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Signs pave the road to service

BY GRACIE GIESE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN – Whether you remember him from his days appearing on television or have seen him in action serving the people of Green Bay, Bob Hornacek has been a staple of the community.

From decades in journalism to working with Paul's Pantry, Hornacek certainly has a story of dedication in community service.

Before beginning his journey at the Green Bay food pantry Paul's Pantry, Hornacek worked as a journalist and investigative reporter for Fox 11 News.

Over the course of 20 years, he would also host "CW 14 Focus," where Hornacek worked on over 200 episodes featuring interviews with prominent communities.

His first ever episode was with Craig Robbins, executive director of Paul's Pantry, beginning a serendipitous series of events that lead Bob to the company many years later.

In 2017, Hornacek was ordained as a deacon in the Catholic Church.

"It's a very service-oriented ministry," Hornacek noted.

As service became a more important part of his faith, Bob began looking at professional service opportunities within the Green Bay community.

While he hoped that an opportunity would align itself with his job contract ending, "all of the sudden every opportunity [he] was looking at disappeared."

It wasn't until 2019 — close to his next contract expiring — that Bob saw a posting for an assistant executive director role at Paul's Pantry.

The position would entail "learning the whole operation, forwards, backwards, everything."

Hornacek was not immediately sold on the position, but over the



Bob Hornacek, left, said that his job at Paul's Pantry has continued to bring him into encounters with a wide variety of people.

Submitted photo

following weeks the role weighed on his mind and Bob shared, "it almost got to the point where it was keeping me up at night."

Hornacek couldn't shake the call to service at Paul's Pantry, telling that on a rare occasion of bringing his eldest two sons to school and "having an argument in [his] head with God" that "some people might call prayer" he suddenly felt a calling from God to service.

During this awakening Hornacek asked God for a sign, and "at that moment, from the other direction, a big Paul's Pantry truck pulled out right in front of [him]."

After this, Bob turned in his application to the pantry.

The signs would continue during the interview process, with the repetition of seeing Mathew 25.

This passage appeared in a book he borrowed from his church, a radio show opening and his parish's bulletin and even on the side of Paul's Pantry.

Bob went in for what he

See **HORNACEK** page 7

Before beginning his journey at the Green Bay food pantry Paul's Pantry, Hornacek worked as a journalist and investigative reporter for Fox 11 News. Over the course of 20 years, he would also host "CW 14 Focus."



Submitted photo

Wisconsin voters with disabilities demand a better way to vote absentee

BY ALEXANDER SHUR
VOTEBEAT/NEW NEWS LAB

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN – When Stacy Ellingen, a 38-year-old Oshkosh resident with athetoid cerebral palsy, wants to cast a ballot, she relies on voting absentee, because she can't drive, and caregiver transportation to the polls is unreliable.

But even voting from her home is a struggle — and the process may well mean sacrificing her constitutional right to a secret ballot.

Unlike more than a dozen other states providing fully electronic absentee voting for people with disabilities, Wisconsin requires absentee voters to cast their votes on a paper ballot.

Ellingen, a university graduate and small business owner, lacks the fine motor skills to fill out a paper ballot herself.

She's welcome to use help under current law, but Ellingen said she prefers not to have her caregivers assist, because she usually feels uncomfortable sharing her political preferences with them.

At times, she has turned to her parents, who live an hour away, for help filling out ballots, but they're not always around.

Ellingen knows her obstacles under current law may only increase.



Don Natzke, 69, who is blind, was unable to vote in Wisconsin's April elections as COVID-19 kept him from his in-person polling place and he was unable to fill out an absentee ballot.

Will Cioci/Wisconsin Watch photo

"Each election, a question always comes to mind: What's going to happen when my parents are no longer here?" she said. "Will I be able to vote? I honestly don't know. It's a disheartening, but very real thought. Having to rely on my mom or dad for something I could easily do independently if given the appropriate accommodation is extremely frustrating."

Ellingen is among four voters with disabilities who, along with Disability Rights Wisconsin and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, sued the Wisconsin Elections Commission to allow them to receive and return absentee ballots electronically, just as military and overseas voters in

many other states do.

