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\$1

VOLUME 154, ISSUE 34

C O U N T Y
C O R N E R

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Serving ice cream fulfills boy's dream

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

When Finley Kuether was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age 4, his parents Becky and Devan knew life was going to completely change.

Sitting around their dining room table, they recounted their journey to a diagnosis – it started with an ear infection. After a round of antibiotics, Finley started to complain of pain in his feet. At first, his doctors thought the infection had settled in his joints. When round-the-clock ibuprofen wasn't working and Finley stopped walking all together, they decided to draw

blood.

Devan described what happened next as a whirlwind. They received a call from their pediatrician who told them they would be seeing hematology/oncology. Devan recalled telling Becky to watch for the doctor's badge when they walk into the room.

"The door opened, and her badge," Devan said. "She turned the corner and her badge swung right through the door and I could see it sideways, and I could see in big blue letters oncology."

After two and a half years of treatment, Finley is cancer free. His last day



Photo from The Well Drive-In
Finley Kuether and his twin sister Emmerson were treated to ice cream as part of a stop at The Well Drive-In made possible by Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and Bob's Towing.

SEE **Make-A-Wish** ON PAGE 4

INSIDE



Reunion reunites former students
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Stage set for football season
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Winneconne News

The circus comes to town

Leo, a clown in the show, tells Friedrick the dog to sit before giving guests a tour of the grounds as the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus stopped for two performances Aug. 13 at Marble Park. Leo rescued Friedrick last year and has been bringing Friedrick with him on tour for socialization. Getting ready for the circus included raising the big top tent, which takes about three hours to set up and an hour and a half to take down after the show is over.

County considers options to implement sales tax

Proposal could generate over \$17 million annually

By Bethanie Gengler
Winneconne News

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors was set to discuss a proposal to implement a 0.5% countywide sales tax at a county board meeting Tuesday.

Under Wisconsin law, counties may adopt the tax, which is added to the state's



Hintz

Winnebago County Executive's Office,

5% sales tax rate, bringing the total to 5.5% in participating counties. Waukesha and Winnebago are the only counties in the state that don't have a sales tax.

According to projections from the

the average household spends an estimated \$20,000 per year on taxable purchases. With an additional 0.5% sales tax, the average household would see an increase of about \$100 annually, or \$8.33 each month.

County Executive Gordon Hintz said a presentation on the proposed county sales tax was going to take place at this week's county board meeting. Supervisors after the presentation were to vote on a reso-

lution submitted by Supervisor Chuck Farrey directing staff to draft an ordinance with specific conditions for the tax. The ordinance would return to the board later this year for a final vote, possibly at a meeting in October.

Hintz said the tax could generate about \$17 million annually, while the resolution submitted by Farrey estimated \$20 mil-

SEE **County sales tax** ON PAGE 2



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Corrections

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A Boom Bay man used his personal plane to fly over one of the original picnics in the 70s and take photos.

Submitted photo

Boom Bay Heights picnic set to return

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

After a five-year hiatus, the Boom Bay Heights Improvement Association is bringing back the Boom Bay Heights picnic to celebrate its 50th anniversary from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 30.

When the picnic originally began, families from the Chicago-land area and Racine were moving into the area. Boom Bay was a cottage town and only 25% of the residents were permanent. Now, that percentage has flipped, but many of the original families are still there.

The event became so popular that the community built recreational buildings to replace the tents they were setting up each year. Peggy Benjamine, a member of the improvement association and a picnic organizer, said that everyone pitched in

to do everything from laying concrete to wire electrical.

Many of the founding members of the picnic have passed away, but new families with young children have moved in and offered to help bring it back.

"This year, I said come hell or high water," Benjamine said.

Gold Metal Sound DJ is starting off the day with a set from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Back n' Kickin will take the evening slot from 5:30 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Beer, beverages and food will be available for purchase all day, and the event features a basket and craft raffle. Specialty prizes include a signed football from Packers quarterback Jordan Love. There will also be a cash raffle with the top prize being \$2,000.

Kids' games and activities will take

place all day and prizes will be drawn every hour. All proceeds from a dunk tank featuring members of the Boom Bay Fire Department will go back to the department. Fire and rescue trucks will be displayed for photo opportunities.

The Boom Bay Heights Improvement Association donates two \$500 scholarships to the Winneconne Community School District and two to the Weyauwega-Fremont School District for students going into the trades through fundraising at this event.

Those looking to donate or become a sponsor can do so by contacting Boom Bay Heights Improvement Association through their Facebook page. This event is cash only and is located at 7754 Boom Bay Heights Road in Larsen.

County sales tax

FROM PAGE 1

lion. According to the resolution, 30% of the revenue would be shared with municipalities.

Hintz said no county in the state shares more than 10% of sales tax revenue with municipalities.

"I'm actually not very supportive of revenue sharing," he said. "I mean, we have county needs, and we also have the ability to lower property taxes, if the county is

going to consider (a sales tax) again."

One of the key arguments for the sales tax is that it would capture revenue from nonresidents who use county services.

"It was estimated in the past that like 20 to 25 percent of the revenue generated by a sales tax comes from nonresidents, so people that come to Winnebago County for EAA or for Lifest, they use county services, but they don't pay anything," he said. "We could take the revenue generated from nonresidents and lower property taxes for the people who live here to help pay for county services."



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School reunion brings former students back together

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Winchester Area Historical Society on Saturday held a Winchester Elementary School Reunion filled with memories, community and history.

