G.; Bodoh, Malia T.; Buser, Marcella J.; Cegielski, Emma R.; Dobberstein, Kendra E.; Fox, Layne E.; Gardner, Neela M.; Gilson, Adelyn N.; Gonzalez, Sophie K.; Hart, Carlee E.; Hernandez, Leah M.; Hottmann, Suri E.; Jacobson, Jonah T.; Kellerman, Aeris E.; Kollat, Jackson T.; Koval, Alyssa G.; Krostue, Iyla F.; Krueger, Kaden R.; Krueger, Natalie A.; Lake, Rinn R.; Leichtfuss, Tracy K.; Michaud, Jesse A.; Nettekoven, Jordan J.; Quam, Genevieve C.; Reinders, Gennavie M.;

Rogers, Abigail L.; Ruiz, Mateo S.; Rust, Mia L.; Samolinski, Hudson J.; Schaffer, Audra J.; Schaffer, Brody D.; Seibert, Annabella L.; Skadahl, Kat E.; Sleeman, Hugh M.; Syth, Kambelle A.; Verich, Vivian I.; Volp, Cal J.; Vonderloh, Sierra A.; ; Wiedemeier, Lauren K.; Wisnefske, Allison M.; Wyssbrod, Chloe M.; Yetter, Hannah G.; Zemke, Val K. III.

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Michaud, Molly A.; Miller, Sophia L.; Mullen, Brennan M.; Nelson, Garrett J.; Oleson, Abigail J.; Otto, Lauren E.; Peters, Caeden R.; Plotz, Camden W.; Prevost, Analeigh R.; Quam, Josephine H.; Reetz, Ari R.; Robbert, Lilly A.; Samolinski, Avery C.; Schricker, Chase C.; Stuart, Aiden T.; Swinford, Paige M.; Thibodeau, Paige E.; Van Bommel, Baylor D.; Weyers, Lauryn; Zimmer, Aaron R.

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CAMPUS CORNER

UW-MILWAUKEE: **Winneconne**—Mackenzie Anderson, Fall Dean's List; Maren Geiger, Fall Dean's List; Kiara Hottmann, Fall Dean's List; Carter Peters, Fall Dean's List.

RIPON COLLEGE: **Omro**—Brianna Young, Fall Dean's List. **Winneconne**—Anna Fahrney, Fall Dean's List.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY: **Winneconne**—Taylor Rogers, Fall Dean's List.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: **Larsen**—Riley Dachel, Fall Dean's List.

INDIANA TECH: Angel Elmer, Fall Dean's List.

UW-PLATTEVILLE: **Larsen**—Joshua Stone, Fall Dean's List.

UW-SUPERIOR: **Zittau**—Breeanna Angell, Fall Dean's List.



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Schaffer enjoys, impresses while competing at The Next Ones

By Steve Clark

Winneconne junior Brody Schaffer seemed pretty happy with the way the Super Bowl between the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs turned out on Sunday.

But what went on in the days leading up to the annual game definitely made him smile.

Schaffer was 1 of 33 individuals selected to participate in Nike's The Next Ones last week in New Orleans, representing the Green Bay Packers and the state of Wisconsin against some of the best high school players in the nation.

"I was really excited to go down there and it was everything I thought it was going to be," Schaffer said during halftime of the Super Bowl on Sunday night. "It was a really awesome event with some of the best players in the country. They treated us well and gave us every opportunity to get our name out there and show what we can do. I was able to do that."

A standout quarterback and defensive back for the Wolves, Schaffer participated in the second-year event as a wide receiver.

Although it was not his usual position, it's where he sees himself playing at the collegiate level and beyond, so he was pleased he was assigned to that group of players.

"When they reached out to me to compete at the event, they wanted me to go as a receiver based on my film and athleticism. So, it wasn't really my choice, but I was happy with

the choice," Schaffer said. "That's ultimately what I want to play in college, so I was happy I was able to go out and compete as a receiver."

Schaffer said that being able to showcase his abilities at the receiver posi-

some of the sights of the historic city.

On Saturday, Schaffer spent the day competing at The Next Ones event with an array of drills and competitions designed to not only test the participants but also make sure they enjoyed the event.

The drills were especially important for Schaffer because they centered around the wide receiver skills he wants to improve on.

Schaffer said his coach for the event – Detroit Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams – was

very helpful in getting him accustomed to the work he had to do.

"I was grateful for him being there. He did help me with some of the footwork," Schaffer said.

Williams wasn't the only NFL player involved in the event.

Green Bay Packer running back Josh Jacobs was the coach of the AFC group of players, while Seattle Seahawks receiver Jackson Smith-Njigba and likely first-round pick in the upcoming draft Shedeur Sanders also made appear-

ances.