The lawsuit alleges that the state's election system places undue burdens on the right to vote for Wisconsinites with disabilities. It also alleges that the state's failure to provide accommodations within its absentee ballot system violates the Americans with Disabilities Act's guarantees that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to benefit from government services.

Wisconsin Elections Commission spokesperson Riley Vetterkind declined to comment for this story.

The issue isn't unique to Wisconsin.

Nationwide, 1 in 7 voters with disabilities faced difficulties voting in 2022, compared with 1 in 9 in 2020, according to a Rutgers University and SSRS analysis.

Americans with vision and cognitive disabilities were likeliest to face difficulties voting, the analysis found.

And Americans with disabilities were far likelier than nondisabled Americans to run into difficulties voting, whether absentee or at the ballot box.

Push for accessible voting grew during COVID-19

The Wisconsin case is similar to several successful lawsuits filed across the country.

See **VOTE** page 5



A beacon of light

Algoma Area Chamber of Commerce presented their Beacon awards on April 29 at the Robert Ray Gallery Lakeside Event Space. Pictured from left are Rosemary Paladini, executive director, Algoma Area Chamber of Commerce; Eddie & Jen Owen of Timber Trail Campground, Rose Improvement Award; Russ & Kim Nockerts of Steel Belly BBQ, Rising Star Award; John & Kim Lyon of Ladybug Glass – Studio & Gallery, Tower Business Award; and Pat Qualman, Lighthouse Award; Algoma School District Superintendent Jesse Brinkman, Lantern Education Award.

Courtesy Algoma Chamber of Commerce

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Prom 2024

LEFT: Aluma High School 2024 prom court, pictured front row from left: Elizabeth Meode and Murphy Hackett; back row: Isaac Yunk, Sierra Slaby, Alex Kirchman, Kirsten Feld, Connor Lohrey, MyLee Jones, John Kirchman, Kenna Bishop, Chase Romdenne, Nora Krause, Hunter O'Hern, Vivika Meverden, Aiden Tweedy, Brooke Mattson, Carson Leist, Olivia Cabino, Jordan Fenendael, Maisen Luedke and Ethan Moore. **Submitted photos**



Luxemburg-Casco's 2024 Prom Court consisted of Hudson Thiry & Kacie Jorgensen, Riley Richards & Morgan DeJardin, Matthew Brand & Whitney Froelich, Blake Jauquet & Erin Cherovsky, Carson Blohowiak & Marissa Annoye, Caleb Salentine & Katie Ledvina, Landon Derenne & Lauren Lindsley, Reagan Doell & Campbell Onell, Andrew Klass & McKenna Rank and Caleb Radart & Emma Murphy.



Kewaunee's 2024 Prom King and Queen were Cooper Kolmorgen & Braelyn Witcpalek. Pictured in the first row from left: Alice Bergo & Dylan Peot and miniatures Odette Kolmorgen & Cohwyn Tietjen; middle row: Brianna Demmin & Justin Lischka and Jocelyn Van Pay & Jesus Rodriguez; back row: Baleigh Saxby & Jackson Wisnicky, Addi Gretz & Tyler VanGoethem and Lexie Hanrahan & Toby Kunkel.

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



Happy Mother's Day!



In the beginning,
I was too tiny,
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Algoma School District to launch summer school program



School Scoop

BY JESSE BRINKMANN
ALGOMA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

As the 2023-24 school year begins to wrap up, the Algoma School District is gearing up to kickstart an engaging and enriching summer school program, promising an array of exciting opportunities for students to explore, learn and grow during the upcoming vacation months.

Majority of courses are scheduled to commence on June 10 and run through June 28, the summer school initiative aims to provide students with an extended learning experience that goes beyond traditional academic settings.

With a diverse range

of courses and activities tailored to various interests and learning styles, the program seeks to foster creativity, critical thinking and personal development among participants.

This year's summer school curriculum features a mix of academic courses, hands-on workshops and recreational activities designed to appeal to students of all ages and grade levels.

From mathematics and science to art, music, and physical education, the program offers something for everyone, ensuring that students have the opportunity to explore their passions and discover new

interests.

"We are excited to launch our summer school program and provide students with an enriching and enjoyable learning experience," said Mrs. Katie Servi, Algoma Elementary School Principal. "Our goal is to offer a diverse range of courses and activities that cater to the unique needs and interests of our students, helping them stay engaged and motivated throughout the summer months."