The school has a storied past. It was built in 1958 to combine some of the smaller schools in the neighboring communities and placed under the authority of the Winneconne Community School District (WCSD). When budget shortfalls hit the district in 2010, the school board voted to close the school in a controversial decision.

The building was empty for a few years until the Winchester Area Historical Society bought it from the school district. Now, CESA 6 leases most of the building to use as a school for children with disabilities and the historical society is housed in the old kindergarten classroom.

Saturday's event brought together generations of students and teachers. The hallways were lined with class photos, quotes from past students, a replication of a mural that once lined the walls and old school merch. A memorial wall was hung for students who passed away while the school was open.

A time capsule that was donated to the school in the 1970s was opened during the event. The pamphlet for the first open house, a photo of the original school board and the rosters for all the classes enrolled in the first year were found inside.

The historical society is collecting photos that guests took at the reunion. To submit those, visit [winchesterschoolreunion25](#) on Facebook and scan the QR code.



Winneconne News

Students from one of the last graduating classes of the Winchester Elementary School stand in the historical society's library to find their class photos in the archives.



Winneconne News

Two friends name their fellow classmates as they look through old class photos on the wall along with other visitors to the Winchester Elementary School Reunion.



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Make a Wish

FROM PAGE 1

of chemotherapy was March 8. When the Kuether's were in the hospital with him, they got in contact with volunteers from the Make-a-Wish program. Since Fin's outlook was positive, they decided to wait until he was finished with treatment to use his wish. Devan said they wanted it to be a celebration.

"They really want it to be the child's dream, their wish," Devan said. "The difficult part about it is he's a seven-year-old. So, when we first asked him what he wanted to do, he was like, 'well, I want to go mini golfing.'"

Fin, sitting next to his mom, smiled and gave a small nod. Devan and Becky wanted to do something bigger for him, so they started narrowing down a list.

With the help of Bob's Towing in Appleton and The Well Drive In in Winneconne, Finley and his twin sister Emmerson got to take a ride in a Tesla Cybertruck and work for the day with staff at The Well.

"It was a little creepy," Fin said about the self-driving feature. "You can put your feet off the pedal. I was in there, I'm like, 'what is this place?'"

Make-a-Wish made Fin his own mini Cybertruck fashioned out of a children's battery powered ride-on toy. When asked if his could also drive itself, he said no.

"I can make it drive itself!" Emmerson chimed in.

"How?" Fin said.

"I just let it go straight by itself," Emmerson said, proud of her driving skills. Fin immediately tattled and said Emmerson had recently driven into the fence in their backyard.

Originally, the Kuether's were just go-



Finley Kuether prepares a chocolate ice cream cone while working for a day at The Well Drive-In.

ing to stop at The Well to buy ice cream on their Cybertruck adventure. The Well holds sentimental value to the family. Becky and Devan have frequented the spot since they started dating, Becky's dad works on the plumbing for The Well and they have generations of family photos at The Well spanning back many years.

When Make-a-Wish reached out to Dana Wood, owner of The Well, Wood asked if Finley and Emmerson would like to work for a lunch period.

"It was a phenomenal experience," Devan said. "I mean, we've loved The Well forever, we're oddly attached to Winneconne for some weird reason .. but, as we

were leaving and everything was kind of quieting down, Becky kind of looked at me and she was like, 'I really love this place even more.'"

Finley said his favorite part of the day was making ice cream, though, he said he wasn't too good at it.

"I dropped an ice cream cone on the floor," he said with a big smile.

"And in the sprinkles," Becky said.

"We even got to call out the names," Emmerson said.

The twins spent the afternoon making ice cream, calling out names and serving patrons. Fin said he didn't think he was cut out for the job.

"I dropped two ice creams," he said

when Devan tried to tell him he did great.

"You did better than me Finley," Emmerson said. "Well, I did do pretty good at the dipping in the raspberry."

Emmerson said she wants to work at The Well. When asked if Finley wants a Cybertruck when he's older, he said no, he doesn't want a car or a truck.

"I want a motorcycle," he said, smiling and wiggling his eyebrows up and down. Emmerson wants a Lamborghini.

This summer has been filled with tons of time outside and kids' sports now that Finley is done with treatment and his immune system can handle being around other kids again. Emmerson plays soccer and Fin plays baseball.

"There's some people that complain about this era of kids," Devan said. "That it's just so busy and it's chaotic and you're running here and running there ... Especially with everything that Finley has been through, to us it feels really fun to just be normal. This is a normal kid's life now and they deserve every second of the fun that they get, right?"

"It's nice to stress about normal kid stuff instead of doctor's appointments and his immune system, that sort of thing," Becky said.

Through it all, Devan said Emmerson was Fin's rock and the reason he made it through treatment so well. Even when he was feeling his worst, she could get him up and moving for a little while.

"If there's one thing that came out of this on the positives, our outlook on life has completely changed," Devan said. "The little things that stress most people out about work or driving kids all over the place to sports ... those things don't bother us at all. In fact, we're happy that that's the stressors now."

To see photos and read more about Finley's Make-a-Wish day, visit The Well Drive In on Facebook.

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Shallow Lakes Chronicles

Look up

By Matt Harp
Outdoor Reporter

A few years ago, I was struck by one of the Mile of Music regulars, Jamie Kent, when he performed a new tune he wrote, "Look Up."



Harp

I'll be the first to admit that I spend too much time on my phone; he was warning of the perils of not recognizing such habits and not recognizing opportunities of a lifetime, sadly missed, because we were looking down.