Former NFL player and current ESPN broadcaster Ryan Clark served as an announcer for the event.

As fun as it was to interact with the NFL players, Schaffer said getting to know the rest of the participants was even better.

"The main thing I noticed was the difference with me and everyone else from a recruiting standpoint. I came in with one offer and these guys have four stars and offers all over the country," said Schaffer, who since picked up a second Division I scholarship offer. "It was fun connecting with these guys because I could learn from them on how to get noticed more during the recruiting process."

He said the competition also opened his eyes in that he can compete with such a high level of talent and that boost of confidence is something he can carry over when he takes the field for the Wolves next fall.

"The main thing I took away from it is personally, I can compete with anyone and that's really important. I had never been around those type of guys but it was a great opportunity for me to show what I can do against that caliber of players," Schaffer said. "I went into the event a little nervous with my abilities compared to everyone else but I came out of it knowing I'm the kind of player they are and I can compete with them. That self-confidence is something that will (help me next fall)."



tion should help him in the recruiting process.

"Absolutely, it helps in my recruiting a lot because these college coaches can see what I am capable of outside of the quarterback position," Schaffer said. "They can see the versatility and see me do the footwork that goes into playing receiver – it's not like playing quarterback."

Schaffer and his parents arrived in New Orleans on Thursday night and he said they were able to experience



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Obituaries

Leon "Butch" Quigley
Leon "Butch" Quigley passed away on Friday, January 31, 2025, at the age of 89.



Butch, who was born on July 29, 1935, in Winneconne to Helen (Crowley) and Leon Quigley, was a bright spirit with a love for life. He graduated from Winneconne High School, where he shone as an exceptional athlete. After high school, Butch proudly served in the Coast Guard for four years. Butch had a multitude of talents and passions! He owned and operat-

ed Quigley Construction, and if you drive through Winneconne, you'll see evidence of his handiwork everywhere. In his retirement, he took up beekeeping, became an excellent gardener, and enjoyed woodworking, crafting beautiful furniture for his family and friends. Hunting and fishing were among his favorite pastimes, especially those beloved annual trips to the deer camp and fishing in Minnesota with friends. But above all, Butch adored being out on the water, enjoying the laughter and camaraderie while captaining his pontoon boat on Lake Poygan. True to his Irish roots, he was always ready with a hearty laugh and loved sharing a pint or two with his buddies. His workshop was a welcoming place filled with warmth, laughter, and friendship.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores (Bradley) Quigley; his daughter, Jane (Brian) Shea; sisters Ruth Quigley Mills and Margaret (George) Gordus of California; and many nieces, nephews, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Along with his parents, Butch was preceded in death by his sisters, Kathleen Quigley, Jo Lenz, Irene Chittim, and his brother, Ed Quigley.

We invite you to join us for visitation at Mueller Funeral Home 904 E. Main St. Winneconne from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, February 15, 2025, with a service to be held at noon.

In lieu of flowers, feel free to make a donation to Tunnel to Towers at www.t2t.org in Butch's honor.

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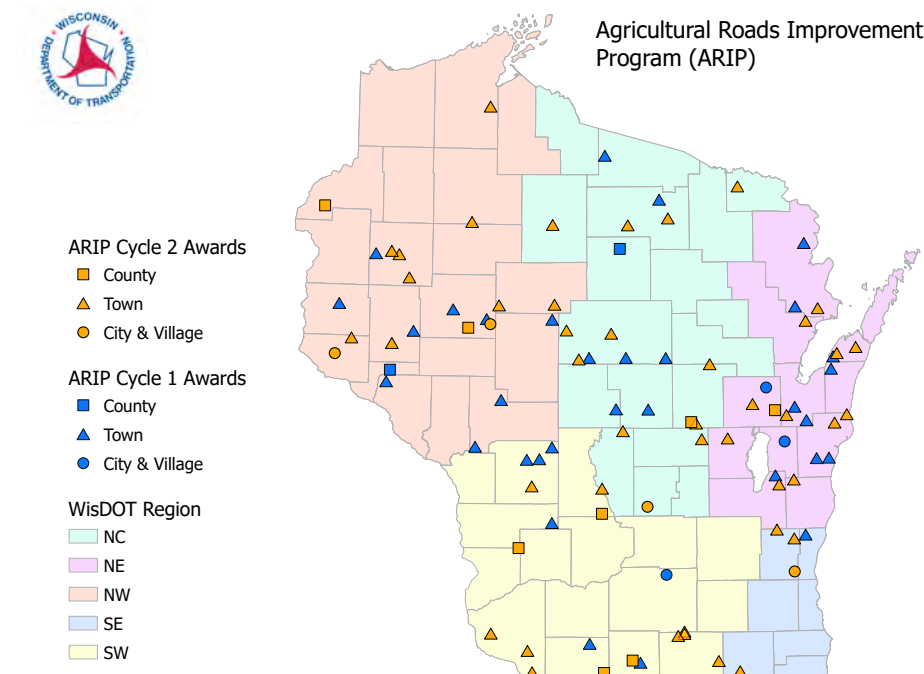
Winchester Receives Ag Road Grant

By Becky LaDue

Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation have announced the second round of grant recipients for the remaining \$100 million from the Agricultural Road Improvement Program (ARIP).