In addition to academic coursework, the summer school program will also feature courses that provide students with valuable opportunities to connect with their peers, interact with educators and explore the world beyond the classroom walls.

Whether it's taking a course to be a certified babysitter or taking a course to learn about cooking, students can look forward to a summer filled with fun, adventure, and learning.

"We believe that learning

should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience, and our summer school program reflects that philosophy," said Mrs. Lyndsay Harmann, summer school coordinator. "We have worked hard to develop a curriculum that is both educational and engaging, and we are confident that students will walk away from this experience with new skills, knowledge, and memories that will last a lifetime."

Registration for the Algoma School District summer school program is now open, and interested students and parents are encouraged to sign up using the link <https://signup.com/go/ZUPeMNH> to secure their spot in their desired courses.

With limited availability in some classes, early registration is recommended to ensure access to preferred options.

For more information about the summer school program, families can call Algoma Elementary School at (920) 487-7010.

Birds & Brews kicks off at Havegard Birdseed

FOR THE STAR-NEWS

ALGOMA – Birds & Brews gatherings, organized by the Bird City Algoma Committee, offer an opportunity to share information and connect with others who have an interest in birds.

Whether you're an experienced birder or new to birdwatching and simply enjoy observing nature, everyone is welcome to join in.

On Friday, May 17, at 5 p.m., the series of gatherings will kick off with a tour of Havegard Birdseed, located at 225

Navarino Street, Algoma.

Learn about the importance of quality bird seed in attracting and supporting local bird populations and discover the wide variety of seeds and other bird feeding products Havegard has to offer.

Following the tour, attendees are invited to stroll down the street to Off the Hook Bar-n-Grill to mingle with fellow bird enthusiasts and continue the conversation.

For more information, email birdcityalgoma@yahoo.com or call (920) 487-8136.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Honoring Mothers on Mother's Day

Dear Reader,

As we approach Sunday, May 12, we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, a cherished occasion established in 1907 to honor the profound sacrifices mothers make for their children. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the immeasurable love and dedication that mothers selflessly provide.



Motherhood is a journey marked by both joys and challenges. From sleepless nights to tender moments, mothers navigate a myriad of experiences in raising their children, often facing daunting circumstances with unwavering strength and resilience.

As we commemorate Mother's Day, let us pause to express our gratitude to the remarkable women who have shaped our lives. Whether through words, gestures, or simply spending quality time together, let us honor the profound impact mothers have had on our paths to success and self-discovery.

For those fortunate enough to still have their mothers by their side, may this day be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished memories. And for those whose mothers are no longer with us, may their legacy of love and guidance continue to inspire us each day.

Wishing all mothers a day filled with love, appreciation, and the recognition they truly deserve. Happy Mother's Day!

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

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OBITUARIES



James (Jim) W. Piette, age 82, a Green Bay resident, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 5, 2024, surrounded by family. He was born on March 18, 1942, in Algoma to John and Frances (Freix) Piette. Jim attended St. Mary Catholic Grade School and Algoma High School class of 1960 where he excelled in basketball and football. He briefly played football at UW-Stevens Point, but decided to head home to start his career in insurance

sales. Jim worked at Catholic Financial Life for 57 years as a General Agent and Advisor. It wasn't just a job; it was a calling. If you were lucky enough to be a client of his, you can know that he truly had your best interest at heart. Honesty was his proudest quality. He trained and mentored numerous agents and enjoyed helping others succeed. He loved his co-workers and many of them have been life-long friends.

He loved being around people. He had a gift of getting people to talk and he would make friends wherever he went. He had a great sense of humor and could make a room full of people laugh or amaze them with his card tricks. He was generous with his time and brightened any room he entered. In his free time, Jim enjoyed golfing (especially the 30+ years with his Thursday golf league at Northbrook), he read ferociously (mostly non-fiction) and he loved to follow the stock market. He also loved spending time with his kids and grandkids and would proudly share all of their accomplishments.