Look up
Life's passing you by

Look up
It's trying to catch your eye
These moments that you're missing
The life that you could be living
This world's about more than making a buck

Look up
This last week I had a great encounter "looking up" when normally I'd be checking scores, news or hunting videos, nestled on the couch, on my phone. I saw a story about the Perseid meteor shower and it happened to be a clear sky, so I just had to take a gander.

In Greek mythology, Perseus is the legendary Greek hero and slayer of monsters before the days of Heracles. The meteor shower tends to come from the direction of the constellation bearing his name. The meteors are remnants of the comet Swift-Tuttle, the earth passes through the remains of the broken-up comet each year on our trip around the sun.

I wasn't even to the end of the driveway – trying to escape the cover of the trees – when the show already kicked off. Not meteors, mind you, but thousands of fireflies hovering and dancing over the 80 acres of soybeans across the street. Their show with the backdrop of the treeline, the light pollution of the Appleton area, and the rising moon - it was quite the display.

The plan was to trespass on my neighbor's field, and get to the poorly-lit middle, but the moon was rising too quickly, and at 80-some percent brightness, it was going to foil my plans. A gorgeous moonrise though, and finally a smoke free one.

Plan B was to head into the shadow of the barn, but dusk-to-dawn lights lining the driveway and, on the buildings, always hamper that viewing spot. Once I found the correct circuit breakers, then I had something.

It takes a while for your eyes to adjust, and as they were, I wasn't sure what I was seeing, it wasn't so much flashes of light, but absence of light. It was my resident bats also out to enjoy the show. They were getting creepily close to my head, so I moved closer to a power pole for a little protection.

Then, there it was. Even with a rising moon, even with the city lights, if you watch one meteor shower in a year, heck a decade, watch the Perseids. The thing about it too is that looking at your phone will only wreck your eyes to the show. Also, they don't video well either, so don't even try. Lose the phone and lose yourself in the vastness of space.

I caught the best view of them in a remote area of Door County about 20 years ago, before cell phones and before Jamie's words. But now it's more important than ever to "look up."



Photo by Doug Sasse

Get lit about reading

Local author Lori Jones visited the Winneconne Public Library's Get Lit Book Club Aug. 13 to discuss her memoir *Spared*. Her story is both emotional and honest, capturing the hearts of readers and educating them at the same time. The ladies were buzzing with excitement, sharing their thoughts and feelings about the book long after the meeting ended. The book club met at the American Legion Giles-Luce Post 364.

Lake Breeze Wednesday Night Golf

Aug. 6		Dave Schroeder	36
North		Jim Yuill	37
Fox Valley Metrology	269.0 pts.	Dave Pohlmann	37
Swing Shack	269.0 pts.	Joe Sarnowski	37
Lake Breeze	264.5 pts.	Mark Larson	38
The Big Show	259.5 pts.	Drew Lichtnam	38
Westward Ho	247.0 pts.	Pete Elias	39
Woodeyes	242.5 pts.	Dave Hoenecke	39
South		Sam Schwierking	39
Bankfirst	277.0 pts.	Low Net Scores	
Rohm	275.5 pts.	John Broderick	31
Reshel	262.0 pts.	Dave Schroeder	31
Tiny	260.5 pts.	Drew Lichtnam	32
Felix Auto & Towing	251.0 pts.	Pete Elias	32
Veterans Mechanical II	227.5 pts.	Kasey Niemuth	32
Low Gross Scores		Dennis Kempken	33
John Broderick	35	Doug Trochinski	33
Rob Grey	35	Rob Grey	33
Adam Rens	36	Bob Hable	33



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The Weekly Whisk

Peach Cobbler Baked Brie

Celebrate the flavors of summer with this Peach Cobbler Baked Brie — a warm, gooey appetizer that brings together juicy seasonal peaches and creamy Brie cheese. Perfect for late-summer gatherings, picnics, or backyard dinners, this dish captures the sweet essence of the season in every bite.

- 1 wheel of brie cheese
- 2 large peaches, diced
- 1/2 lemon
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- drizzle of honey
- toasted baguette slices

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Place the Brie in the center of a baking dish and gently score the top in a crisscross pattern. Arrange the peaches around the cheese, then squeeze half of a lemon over the peaches. Sprinkle the brown sugar evenly over the



peaches and drizzle with honey. Bake for 20 minutes, or until the Brie is melted and the peaches are beginning to caramelize. Serve warm with baguette slices.

For questions or comments email weeklywhisk01@gmail.com

Walk to Defeat ALS to be held at Menominee Park

Winneconne News

An event to support living with ALS will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 20 at the Menominee Park - Kiwanis Shelter in Oshkosh. Registration for the 2025 Walk to Defeat ALS Northeast Wisconsin is now open.

ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease affecting nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. ALS robs people of the ability to walk, talk and eventually breathe. Through an extensive network, the ALS Association is on the ground in all 50 states providing support for people living with ALS and their loved ones by ensuring they have access to critical care programs and services.

Walk to Defeat ALS is the world's largest signature event focused on supporting people living with ALS and their families. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the annual Walk to Defeat ALS. Through Walk to Defeat ALS fundraising efforts, the ALS Association has been able to accelerate the fight against ALS by funding the development of new ALS treatments,

by discovering new ALS genes, by creating new global research collaborations and by significantly expanding access to ALS care.