The Town of Winchester made an application in the first round for the funding of repair work on Lakeview Road, but was denied. Upon its second submission, the application was approved, and the town will receive \$812,622.06 for the project, which is slated to cost \$926,593—87.7% of the total cost.

"For 173 years, farming has been the foundation on which the rural Town of Winchester community was built," said town representatives, "and the



local government is dedicated to preserving this heritage and providing for its continued development and growth."

When the WisDOT initially announced the program, the Winchester Town Board immediately recognized the opportunity. Winchester's Road Committee Chairman Ernie Delikowski began reviewing eligibility requirements to determine which of the town's roads, if any, would qualify. After rigorous review, the 1.75-mile length of Lakeview Road was identified. Delikowski along with Clerk Holly Stevens, supported by Abby Maslanka, P.E. with Martenson & Eisele, conducted local producer interviews compiling information which supported the need for road improvements. They also collected field data for submission to the WisDOT.

First-round selections were announced in July 2024, and Winchester's project was denied. Undeterred, Delikowski and Stevens reviewed and re-submitted Winchester's application in the second round and were ultimately

successful.

"The financial assistance provided through the program and others like it are essential for rural communities like Winchester," said Town Chairman Matt Olson. "Without the grant, the work would be unaffordable for Winchester taxpayers. This project will improve the road for our agricultural businesses while at the same time providing for the safety of the traveling public. We are grateful for the assistance."

Although timelines are subject to change, preconstruction planning is expected to begin soon with construction tentatively slated for 2026. The town is also investigating the possibility of resurfacing Oakridge Road and Breezewood Lane east of STH 45 to the town line in conjunction with the Lakeview Road ARIP project. While the feasibility to concurrently complete this maintenance is yet to be determined, the town hopes to coordinate the financing and the work.

The Wisconsin DOT received 299 applications for more than \$500 million worth of projects, more than three times the amount of available funding. The second-round allocation was \$101,336,500.

The program was created by a bill authored by Sens. Marklein (R-Spring Green), Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Ballweg (R-Markesan) and Reps. Tranel (R-Cuba City) and VanderMeer (R-Tomah), that received unanimous bipartisan support in the legislature and was signed by Gov. Evers. It was funded in the 2023-25 State Biennial Budget.

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Sports

Winneconne boys second, girls take title at ECC tourney

Winneconne News

Both the Winneconne boys and girls wrestling teams had a successful show-



Doug Sasse

Winneconne's Trey Zemke works for the pin against Patrick Reilly of Waupun in a 157-pound semifinal at the East Central Conference tournament on Friday. Zemke won the match by pin in 50 seconds.

ing at the East Central Conference meet held at Winneconne on Friday.

The boys crowned six individual champions and finished a close second to powerhouse Kewaskum, while the girls captured the ECC title as all four wrestlers won at least one match to help edge Berlin for the title.

The boys finished with 209.5 points in the tournament to finish just six points behind Kewaskum, despite having three fewer wrestlers in the tournament than the Indians.

Ryden Jezwinski (106), Briar Vroman (113), JJ Mavroff (120), Brady Marks (132), Trey Zemke (157) and Jason Wiedmeyer (285) all won titles for Winneconne, which had the most individual champions among the seven teams.

"Overall, I was extremely proud of how we performed. Guys were trying things we've been working on in practice and it's starting to pay off," commented Winneconne head coach Boone Roycraft. "Honestly, going into the tournament I knew we could possibly get six championships with the boys. I think the most impressive thing was that a few of the final matches weren't going our way and no one gave

up and battled (to the end)."

Wiedmeyer was the only one of the six champs who had to win three matches to secure his title and earned the crown by pinning all three opponents with all three bouts ending in the first period.

Vroman, Mavroff and Zemke each went 2-0 with a pair of pins, with Vroman stopping both of his opponents in the first period. Jezwinski and Marks each had one pin on the day, while winning decisions in the title matches, including a 9-8 victory for Jezwinski in the 106-pound championship bout.

Damon Davis (126), James Nozar (138), Bryce Jones (165) and Carson Piotraschke (175) each finished third, while Tyler Engelke (144) was fourth.