Jim is survived by his three children and their families: Jeff (Heidi), Michele (Bill) Micksch, and Steve (Tricia); his grandchildren Christopher (Emily), Gabrielle (Mike), Michael, Jeremy, Alexis, Abby, Jo, Sam & Jack; great-grandchildren Owen, Genevieve & Wren. He is also survived by his brother John (Linda) Piette, sister Dianne Burke, brother-in-law Jim Graf, his best friend and companion for 30+ years, Elizabeth Larsen, her children Heather (Peter) and Steve and the rest of her family. He is further survived by many nieces and nephews, extended family, and the many friends he made throughout his life.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and sister-in-law Joey (Sue) and two sisters and brother-in-law Linda (Lee) and Teri

Friends and Family may call at St. Mary Church, Algoma from 9:00 AM, Thursday, May 9 until the Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 AM with Father Andrew Kurz officiating. Burial to follow in the church cemetery.

The family would like to thank the many amazing doctors and nurses at Aurora who treated Dad so well. You can express your sympathy, memories, and pictures on Jim's tribute page at www.shinderlefunerahome.com. The Schinderle Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements for Jim Piette and his family.



Cindy Kay Johnson November 17, 1958 – May 3, 2024
Cindy Kay Johnson, 65, Kewaunee, was born on November 17, 1958, in Iron Mountain, Michigan. She passed away at home, after a long tough battle with Cancer. She was surrounded by her family and loved ones. Cindy resided in Kewaunee, Wisconsin with her long-time Boyfriend James Broderick.

Cindy was preceded in death by her father, Ernest Melvin Johnson and mother, Virginia Maude (Leigh) Olson; brother, Larry Gene Johnson; grandparents, Melvin and Jenny Johnson, William Heddley Leigh and Martha (Talbot) Leigh. Cindy is survived by her 3 sons, Joseph Michael Drager (Kristy), Nathan Thomas Drager (Erin) and Ernest Robert Charles Johnson. Grandchildren, Sabrina, Trinity, Nolan, Hunter, Tatum, James, Jordan; brothers, Michael Lee Johnson (Darlene), Jeffrey Allen Johnson and Susie Johnson-Beard (Dennis). Stepfather, Alan Olson, many nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and extended family members.

Cindy had many hobbies, she loved rummage sales, a little casino fun, dancing, cookouts, get togethers with family and friends sharing fun memories, and giving little gifts to everyone including new friends she met along her journey. She had a giving soul and touched many lives every day! Cindy will truly be missed and never forgotten.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 9-11 am at Kinnard Funeral & Cremation Services - Kewaunee. Funeral service will take place at 11:00 am with Pastor Dave officiating. Burial to follow at Forest Hill Cemetery. Online Condolence messages may be shared at KinnardFCS.com.



Martha L. Wolfcale August 27, 1953 – April 28, 2024
Martha Lynn Wolfcale, (aka Lynn, Marti, Grammy) loving wife & mother, cherished friend, passed away peacefully, in her home on Sunday, April 28th with the love of her life by her side. She was 70 years old.

Born on August 27, 1953, in Marion Indiana, she was a spirited soul who found joy in the rhythm of life and adventure, lighting up the room with her infectious laugh and of course,

"Friday Night Dancing".

Lynn was a devoted spouse to Kent, sharing a deep connection, a partnership that endured 50 years of adventures. Having lived in more than a dozen states, they were the life of the party and made profound ties, with friends along the way, in every corner of the country.

As a Mom, a Grammy she was known for her FIRECE love for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was always their absolute greatest advocate, cheerleader and instilled in all of us that it is okay to laugh at ourselves. She was also known for her hearty laughter, which filled the room with joy and warmth. She always had our back!

In her spare time, she loved tinkering in the garden, reading, cruising in their 63 Plymouth Sport Fury or 36 Dodge Truck, (aka "The Mutt") while listening to some John Prine or BB King. She loved all things football, whether NFL, College or High School but especially loved her Green Bay Packers!

Lynn leaves behind a legacy of love that will be cherished by all. She is survived by her husband, Kent Wolfcale, daughter Mindy (Artemus) Gordon & Jeni Zabel, 7 grandchildren, Emma Nicole, Dacoda Kent (Lindsey), Benjamin James (Josie), Kenadee Lynn (Lundyn), Adison Deanna, Harry James & Maxwell James. She is also survived by two great-grandchildren, Millie & Caroline.