Walk to Defeat ALS events are more than fundraisers - it's a movement that organizers say unites the community in support of those affected by ALS. Many who participate have a loved one battling ALS while others participate in memory of a loved one who has lost their fight. Some participate simply because they want to make ALS a livable disease for everyone.

Participants are encouraged to fundraise to advance the fight against ALS. Registered participants who raise \$100 or more will receive a commemorative T-shirt. To learn more, to register or donate, visit als.org/WalkNortheastWisconsin.



Ambulance board discusses potential service contract

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Ambulance Board held a contentious meeting on Aug. 14 to discuss a possible service contract with Lifestar EMS.

Attorney Brian Sajdak broke down the initial draft of a service contract line by line to help lead the discussion with members of the board. A few of the board members were ready to sign the contract,

but per the IGA contract, the decision must be unanimous.

Members of the IGA are allowed to pull if they feel that their municipalities' needs aren't met up until the signing of the service contract. Sajdak said the fear of members leaving is causing a stall in the planning process.

"There's two everybody's worried about," Sajdak said in reference to the towns of Black Wolf and Nekimi who are

still in negotiation with the City of Oshkosh. "I think that there's undercurrent from some of the others that I've heard from that there's worries about everybody and whether or not they're going to be in or not."

If a municipality decides to pull out from the IGA, service costs, the location of the facilities and the amount of grant money the IGA will be eligible for will change. Sajdak and Mike Krueger, the EMS operations consultant, are concerned that further contemplation will make it impossible to start providing emergency services by Jan. 1, 2026.

"I have a concern that Oshkosh is going to give Black Wolf and Nekimi some smoking number and then they're out," Krueger said. "And then that increases what we need to charge. And then I worry at least the Village [of Winneconne] goes back to Waushara and then the group starts to fracture."

In some good news for the board, the Omro/Rushford fire department held a special meeting on Aug. 11 to vote on allowing the ambulances to temporarily be housed in the station's extra bays. Fire Chief Jay Treleven reported the firemen voted unanimously to allow it.

"It was unanimous," Treleven said. "We don't ever vote on anything in that department unanimously."

The board was considering the old Dol-

lar General building on Main Street in the City of Omro as a potential station for one of the ambulances. However, Omro's City Administrator Brandon Hennes brought a new location for new construction for the board to consider.

Repurposing an old building for EMS requires building code changes and state examinations that can be costly. To avoid taking on those fees, Hennes suggested a plot of land owned by the City of Omro near the waste management plant.

The location is on the north side of the city, close enough to service both the Town and the Village of Winneconne with suitable response times. The only cost the IGA would need to split is the building costs for the facility. The board currently favors new construction and Hennes will bring it to the City of Omro's council for further consideration.

The next IGA board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Aug. 27 in the Omro Town Hall.



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Sun, Aug 24	2:00-5:30	Dave Steffen Band
Fri, Aug 29	6:00-9:00	Riley
Sat, Aug 30	5:00-9:00	American Platinum
Sun, Aug 31	2:00-6:00	TBD
Mon, Sept 1	1:00-4:00	Kenny James & Reverand Fish



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Submitted photo

Serena Scott from Winneconne High School was among the top 10 artists in the WEA Membership Benefits Annual Art Contest.

Survey shows UWO graduates starting careers locally

Winneconne News

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh leaders released survey results for the class of 2023-24 showing a growing trend of alumni kicking off their careers in the region where they went to school.

The survey showed more than 81% of 2023-24 graduates who worked with UWO's Career and Professional Development (CPD) team (742 students) landed their first career opportunities before finishing college, with many of those jobs in the Fox Valley.

"UWO students see a huge return on their investments, thanks to all the real-world career connections," Chancellor Manohar Singh said Aug. 11 during an event at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. "Why wait until after graduation to get started? Local businesses, hospitals, schools, and government offices are opening doors for our students while they're still progressing through UWO."

Singh sees career opportunities in the area continuing for UWO graduates. The survey showed ThedaCare is the top employer among recent UWO graduates. ThedaCare has hired 48 graduates from that class, more than any other single employer.

"The need for locally generated and locally retained talent is essential to any thriving region," Singh said. "Having community partners like ThedaCare — now building a state-of-the-art ThedaCare Medical Center-Oshkosh just down the river from campus — is a game changer for our students and the local economy."

In addition, Singh and Ed Martini, UWO Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, highlighted more survey findings. More than 91% of Wisconsin natives who graduate from UWO stay in the state (mostly around Fox Valley). That's up from 88% in 2016-17, when UWO started tracking this info.

Plus, they said more than 40% of out-of-state grads from the class of 2023-24 are now calling Wisconsin home and starting their careers here, too.

"UWO's commitment to career readiness and our efforts to build partnerships with Fox Valley companies, nonprofits and government employers is giving students so many outstanding opportunities to apply what they learn right away," Martini said. "It is helping shape future leaders faster, clearly driving alumni success. College here clearly extends beyond the campus. And having so many community and regional partners like ThedaCare invested in students' professional growth and development is making a difference, helping students get one step ahead while driving the region's growth and economic vibrancy."

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Art students earn statewide recognition

Winneconne News

Two art students from Winneconne High School were recently awarded as top 10 artists in the WEA Membership Benefits Annual Art Contest.

Senior Kambelle Syth and recent graduate Serena Scott both received \$500 as finalists.

"Your creativity, passion, and dedication to the arts have truly shone through in your exceptional works," WEA said in announcing the finalists. "Each piece submitted reflected incredible talent and artistic vision, making the selection process both inspiring and challenging."