Winneconne now heads to the WIAA Division 2 regional meet in Denmark on Saturday and Roycraft believes the performance at the conference tournament should provide a spark.

"I think it definitely builds confidence within the team. We weren't expected to have a chance to be in the conference with a few missing weight classes, but everyone wrestled hard," Roycraft commented. "I hope that they just go into next week ready to battle every time they get an opportunity."

The Winneconne girls edged Berlin by a single point - 70 to 69 - to win conference title despite having just four wrestlers competing.

Three Wolves were crowned conference champions, with Addison Brown winning the 114-pound title by pinning Berlin's Jezhel Jaimez in 1:55.

Marley Rewolinski was crowned the 120-pound champion and Den-na Gehrke was named the 152-pound champion, but each wrestler moved up a weight class to create matches and brackets for the event.

Gehrke took second at 165 pounds, notching a pin in the semifinals, while Rewolinski won her third-place match at 126 pounds.

Nora Last added a second place at 132 pounds, winning her semifinal match by pin.

Winneconne will travel to Beaver Dam for its regional tournament on Saturday.

"They all wrestled well. They are getting better every match and it's exciting to see the growth," head coach Mike Meunier said. "Coming off a great tournament is going to help them going into regionals."



Doug Sasse

Winneconne's Nora Last battles Berlin's Codi Nowicki in the 132-pound championship match.

Whitford to serve WIAA

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association has named Tim Whitford as interim assistant director on the executive staff beginning Monday, Feb. 10 following the retirement of Tom Shafranski. Whitford will serve in the position until Shafranski's successor joins the staff this summer.

Whitford will inherit the administrative responsibilities most recently managed by Shafranski, including the sports of 11-player football, boys and girls golf, boys and girls hockey, boys and girls lacrosse. Other administrative duties will include the oversight of the WIAA Scholar-Athlete program and staff liaison with the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association.

He spent his entire 34-year educational career in the Winneconne Community School District before retiring in June 2024. He served the first 22 years of his career as a physical education and health educator before becoming the school's athletic director in 2012. Whitford was named the District 4 Athletics Director of the Year by the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association last fall.



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Sports

Fishing Team Headed to State

Wolves' Fishing Team has successful season, heading to State Championship

The Winneconne Wolves fishing team has fished a full schedule of events this season without the constant worry of poor ice conditions that challenged them the past two years.

This year's team consists of 47 student-anglers from Winneconne High School, with about an even split of returning members and new anglers. The Wolves are coached by Pat Kolbe and Brian Perzentka, who have provided a recap of the Wolves season thus far:

WIFA Mixed Bag '300' Challenge

This Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association (WIFA) State Qualifying event featured nearly 100 teams in a virtual, statewide event. Teams worked to catch, measure and record their 10 longest northern pike added to their 15 longest panfish for a mixed bag total. The event ran from December 26 until February 2 and teams could choose one specific day to compete in the event. The Wolves fished on Jan. 4 and put up an impressive total of 411" for a 10th place overall finish out of the nearly 100 teams. Sophomore

Wyatt Noffke highlighted this event by landing a giant 39.5" northern pike.

WIFA Catch Em' All Tournament

This Catch Em' All virtual statewide WIFA event had teams trying to catch three fish each of 6 different species within a 7-hour timeframe – all done on the same body of water, without switching lakes. The Wolves entered two teams of 10 and had a solid showing, taking 4th and 6th place out of 31 overall teams.

WIFA Kurt's Minocqua Madness - Lake Minocqua

The Northwoods of Minocqua have treated the Wolves fishing team well. On Jan. 18 the Wolves put on a dominating performance, leading wire-to-wire to secure a victory in Kurt's Minocqua Madness Tournament. The Wolves also won in Minocqua last March, for back-to-back victories. A full team effort saw the Wolves fill the tournament card with 10 crappie, 10 perch, 10 bluegill, 5 northern pike, 3 bass and 2 walleye. Senior Jason Wiedmeyer caught his first ever walleye through the ice, a dandy 20.5" fish. Members of the winning team were Wiedmeyer, Ben Tesch, Sawyer



Bauer, Brenna Jaeger, Skye Sarnowski, Jackson Bongert, Dominick Donabar, Preston Marvin, Lincoln Robbert, Brayden Christman, Jacob Lytle and Ryan Kolbe.

WIFA Northeast Regional - Shawano Lake

On Feb. 1 the Wolves took two teams and headed north to participate in the WIFA NE Regional, with 18 other teams on Shawano Lake. A handful of nice crappies were caught on the first jig drop or minnow set – and Winneconne was off battling at the top of the leaderboard. Both Wolves' teams kept pace inside the top 5 teams all day, finishing 3rd and 6th overall. Freshmen Ariyannah Palecek caught the biggest bluegill of the entire tournament, earning her a custom rod prize at the

awards ceremony. Freshmen Eliah Williams - ice fishing for his first time ever — landed his team's biggest pike at 27"!