She is preceded in death by her sister, Becky Brookshire, father, Carl Brookshire & mother, Wilma Brookshire and her sweet Golden Lab - Hazel.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to <http://www.curepsp.org>. A special thanks to Unity Hospice and an extra special thanks to Stacy Daron for her care and friendship in the final years. Kinnard Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolence messages may be shared at KinnardFCS.com.

Rest in peace Grammy, Mom, Lynn – your light will continue to shine brightly through all who were blessed to know you.

OUTDOORS

from page 8

H.R. 764, the Trust the Science Act, would remove the gray wolf from the list of federal endangered species, ensure that action is not subject to judicial review, and restore authority back to state lawmakers and state wildlife officials to control the gray wolf population.

"The science is clear; the gray wolf has met and exceeded recovery goals," said Wisconsin Congressman Tom Tiffany. "It's time to let the states manage the wolf population."

Wolves in Wisconsin

have killed three pet dogs and three hunting dogs so far this year, and injured another.

Wolves have already killed three calves, with the peak birthing season just getting underway.

There's been confirmed wolf harassment on more than 500 cattle, and most recently, USDA-Wildlife Services verified a human health and safety concern in Washburn County where a wolf has been in close proximity to a home.

Help amphibians

We're at the tail end of Amphibian Week, and DNR wildlife staff members are encouraging residents to learn more about why Wisconsin's 19 species of frogs, toads and salamanders are so valuable.

Amphibians are highly

sensitive to environmental contaminants, and are both predator of insects and prey for birds and fish.

Want more on your property?

Avoid the use of insecticides, herbicides or fungicides; plant native plants and leave a 5- to 10-foot vegetative buffer along shorelines, ditches or other wet areas; and add water, even if just a bird bath.

For more information, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/>

Herps and www.fws.gov/story/amphibian-week.

Free Fishing Weekend

Wisconsin's second free fishing weekend of the year is set for June 1-2.

No licenses or stamps will be required those days, but all other regulations apply.

New to fishing? Learn all about it and get tips at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/outreach/wifishingreport>.

A complete list of regulations is available in print wherever licenses are sold, or online at <https://widnr.widen.net/s/btdcn8sxfp/fishingregselectronic2425>.

Clean water

It's National Drinking Water Week.

If you're on a private well, test your water and encourage neighbors to do the same.

Get details at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wells/privateWellTest.html>.

Learn about the importance of conserving water and get some tips to do just that at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WaterUse/conservation.html>.

KewauneeCountyStarNews.com



In loving memory of
BRITNEY RAQUEL EBERT

August 21, 1996 - May 12, 2016

"Eight years of missing you"

- We miss your smile
- We miss your giggle
- We miss your kisses
- We miss your hugs
- We miss your singing
- We miss the way you said "Daddy tractor ride?"
- "Haybine, Let's cut some hay"
- "Love you Daddy"
- We miss you, saying "mama, supertime?"
- "Bubble bath, Put jammies on and go up"
- "Love you Mama"
- We miss you saying "Love you, brother Jordan"
- "Jordan truck ride?"
- "Sausage please"
- We miss you saying "Love you sissy Whitney"
- "Run your hinder off"
- "Green beans please"
- We miss your bites out of the Pickles in the pickle jar...
- We miss you asking for green Pepsi (Mountain Dew)
- And after we said, no, you'd say caffeine free Pepsi...
- We miss your cute personality

Love you forever Brit Dad, Mom, Brother Jordan and Sissy Whitney

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In loving memory of

Wenzel (Bucko) Hrabik
January 31, 1941 – May 7, 2022
Two years of missing you
Remembering you is easy, we do it every day.
Missing you is the heartache, that never goes away.
Love you,
Wife Karen, Children, Rhonda (Jack), Renee (Randy),
Sheila (Ron), Troy (Vicki), Rick (Mary)
Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren,
Sisters and Brothers

In Loving Memory Of
Duane Iwen
Who Passed Away
30 Years Ago May, 11 1994

Though your smile is gone forever and your hands we cannot touch. We still have many memories, of the one we loved so much.