Inspired by a family tradition of watching sunsets in Door County, Syth turned a meaningful memory into a vibrant painting full of connection and joy. Using an edited reference photo, Syth sketched the scene and painted from sky to shore with acrylics, embracing expression over complete realism.

Scott was described as being inspired by a birthday picnic with her closest friends who used oil pastel stippling to capture one of her happiest memories. Every stippled detail celebrates the joy of simple moments shared outdoors.



Submitted photo

Kambelle Syth painted Door County Bliss because it holds a special place in her heart.

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Football team looks to build on last season's success

By Steve Clark
Winneconne News

A year ago when the Winneconne Wolves set sail on the football season, outside expectations weren't all that lofty.

The program was coming off a winning season that included a postseason win, but the team was expected to send a wealth of juniors onto the field and were facing some strong programs in the Bay Conference.

"We were picked to finish fifth in the conference before the season and we won conference. We surprised a lot of people," said Ryan Krings, who shares head coaching duties with Nate Ryf. "This year, they all know what we are about and the other teams are all going to be working to beat us."

It means that despite putting up an unbeaten regular season and advancing to the Division 4 state semifinals, the Wolves can't rely on last year's accomplishments paying any dividends this year. They can revel in what the team accomplished and certainly be proud of it, but there is no carry-over toward wins and losses this season.

But what the Wolves did last year and what they return to the roster from that squad certainly sets the stage for a potential special season.

"I feel like us, as a team, we're in a pretty good spot," said senior quarterback/defensive back Brody Schaffer. "We don't focus too much on what happened last year, but we are excited for the opportunity this year. We know we have some good pieces to do our thing and have a great team."

Schaffer will likely once again be the lynchpin for the Wolves success after a breakout junior season. The University



Photo by Doug Sasse

Senior Brody Schaffer earned all-Bay Conference first-team honors on both offense and defense last season and will anchor a talented and veteran Winneconne squad which opens the season at Little Chute on Friday.

of Iowa recruit was the Offensive Player of the Year in the Bay Conference as well as being named the Offensive Back of the Year and Defensive Back of the Year honors.

As a versatile quarterback, Schaffer ran for 1,774 yards and a whopping 31 touchdowns, while also throwing for 1,800 yards and 17 touchdowns and is expected to once again spearhead the Wolves' attack.

"He's going to be utilized in the same way he was last year – he's the best player on the team so you're going to put the ball in his hands," Krings said. "We have a couple of new players that we have to work into the mix with him, but we have a lot of the supporting cast that are coming back to help."

Krings said how the offense looks will depend on what teams come up with to try to stop the Wolves.

"Everybody will be looking at Brody so we are waiting to see what teams are going to do (defensively)," Krings said. "Are they going to play for Brody or are they going to play for the team? Then we have to ad-

just."

Schaffer may be the driving force for the Wolves, but he has plenty of talent and experience around him to lean on.

Senior running back Bryce Jones was a second-team all-Bay Conference selection a year ago and averaged five yards a carry while totaling nearly 700 yards on the ground. Junior receiver Ryan Quigley returns after leading the team with 40 receptions and nine touchdowns while also picking up second-team honors.

Up front, Winneconne returns three offensive linemen who earned all-conference recognition, led by Illinois State recruit Hudson Samolinski who was a unanimous first-team selection. Fellow seniors Jessie Michaud and Hugh Sleeman were second team and honorable mention selections, respectively.

The Wolves will have to replace stand-out tight end Jack Quigley, but Krings said that both seniors Jordan Nettekoven and Cal Volp will both be used in that role this season, while senior Karter Hawthorne and junior Mason Mathe and senior Joseph Hutchison will be contributors at the skill positions on offense.

Defensively, Samolinski and Michaud on the defensive line, Schaffer at defensive back and linebacker Trey Zemke are all returning first-team all-conference players that will be the leaders of the unit.

Four-year varsity player Jovan Zeller at outside linebacker and Hawthorne at defensive back also return after earning honorable mention all-conference honors a year ago.

"We have more leaders than we did last year," said Zemke, who is the top returning tackler from last season at an outside linebacker spot. "Our whole team brings

the juice day in and day out which means everyone is bringing the energy and hyping guys up at practice. I feel that is way stronger this year."

The Wolves' defense allowed more than 21 points only twice in 13 games last year and held six opponents to 11 points or less. In its three playoff wins, Winneconne surrendered just 29 points total.

"Our coaching staff knew how good our defense was," Krings said. "We didn't know that right away. We knew we had the talent and it was just getting the players to mesh and meld and put it all together."

Playing together is one of the ways that Winneconne has the chance to be a better team than last season.

Having so many new starters, it took some time for the group to gel on the field but that won't be the case this year with so much varsity experience.

"We had a lot of younger guys last year and I think we learned how to play together. I feel like we have that advantage going into the season in that we have that experience together," Schaffer said. "We have a better idea of how to prepare for teams and play to our strengths. I feel like we have a better grasp of who we are as a team and that's something that is very important to us."

Having that strong chemistry is something that will be important, knowing the bull's-eye the team has on its back after last season.

These Wolves, though, are ready for the challenge.

"Our whole team hopes we get the best from every opponent. That makes us better," Zemke said. "A lot of people probably think there is pressure on us but we really don't feel any pressure at all. We know how we can perform and hopefully live up to our standards."