On to the WIFA State Championship

The Wolves look to keep the positive momentum going with a trip to the 2025 WIFA State Championship on the Mississippi River in La Crosse, set for this weekend, Feb. 15. Sections of Pools 7 and 8 of the Mississippi River are in play for fishable areas as teams will compete to score the length of their 10 best perch, 10 bluegill, 10 crappie, 5 northern pike and 5 bass for a Mixed Bag total. This is the marquee event of the year for WIFA and will feature nearly 90 teams.

Prep Sports Roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Winneconne completes sweep of Ripon

A strong first half staked Winneconne the lead and the Wolves hung on to beat Ripon, 74-68, on the road on Friday night.

The win gave Winneconne a sweep of the two East Central Conference games against the Tigers this season.

Winneconne led 31-24 at halftime

and withstood being outscored by one in the second to notch the win.

Earlier in the week, Winneconne was kept in check by Waupun in a 72-31 loss at home.

The Wolves didn't have a player reach double figures in the game as Parker Ingles was the team's leading score with eight points. Brody Schaffer finished with seven points and Gage Bartel had six, while both Schaffer and Bartel led the team with seven rebounds.

Winneconne will host rival Berlin on Thursday before traveling to Lourdes Academy for a nonconference game next Tuesday.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wolves stifle Tigers to extend win streak

Winneconne allowed just 20 points in topping Ripon, 57-20, in an East Central Conference game on Thursday that stretched the team's win streak to five straight games.

It was the fourth time in the last five games the Wolves held an opponent to less than 30 points and the eighth time overall this season.

Grace Mitchell led Winneconne with 19 points, while Brooklyn Messerschmidt drained four 3-pointers and finished with 12 points. Harper Neace chipped in 10 points and nine rebounds.

The Wolves hit nine 3-pointers in the game.

Earlier in the week, the Wolves pulled out a 66-60 in at St. Mary Catholic in a matchup of teams ranked in

the top 10 in their respective divisions.

Winneconne led by as many as 23 points in the second half before the Zephyrs rallied to pull within a point with about a minute to go. Neace, however, scored off an inbound play to stretch the lead to three points and the Wolves made three free throws in the closing seconds for the final margin.

Neace had a big night in the win, finishing with a season-high 25 points, seven rebounds and five steals.

Jada Kaiser added 13 and Mitchell finished with 11 in the win.

Messerschmidt also totaled seven rebounds and had a team-high four assists.

The Wolves overcame a rough night at the free-throw line to pull out the win, finishing 11-of-22 from the line.

The Wolves will have a pair of non-conference contests coming up as they host New London on Friday before traveling to Lourdes Academy on Tuesday. Those will be the final tune-ups for the regular-season finale at Kettle Moraine Lutheran on Feb. 20.

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Church Notes

St. Mary's Catholic Church
 210 Pleasant Drive
 Winneconne
 Priest Celebrants
 Fr. Tom Long
 & Fr. Ben Pribbenow
 Deacon Paul Vidmar, Pastoral Coordinator
 Thurs.: 2 pm - Rosary. 2:30 pm - Sorrowful Mysteries/church.
 Sat.: 3:30 pm - Confession. 4 pm - Mass.
 Sunday, Feb. 16: 8:30 pm- IPM Training. 10:30 am - Mass/Father Carr Food Collection/CLOW.
 Mon: 7:30 am - LOW w/communion. 6 pm - Finance Council Mtg.
 Tues.: 1:30 pm - My Father's Father/Kaudy Hall. 6 pm - Sorrowful Mysteries/Kaudy.
 Wed: 7:30 am - LOW w/communion. 3:10 pm - FF, ES; 6:30 pm - MS. 4:30 pm - Confession.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 9077 North Road
 Zittau
 Pastor Tauna Roth
 Sundays: 9 am - Worship.
 Mondays: 10 am - Bible Study.