Loved & Sadly Missed By
Mom
Kaitlynn & Family
Scott & Family
Jaime & Family

VOTE from page 1

Many of those cases came amid COVID-19, which raised hurdles for voters with disabilities, because many of them couldn't or didn't feel safe voting in person, and voting absentee required them to complete ballots they couldn't fill out alone.

According to the lawsuits, that eliminated their right to a secret ballot, something every state either guarantees in its constitution or references in state law.

"A lot of us who have mobility and the transportation and so forth could go to the polls if we didn't like the way that absentee ballots were handled, but during the pandemic it became mission critical to have, in more jurisdictions ... a way for us to mark ballots independently," National Federation of the Blind Spokesperson Chris Danielsen said.

At this point, 13 states allow voters with disabilities to electronically fill out and return absentee ballots, according to the National Federation of the Blind.

Others, like Vermont, Michigan, Maryland and Pennsylvania, allow voters with disabilities to fill out ballots electronically, though depending on the jurisdiction they have to print and return them by mail, drop box, or in person.

Ellingen said the problem in Wisconsin was especially infuriating given that accessible technology exists elsewhere.

"For the life of me, I don't understand why this isn't an option for everyone, but it should be at least available as an accommodation for those who are unable to cast a ballot independently," she said.

Voters with disabilities, especially those who are blind or have low vision, have for years lobbied for more accessible absentee voting.

But they have often faced pushback over the security of receiving, casting, and returning ballots electronically.

Governmental election security experts say that sending digital copies of ballots to voters is safe, and that filling them out electronically is somewhat safe, but that returning them electronically adds significant security risks.

Still, filling and returning absentee ballots electronically is the gold standard for many people with disabilities, including blind and low-vision voters, Danielsen said.

Allowing voters with disabilities to fill out a ballot electronically and return it by mail is a step in the right direction, but it's inconvenient for people without printers, he said.

Lawsuit alleges 'incomplete framework' for protecting right to vote

The Wisconsin lawsuit acknowledges that federal and state laws provide some accommodations for voters with disabilities, but they "focus on assistance to the detriment of independence," which "forces voters to give up their

constitutional right to a secret ballot."

State law previously allowed clerks to send absentee ballots over email and fax to any eligible Wisconsin voter.

In theory, the measure allowed voters with disabilities to mark ballots electronically using a screen reader, a 2023 report by the Wisconsin Elections Commission stated.

But Denise Jess, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired, said she never knew about or used the method.

Don Natzke, a plaintiff in the lawsuit who's blind, said the same.

"When you end up having a policy or opportunity out there that isn't made available to people or knowledge brought to their attention, it sort of rings hollow," Natzke said.

In any case, that option was taken away in 2011, when then-Gov. Scott Walker signed a bipartisan bill restricting electronic absentee voting only to military and overseas voters.

A federal appeals court upheld the law in 2020, eliminating the ability for voters with disabilities to independently fill out an absentee ballot, the Wisconsin Elections Commission report stated.

"Voters with blindness or low vision still do not have an accessible absentee ballot or certificate

envelope that can be marked independently," that WEC report stated.

Natzke said he witnessed firsthand the lack of accessibility for people with disabilities.

Natzke, a Shorewood resident who has been blind since he was 12, said he has tried to vote in person in every election since the 1970s, but the COVID-19 disrupted that routine.

Dealing with high blood pressure and concerned that his age made him more vulnerable to the virus, he instead opted for an absentee ballot in 2020.

Using a paper ballot in that spring election, Natzke held a phone in one hand to scan the text while trying to figure out with a remote helper where he should mark the ballot.

He couldn't ask his wife to guide him, because she is also blind.

The process, he told Votebeat, "became absolutely infeasible, and it wasn't something that could possibly work out, so I abandoned it."

And then because of the restrictions, not wanting to be exposed to the virus, I didn't actually end up being able to vote for that election."

Even if he had somebody to assist him in person with voting, it would have presented a COVID-19 health risk and compromised the privacy of his vote, he said.

The lawsuit asks the Dane County Circuit Court to allow voters with disabilities to electronically receive, mark, and return absentee ballots.

A federal appeals court in 2020 upheld the law restricting who can receive ballots electronically, but the case wasn't brought by Wisconsinites with disabilities and didn't contain the same claims as the lawsuit filed, the complaint states.