With the talent and experience on the roster and coming off of last season's extended postseason run, the expectations are certainly high with this year's squad.

But that doesn't mean the team has its sights on playoff success already. The common adage of taking it one game at a time is something the coaching staff has stressed and the players have taken to heart.

"One of the things we have to do this year is keep them grounded," Krings said. "We don't want them looking too far in the future. Ultimately, I think it's everybody's goal to be (at Camp Randall) but we haven't talked about it to the team. Right now, our goal is to win the conference again – get through the Bay Conference teams. If we look past them, that's when we are going to lose it."

Added Schaffer: "Everyone expects to win because that's the standard here, but we don't get too caught up in what could happen. We know our ceiling and we know our capabilities. (Playing at state) is talked about once in a while but we have done a good job of knowing that in our minds but putting our heads down and working."

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 Mondays: 10 a.m. - Bible Study.

Lord of the Lakes
 (ELCA) Church
 6090 Harbour South
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 Pastor Kevin Heffernan
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 Pastor Darin Warnecke
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 Thursday: 7 p.m. - Al-Anon.
 Please refer to the district website for available AA meetings in the area.

Kaiser, Rust return to lead revamped girls golf group

Winneconne News
 Winneconne's girls golf team lost its top three players from last year to graduation, but head coach Chris Peters believes the group can be competitive this season despite a lineup overhaul.
 The Wolves will be led by varsity returnees Jada Kaiser and Mia Rust, both seniors. The duo was part of Winneconne's sectional qualifying effort last fall as the Wolves placed a close third at the regional tournament.
 Kaiser finished just outside of the top 10 at the Bay Conference meet where Winneconne secured a fourth-place finish and challenging the top teams in the

league is once again on the goal sheet for the Wolves.
 "We hope to be competitive in the Bay Conference," commented Peters. "We have finished in the top four conference-wise the past two seasons and have qualified for sectionals, as well. If we play to our capabilities, we should hopefully be one of the top three schools in the conference ... and continue our recent run of postseason success."
 Shawano won the team title at the Bay Conference meet, while Seymour advanced to the state meet, and Peters expects both teams to be at the top of the conference again this season. West De

Pere edged Winneconne for third place at the conference tournament a year ago.
 In addition to the veterans Kaiser and Rust, senior Emma Cegielski and sophomore Taryn Meyer are likely to step into the varsity lineup this season, while the final slot remains up for grabs.
 Peters believes a strong freshman class could generate the player to fill out the varsity lineup although time will tell who that may be.
 "We have seven freshmen out who will be learning the game early on and competing for playing time come September," commented Peters.



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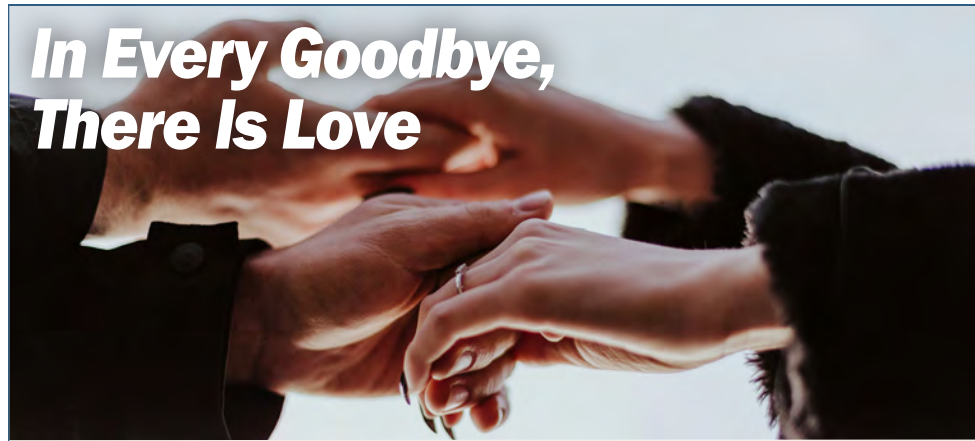
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Wednesday: Pork Chop Suey. Broccoli and Cauliflower. Brown Rice. Pineapple Tidbits. Grape Juice.

Thursday: Frozen. Smothered Steak. Mashed Potatoes. Peas and Corn. Fruited Jell-O.

Friday: Tuna Salad Sandwich. Romaine and Spinach Salad. Fresh Carrots with Dip. Mandarin Oranges.

Calendar

Thursday, Aug. 21

Wayne Neumann, 5 p.m., Bee Hive Barn and Grill

Friday, Aug. 22

Form the Family Golf Outing, 8:30 a.m., Lake Breeze Golf Course

Jay Edward Band, 6 p.m., Fin 'n' Feather

Saturday, Aug. 23

Adult Basketball, 6:30 a.m., WHS Gym

Tilly's Too Memorial Golf Outing Honoring Conner Bingham, 9 a.m., Winchester Hills Golf Course, Larsen

Navis and Bautz a.k.a. Rock River 2, 5 p.m., Tilly's Too, 5017 Washington St., Butte des Morts

Steak Fry, 5 p.m., Jorgie's

Kory Koonan, 5 p.m., Fin 'n' Feather

Sunday, Aug. 24

Cottage Collective Ribbon Cutting, 10 a.m., 118 E. Main St.