Lord of the Lakes (ELCA) Church
 6090 Harbour South
 Winneconne
 Pastor Kevin Heffernan
 Thurs.: 8:30 am - Bible Study. 6 pm - Bible Study.
 Sunday, Feb. 16: 8 & 10 am - Worship/1st Communion at both services.
 Mon.: 5 pm - Narcotics Anonymous. Newsletter Items DUE.
 Tues.: 9 am - Busy Hands. 6:30 pm - Council Mtg.
 Wed: 4 pm - Guitar Grp. 5 pm - Bells. 6 pm - Choir. 6 pm - SWAG Youth Group.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 8 South Fourth Street
 Winneconne
 Pastor Ben Berger
 Pastor Darin Warnecke
 920-582-7772
 Thurs.: 9:30 am - Bible Study. 1 pm - Ladies Aid. 6 pm - Bible Basics Class.
 Saturday: 4:30 pm - Worship/Lord's Supper.
 Sunday, Feb. 16: 8 & 10:30 am -

Worship/Lord's Supper. 9:10 am - Bible Study/Family Impressions.
 Mon.: Contemporary Music Practice.
 Tues.: 8:30 am - Quilters. 5:45 pm - Stewardship Mtg. 6:45 pm - Church Council Mtg.
 Wed.: 6:30 pm- Catechism study.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, WELS
 8630 County Road MM
 Larsen
 Pastor Paul Ibisch
 920-878-3001
 Sundays: 10 am - Service with Bible Study/Fellowship to Follow.
 Also online through Facebook.
 Free Little Food Pantry 24/7 at North Entry of Church.

First Presbyterian Church
 32 S. Third Avenue
 Winneconne
 920-706-0047
 Pastor Emily Lueder
 8:30 am - Sunday Service.

Bible Baptist Church
 At First Presbyterian Church
 32 S. Third Avenue
 Winneconne
 Pastor Robert Hatch
 920-582-7100
 Sundays: 10:45 am - Sunday School. 12 pm - Worship.

AA and Al-Anon
 St. Mary Church Basement
 Thurs.: 7 pm - Al-Anon.
 Please refer to the district website for available AA meetings in our area.

Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 13: 4 pm - MS Wrestling @ Ripon. 5:30 pm - Plan Comm. Mtg./Municipal Ctr. 5:30 pm - Beautification Comm. Mtg./Municipal Ctr. 5:45 & 7:15 pm - JV/V Boys' BB, Home/Berlin. 7 pm - HS Musical "Addams Family"/WCAC.
Friday, Feb. 14: HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! 5 pm- Girls' Wrestling @ Beaver Dam. 5:45 & 7 pm - JV/V Girls' BB, Home/New London. 7 pm - HS Musical "Addams Family"/WCAC.
Saturday, Feb. 15: 10 am - Wrestling @ Denmark. 7 pm - HS Musical "Addams Family"/WCAC.
Sunday, Feb. 16: Worship at the Church of Your Choice. 2 pm - HS Musical "Addams Family"/WCAC.
Monday, Feb. 17: 3 pm - Cemetery


Mtg./Municipal Ctr. 4:30 pm - Public Safety Mtg./Municipal Ctr.
Tuesday, Feb. 18: SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION DAY. 4:30, 6 & 7:30 pm- Boys' & Girls' JV/V BB Teams @ Lourdes Academy. 5:30 pm - Village Board Mtg./Upper Municipal Ctr.
Wednesday, Feb. 19: The News is out! Subscribe today at winneconne-news.com. 1 pm - Mahjong group/ Public Library.

Lunch Menus

Feb. 17-21
Advocap Lunch Menu
Mon: Spaghetti/meat sauce, corn/peppers/black beans, orange, garlic bread.
Tue: Chicken breast, baked beans, coleslaw, tropical fruit, peanut butter cookie.
Wed: Pork chop suey, broccoli/cauliflower, brown rice, pineapple tidbits, grape juice.
Thurs: Smothered steak, garlic mashed potatoes, peas/corn, fruited Jell-O, rice krispie bar.
Fri: Tuna salad sandwich, salad with cucumbers/tomatoes, carrots/dip, mandarin oranges.
Winneconne Community School District
ES: Along with main entrée and rotating vegetable, garden bar, assorted fruit, PB&J pocket, chef salad, and milk are offered daily.
MS: Along with main entrée, chef salad, rotating salad, fruit bowl, PB&J pocket, turkey (or ham) and cheese sandwich, snacks, garden bar, assorted fruit and milk are offered daily.
Mon.: No School Today.
Tues.: **ES:** Cheeseburger, diced carrots, garden bar. **MS:** Cheese pizza, mixed veggies.
Wed.: **ES:** Orange chicken, broccoli, fried rice. **MS:** Taco bowl, rice pilaf.
Thurs.: **ES:** French toast, baby cakes, sausage patty. **MS:** Popcorn chicken, buttered pasta, cauliflower.
Fri.: **ES:** Cheese pizza, breadstick, green beans. **MS:** BBQ rib patty, onion rings.

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Notice of Spring Primary and Sample Ballots February 18, 2025

Offices of the Village of Winneconne, Town of Winneconne and Town of Vinland Clerks
To the voters of the Village of Winneconne, Town of Winneconne and Town of Vinland.