The plaintiffs aren't asking the court "to develop and engineer a revolutionary method of accessible absentee voting," the complaint states.

"Enfranchising Wisconsin's print disabled voters ... is simply a question of implementing existing solutions."

Thirty-one states, along with the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, allow military and

overseas voters to receive, cast, and return ballots electronically, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

At least a dozen of those states extend the same voting method to people with disabilities.

Lawmakers raise concerns over security of electronic absentee voting

Jess, who called the inability to vote absentee in an accessible way a "compromise of basic human dignity," said she received pushback when she urged Wisconsin lawmakers to allow for electronic voting.

Specifically, she said, the lawmakers raised fears that transmitting and returning ballots digitally could allow somebody to tamper with them.

Jess mentioned to lawmakers the less risky option of receiving and casting ballots electronically and then printing and returning the physical ballot, but she said, "there's not even an openness to that."

The Legislature's two election committee chairs, Rep. Scott Krug, R-Nekoosa, and Sen. Dan Knodl, R-Germantown, didn't respond to a request for comment.

Federal agencies have also raised concerns over

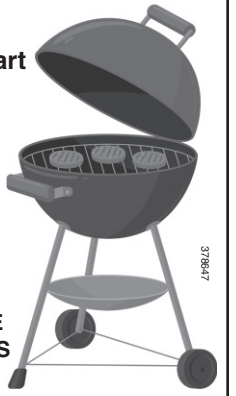
See VOTE page 7

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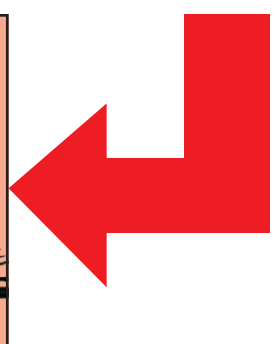
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VOTE
from page 5

the security of electronically delivering, marking and, especially, returning ballots.

There are “effective risk management controls” to enable electronic ballot delivery and casting, but returning ballots electronically is “high-risk even with controls in place,” states a report by several federal agencies, including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Election Assistance Commission.

The risks of returning ballots electronically can affect an election’s results and occur at scale, the report found.

It further stated that securing ballot return digitally while guaranteeing voter privacy and ballot integrity is “difficult, if not impossible, at this time.”

But if election officials choose or are mandated to allow electronic ballot returns, they should allow voters returning ballots electronically to check their ballots’ status, the agencies stated. They recommended that its use be limited to voters who can’t vote any other way.

Voters with disabilities fit the category of people who have no other means to return their ballots privately and independently, said Eileen Newcomer, voter education manager at the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

While there may be security risks, Newcomer said the risk of voters’ being disenfranchised must also be

addressed.

Despite warnings about the risks of electronic voting, there have been no instances of widespread electronic voter fraud or high-profile prosecutions of people alleged to have tampered with the electronic system that voters with disabilities use.

Voters with disabilities would have to understand the risks of returning ballots electronically if the lawsuit is successful, Disability Rights Wisconsin public policy manager Lisa Hassenstab said.

But she said the organization didn’t want to budge on its request for electronic ballot return, because the alternative — printing and returning physical ballots — could sacrifice voters’ ability to vote privately and independently.

She also said current fears about security risks will soon be overcome by better technology.

Between August 2021 and September 2022, the University of California, Berkeley, hosted a working group of election, technology, and cybersecurity experts to discuss the feasibility of creating standards to enable safe and secure electronic marking and return technologies.

The group found that widespread adoption of electronic return requires technologies that don’t currently exist or haven’t been tested.

The group pointed out six particular concerns that could threaten election security: client-side malware; the potential for people to

hack voters’ computers; a targeted denial-of-service attack; the difficulty in verifying voters’ identities; the absence of a physical ballot that voters can verify; and the possibility that a small group of people could alter votes in bulk.

While the group cautioned against electronic return technology, it said eliminating that path for voting without reasonable alternatives could “produce an unacceptable risk to those with accessibility needs and would place election officials” at risk of violating federal laws like the Help America Vote Act and the ADA, the group stated.

The group advocated for

the research and development of technologies to improve accessibility.

Natzke said electronic voting would remove a barrier for voters with disabilities just as curb cuts in raised sidewalks made streets more accessible.