Historical Society Museum open, noon-4 p.m., Marble Park

Dave Steffan Band, 2 p.m., Fin 'n' Feather

er
 Wisconsin Symphonic Winds, 3 p.m., WHS auditorium

Minus One, 3 p.m., Bee Hive Barn and Grill

Monday, Aug. 25

Winneconne Men's Club Golf Outing, 8:45 a.m., Lake Breeze Golf Course

Picture Day, 10 a.m., Winneconne Elementary School

Open House, 5 p.m., Grades 7 and 8

Tuesday, Aug. 26

Wealth Wisdom: Smart Strategies for Financial Success with Brian Tisler (registration required), 4:30 p.m., Public Library

Wednesday, Aug. 27

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Wisconsin Herd Joe Wolf Memorial Golf Outing, 8 a.m., Lake Breeze Golf Course

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Obituaries

Russell Dale Graunke Sr.
 Russell Dale Graunke Sr., age 89 years old, of Winneconne, WI, passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on Sunday, August 10, 2025. He was born on May 2, 1936, in Turtle Lake, WI to Emil and Mildred Graunke on the family's dairy farm. A childhood rich in nature, hard work and fresh milk, the family was poor, especially after Mildred became a single mother when Russell was 13 years old. In 1952 He moved to Chicago, IL to join his brother Jerry to help support the family. Russell joined the U.S. Army serving his country in Germany. After, he began a long and successful career in manufacturing in the "Box Biz."

On October 17, 1982, Russell married his soul mate, Shirley Jean Skafte of Neenah, WI. Inseparable and deeply in love, they traveled the world, delighted in spending time with family and friends, and built a beautiful home and life together in Winneconne, WI.

Russell will be remembered for his sense of humor, love of family, many friends, boating, fishing, golfing, and his adoration of his wife, Shirley.

Russell is survived by his wife, Shirley Jean Graunke; his children, Russell

Band to present World of Music concert

Winneconne News
 The Wisconsin Symphonic Winds will present A World of Music concert at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Winneconne High School auditorium.

The group is a volunteer concert band made up of musicians from throughout the Fox Valley region, said Dr. Devin Otto, WSW director and director of bands at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Dale (Ruth) Graunke Jr., Pamela Anne (Jay) Kilby, Paula Grace (Chris Foltman) Graunke, Katie (Andrew) Stone; twelve grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; siblings, Gerald (Barbara) Graunke, James (Alison) Graunke, Mary (Johnny) Anderson, and Theresa (Wayne) Rylski; sister-in-law, Carol Ventura; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Mildred Graunke; and a brother, Robert Graunke.

A visitation for family and friends will be on Saturday, August 16, 2025, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Lord of the Lakes Lutheran Church 6090 Harbour South (corner of Harbour South and Hwy 116) Winneconne. A funeral service will be held on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the church with Pastor Kevin Heffernan officiating. Military honors will follow. Burial will be in the Grace Lutheran Cemetery, Winchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Lord of the Lakes Lutheran Church.

The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to the caregivers of Heartland Hospice and Home Instead for their care, compassion, support and kindness shown to Russell.

Mueller Funeral Home-Winneconne is assisting the family, If you wish, please submit online condolences/memories to muellerfh.net.



Boys & Girls Club Alumni to host golf outing

Winneconne News
 The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Alumni group is holding its fourth annual golf outing Sept. 15 in support of club members. The outing, presented by NTD, will take place at Westhaven Golf Club in Oshkosh. Registration begins at 8 a.m., followed by a four-person scramble at 9 a.m.

All of the proceeds raised from the outing will benefit Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh Club members by providing scholarships to attend the club, where they receive homework help, participate in educational programs, access mental health services, receive basic needs support, and enjoy a safe, supportive environment. With your support, the Alumni group has raised more than \$41,000 since holding its

first golf outing in 2022. The cost to golf is \$100 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf and cart, registration gift, lunch, and the opportunity to take part in a 50/50 raffle, bucket raffle and a chance to win prizes for the top golfers. Additional raffles may also be featured throughout the day. A social hour will follow after golf. This is a cashless event and guests must be at least 21 years old to participate.

To golf in the Alumni & Friends Golf Outing, register online at bgcosh.org. To support the outing with a sponsorship or by donating a raffle basket or prize, contact Bethany Ferguson, Development & Grants Coordinator, at 920-233-1414 x122 or bethanyf@bgcosh.org.

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Town of Wolf River Board Meeting
 Will be held on
 Monday, August 25, 2025
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Respectfully submitted,
 Susan J. Gilbert, Clerk

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED

Notices are mailed or e-mailed by the clerk for posting at the following locations: Union Star, Hahn-a-Lula Resort and are posted at the Wolf River Town Hall, and Fremont Post Office.

Published August 20, 2025
 WNAXLP

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 Town of Wolf River
 Winnebago County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 The Board of the Town of Wolf River will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, located at 8800 County Road II, Fremont, Wisconsin, on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. to consider the following:

Amend the Town of Wolf River All-Terrain Vehicle Route Ordinance to more closely align with the new Winnebago County ATV ordinance.

A copy of all proposed changes will be available for review at the town's website, the town hall, and the Fremont Post office.

All interested persons wishing to be heard at the Public Hearings are invited to be present.