Notice is hereby given of a spring primary election to be held in Village of Winneconne, Town of Winneconne and Town of Vinland on February 18, 2025, at which the officers named below shall be nominated. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column, together with the questions submitted to a vote, for a referendum, if any, in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters
Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification*
- sign the poll book**

*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

**If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word "exempt."

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote, but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

The voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which he or she intends to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the write-in line. On referendum questions, the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "no" if opposed to the question.

When using an electronic ballot marking device ("Automark," "ExpressVote," "Clear Access" or "ImageCast Evolution-ICE") to mark an optical scan ballot, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "no" if opposed to the question.

Where Touch Screen Voting is Used

The voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen at "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen at "no" if opposed to the question.

Spoiled Ballots

If a voter spoils a paper or optical scan ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

The voter may spoil a touch screen ballot at the voting station before the ballot is cast.

After an official optical scan ballot is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter shall insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the voter shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official touch screen ballot is cast, the voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

The following is a sample of the official ballot. Ann Wassinger, Village of Winneconne Clerk; Yvonne Zobel, Town of Winneconne Clerk, Karen Brazee, Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Vinland.

Published 2-12-25
WNAXLP

Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office
February 18, 2025

Ballot ID: 8220

Notice to voters: if you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two (2) election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials (see end of ballot for initials).

General Instructions	County Executive
<p>If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help (absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).</p> <p>To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●</p> <p>To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●</p>	<p>County Executive Vote for 1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jon Doemel</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John Matz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Gordon Hintz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p>

State Superintendent of Public Instruction
<p>State Superintendent Vote for 1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jeff Wright</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Brittany Kinser</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jill Underly</p> <p><input type="radio"/> write-in:</p>

Continue voting at top of next column.	Ballot issued by	For Official Use Only				
<p>Official Primary Ballot Nonpartisan Office February 18, 2025</p> <p>for</p> <p>Village of Winneconne, Wards 1 - 4</p> <p>Winnebago County</p> <p>Ballot ID: 8220</p>	<p>Initials of election inspectors</p> <hr/> <p>Absentee ballot issued by</p> <p>Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk</p> <hr/> <p>If issued by SVDs, both must initial</p>	<p>Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Overvoted</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Damaged</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>				
	<p>Certification of Voter Assistance I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.</p> <p>Signature of assistor</p> <hr/>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Initials of inspectors who remade ballot</p>	If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here:	If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here:		
If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here:	If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here:					

POLLING INFORMATION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF WINNECONNE

FEB. 18, 2025 – SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION

POLLING PLACE:

WINNECONNE MUNICIPAL CENTER
BOARD ROOM – LOWER LEVEL

30 S. 1st Street
WINNECONNE, WI 54986
POLLING HOURS: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Handicapped Accessible

Ann Wasinger, Winneconne Village Clerk
clerk@winneconnewi.gov or 920-582-4381

Published 2-12-25
WNAXLP

LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE

At the Spring Primary Election to be held on February 18, 2025 in the Town of Winneconne, the following polling place location will be used for the wards indicated:

Location	Wards
Winneconne Town Hall 6494 County Road M	Wards 1-4

ALL POLLING PLACES WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.
All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Yvonne Zobel
6494 County Road M
920-582-3260
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 4pm

Published 2-12-25
WNAXLP

Notice of Location and Hours of Polling Place

At the Spring Primary to be held on February 18, 2025, in the Town of Vinland, the following polling place location will be used for the wards indicated.

Location

Town of Vinland, Town Hall
6085 County Rd T, Oshkosh
Wards 1-2

All polling places will open at 7:00 A.M. and will close at 8:00 P.M. All polling places are accessible to elderly and voters with disabilities*.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Karen Brazee, Clerk/Treasurer
6085 County Rd. T, Oshkosh, WI 54904
920-235-6953
Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am – 4pm

Published 2-12-25
WNAXLP

Wolf River Town Hall
8800 County Road II
PO Box 338
Fremont, WI 54940
Phone: 920-446-3837
FAX: 920-446-2491

PUBLIC NOTICE Electronic Ballot Tabulation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, of a public test of the electronic ballot tabulation system will be held on Friday, February 14, 2023 at 11:00 p.m. to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count the February 18, 2025 Primary Election votes cast for all offices and on all measures. All tests open to the public.

Town of Wolf River
8800 County Road II, Fremont
Susan Gilbert, Clerk

Published 2-12-25
WNAXLP

The Village of Winneconne will begin accepting 2025 Boat Slip Rental Agreements

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. Monday March 3rd 2025. No applications will be accepted prior to this date. There are eight boat slips for rent located at Waterfront Park.

This will be on a first come basis - so please be prepared and have your forms filled out prior to coming to Village offices. Please read the rental agreement carefully.

#3 states, "The Village shall determine the selection and location of Boat Slip assignments at its sole discretion."

Forms can be picked up at Village Offices located in the Winneconne Municipal Center, 30 South 1st Street. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am to 1pm Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm Please contact Village Offices with any questions you may have at (920) 582-4381 or csr@winneconnewi.gov.

Forms can also be emailed to applicants.

Published 2-12-25
WNAXLP

Classifieds

Miscellaneous

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Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-425-2108 today!

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Cost : 3 months: \$130 • 6 months: \$208 • 1 Year: \$338

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Attorney
920-215-4050
emily@dunhamlawllc.com

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Tales From The Land of Retirement

Winneconne's bubble

By Jeanne Lehr

Have you other Winneconne-ians ever considered how blessed we are? We live in a clean and peaceful village where even winter storms seem to bypass us.



Lehr

While out and about last weekend, I ran into several people I haven't seen in a long time. How much fun it is to catch up and reminisce. There is the occasional whining about taxes and water bills, but on the whole Winneconne is an awesome place to live and raise a family. On that, I think we can all agree.

You could say we live in a bubble. You could say we have a Pollyanna attitude. There are those that say we even turn a deaf ear, wear rose colored glasses, or have blinders on. I personally enjoy our tiny bubble, but I'm not

blind to what's happening in the world around me.

There are two brutal wars going on rendering thousands of casualties. Our own country is trillions of dollars in debt and the spending continues. There are people living on the streets in the most inhuman conditions. There are record-breaking overdose deaths that threaten one and all. And now our country is faced with two major hurricane disasters, fires out of control on the west coast, and a rash of air crashes and malfunctions. But here in our small town we sleep peacefully at night.

Enjoy our bubble but be alert to where the world is going. Be informed but not brainwashed. And above all, give thanks for all the blessings you have in your life as the hard times swirl around us in so many ways.

Reach Jeanne at genie6364@yahoo.com

The Weekly Whisk

Dill Pickle Dip

For those who don't know, my regular job is teaching. Last Friday, before the Super Bowl, we had a "super snack" party in the staff lounge, and a coworker brought in this dill pickle dip. I am going to hold on to this recipe for when I'm asked to bring an appetizer. I'm thinking 4th of July? Or a great boat snack! Anything to get me through the rest of this cold, dark winter!

For questions or comments email weeklywhisk01@gmail.com

16 ounces cream cheese, softened
9 ounces dried beef, chopped
16 ounces dill pickles, chopped
crackers for serving

Using a mixer, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Fold in the chopped pickles and dried beef. Serve immediately or chill until ready to eat with crackers or fresh vegetables.



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Paid for by Matz for County Executive, James Chitwood, treasurer

Sturgeon spearing

FROM PAGE 1

tal of 74 lake sturgeon were harvested on Winnebago, with 30 males, 30 adult females and 14 juvenile females. Based on reports, finding those clear pockets of water is a spearer's best bet at success.

Access issues continue to plague the Upriver lakes (Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne), with lower-than-normal harvest for an opening weekend. Still, that doesn't mean all spearers had issues. A total of 134 sturgeon were speared on these shallower, clearer lakes, which accounted for almost half of the Winnebago total, with only 500 spearers.

Notable harvests for opening weekend included Paul Kasuboski of Berlin, he registered the first fish of the season



Winnecconne News
Spearer Dana Woods with her 58-inch, 48-pd. M2 male sturgeon.

at Critter's at about 8:40 a.m. His first fish ever was taken at about 7:30 a.m.

in the Captain's Cove area. Paul waited 9 years for his tag and harvested a 52" male that was 22.3 pounds.

Doug Nelson notched his tag with a 55" males at his "secret spot" on Lake Poygan. What I love is how he was able to get his son and grandson involved too. His 12-year-old grandson has a transferred tag and is hoping to get his first fish.

Winneconne's own Dana Woods also got in the action with her own harvest of a 48 pound, 58" M2 male. "This one was enough for me, the spear head didn't detach as expected and it made it more complicated, and the pole was hitting the roof of the shack!" She had to throw on an angle too, as the fish was exiting the far side of the hole.

One of the directors of the Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club also tagged out. Just Loehrke got a 62.5 inch 47.3 pound M2 male. As he put it, "I waited eight years for the tag and took 22 minutes." Another nice fish registered at Boom Bay Bar and Grill.

The big fish of the Upriver Lakes goes to Tim Sommer, the newest member of the 100-pound club with a 108.8 pound F4 female, speared on Poygan and registered at Critter's.

Margaret Stadig, DNR Sturgeon Biologist, commented, "Spearers seemed to ecstatic to take to the ice again this year despite the slow start due to poor water clarity and access issues on the Upriver Lakes.

There have already been some incredible fish speared with plenty more season to go."

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