Respectfully submitted,
 Susan J. Gilbert, Clerk

Dated this 1st day of August, 2025

Susan J. Gilbert, Clerk
 Town of Wolf River

Published Date August 6 & August 20, 2025
 WNAXLP

WINNECONNE NEWS
 YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS SOURCE

920-582-4541
 908 E. Main St., Winneconne, WI 54986

Labor-Day-Early-Deadlines

Deadlines for SEPT. 3RD
 Display ad deadline: **Wed. 8/27 Noon**
 Classified deadline: **Wed. 8/27 4pm**
 Obituary deadline: **Fri. 8/29 Noon**

<p style="text-align: center;">Advertising missy@winneconne.com 920-410-5418</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Classified Advertising customerservice@winneconne.com 920-582-4541</p>
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Poygan Poy Sippi Sanitary District Standby Generators RFQ

This RFQ is for the purchase and installation of one (1) 24KW (minimum) and six (6) 18 KW (minimum) air cooled standby generators (120/240 VAC, single phase, 60 Hz, Generac preferred) with batteries, outdoor automatic transfer switches (service entrance rated) and cold weather kits for the Poygan-Poy Sippi Sanitary District (PPSSD) lift stations. Removal of existing service disconnects. Installation to include generator base, natural gas line hookup (coordinate with Alliant Energy), connection with existing portable generator transfer switch and receptacle and generator system commissioning. Please include a price breakdown, terms and approximate timeline with the quote. Also provide information on available maintenance contracts.

Please submit quote by 9/2/2025 and forward to:

David Pritzl (PPSSD Generator Quote)
 8410 O'Connell Resort Road
 Winneconne, WI 54986

or email to: dpritzl@northnet.net, subject line: PPSSD Generator Quote

Quotes will reviewed at the 9/3/2025 PPSSD meeting. The PPSSD reserves the right to reject any or all quotes.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact David Pritzl at (920) 420-3671.

Published 8/20 and 8/27, 2025
 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Vinland Town Board will hold a public hearing at the Vinland Town Hall; 6085 County Rd T, Oshkosh on Monday, September 8th at 6:45pm to consider the following applications for a Zoning Change and Conditional Use Permit. Said meeting will follow the Plan Commission meeting of August 27th at 6:30pm.

A decision may be made by the Town Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting after this first public hearing and or the item(s) listed below may be posted on agenda notices for discussion by the Plan Commission and/or the Town Board until a final decision is made.

BE ADVISED: Notices are only sent to neighboring properties within the 300 feet prior to the 1st hearing. Public comment on the issue will be accepted at all meetings until a final decision is made.

Description of Subject Site:

Applicant: Precision Property Group LLC c/o Will Yates
Tax Parcel: 026063904
Location: Northeast corner lot of Indian Point Rd and County Rd A
Explanation: To change current zoning from B-1 (General Commercial District) to B-3 (General Business District) zoning; and establish CUP for storage building

Mike McNamee, Zoning Administrator

Published August 20th
 WNAXLP

For Sale

HOSTA, WISCONSIN METAL ART and a YARD FULL of TREASURES to explore at 2110 Rabbit Trail Road, Ripon which is 12 miles west of Oshkosh off of Hwy 91. Open 10-5, August 22, 23, 24. Absolutely no early sales. CASH or CHECK only! 300 varieties of fully rooted, landscape ready HOSTA. And isles of fun, JUNK TREASURES! Galvanized tubs and pails, large heart plant hangers, tin men garden art, garden lanterns and tables, chicken feeders and hundreds more unusual and unique things! METAL ART moose, bucks, does, eagles, dragonflies, flowers and butterflies for your yard.

Miscellaneous

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-748-6332

School staff go on scavenger hunt through community

By Anya Kelley
Winneconne News

For the last four years, the Winneconne Community School District (WCSD) has hosted a scavenger hunt for their new staff.

When Megan Paulik, an instructional coach at the elementary school, started five years ago, she spent much of her first year feeling isolated from Winneconne. She joined a team of three other employees from the district to brainstorm a way for new colleagues to get to know the community.

“We wanted to make sure that all of our employees knew how powerful and fantastic all the businesses are that we have right here in the Village of Winneconne,” Paulik said.

New staff are paired with what WCSD calls a veteran staffer who functions as their mentor for the first two years they work in the district. The veteran staff then lead the scavenger hunt around all the most popular locations in the village.

“That also creates an opportunity for them to bond and create a strong relationship,” Paulik said. “Then they have a pretty strong friendship/relationship where they can work with one another.”

Sometimes, all they have to do is snap a quick picture in front of a business or hunt for a piece of WCSD merchandise at Winneconne Thrift & Gift. Other businesses like The Well gift them a free ice cream cone or a voucher for a free shake from Anchor Nutrition.

“It’s just a really nice afternoon for them to enjoy each other’s company, to get to know Winneconne, to find some of those little hidden gems that Winneconne has to offer,” Paulik said.

A cornerstone of their hunt is the Win-



Danielle Tindall-Bastain and Becky Mueller make a stop at Go Fetch as part of the Winneconne Community School District’s scavenger hunt for staff members. Submitted photo

neconne Public Library. There, teachers receive a special teacher card.

“Our library in Winneconne will pull anything for any teacher,” Paulik said. “And then you also don’t get fines on your Winneconne teacher card.”

They also tour the district administra-

tion offices and get to know Peggy Larson, district administrator, and the district support staff.

“[The instructional staff] get them off and ready and create that bond and relationship and that culture,” Paulik said. “But we really couldn’t do this day with-

out all of admin and our superintendent’s support.”

The first day of school is Sept. 2 for K-9 grade and Sept. 3 for 10-12 grade. WCSD is hosting a Winneconne Middle School Referendum Project Dedication Celebration from 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 14.

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maekosciuk@winneconnenews.com

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