“We need to have that curb cut because we know it can work,” he said

“To not do that, when you know that it’s there, makes a statement, because it’s been done elsewhere,” he said. “So when there’s a choice to then not do it, it ends up really concerning me in terms of the position people with disabilities hold in the hands of our policymakers.”

HORNACEK
from page 1

described as “the worst interview I’ve ever done in my life, I think,” but days later he was shocked to be called in to receive a job offer from Paul’s Pantry.

In June, 2019, Hornacek began working full time as the assistant executive director of Paul’s Pantry. Noracek said “it was like God put me here just in time” as he would become crucial to maintaining operations during COVID-19.

In working a job that

has continued to bring him into encounters with a wide variety of people, Hornacek shared the importance of treating people with “dignity, respect and understanding,” because “everyone who comes to Paul’s Pantry has a story.”

Today, Hornacek closes in on four years of employment at Paul’s Pantry.

Reflecting on his time so far, he notes the importance of building relationships within the community and serving through the diaconate.

“God has created in me the heart to serve,” he noted.

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Nicolet NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS
Senior Spotlight

Jenna Rohr
 Kewaunee High School

Sports: Softball and volleyball
Parents: Kacy and Jason Rohr
Siblings: Madelyn, Elizabeth and Alex Rohr
Social media accounts: Instagram - Jenna.Rohr
Position or events: softball - pitcher, utility Volleyball - DS
Career highlight: Being able to play softball with my older sister Elizabeth my freshman year.



Who first introduced you to your sport?

My dad and my older sister Elizabeth introduced me to the game of softball.

What is your ultimate pregame meal?

My ultimate pregame meal is apples and celery with peanut butter.

Which of your sports is hardest and why?

My hardest sport would have to be softball because it is a mental game. It requires focus, decision-making, and the ability to anticipate plays.

How does it feel being a senior, looking back at how far you've made it through all of your sports?

It feels amazing. Looking back at how far I have come in all of my sports is such a rewarding and proud moment. It's a testament of my hard work, dedication, and growth over the years.

What life lessons have you learned throughout high school?

Life is too short to not follow your heart, and high school is the perfect time to do this. Do not be afraid of failing. Take risks.

Favorite collegiate or professional sports team?

The Milwaukee Brewers.

What are the top three songs on your warm-up/workout playlist?

My top three songs on my playlist are: 1. Can't Stop by The Red Hot Chili Peppers, 2. Mary Jane's Last Dance by Tom Petty, 3. Kiss Me by Sixpence None The Richer.

What are your future plans or goals?

Next year, I plan to attend The Aveda Institute of Beauty and Wellness in Madison for cosmetology and esthology.

L-C softball team dominates Algoma 10-0

FOR THE STAR-NEWS

LUXEMBURG – On Friday May 3, the Luxemburg-Casco (L-C) girls improved their record to 17 and 1 with a non-conference win over the Algoma Wolves.

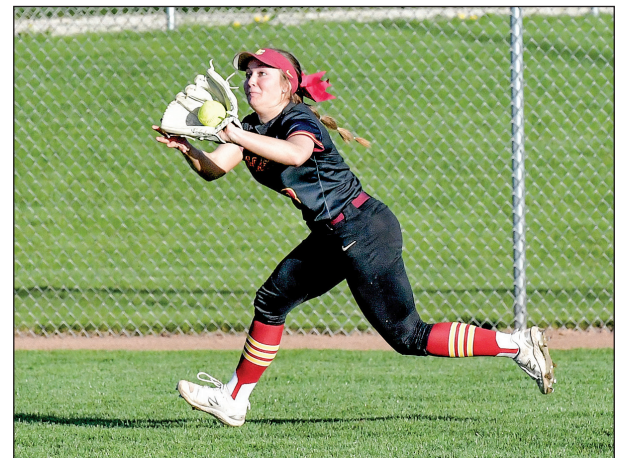
Maggie Hanmann went two for four at the plate, with a double, two runs scored, two RBIs and two stolen bases.

Hanmann also ran down a line drive in right field and quickly threw to Kate Van Ess to double off the runner at first base.

L-C completed two double plays on the day. Erin Cherovsky pitched 5.2 innings of shutout ball giving up one hit with three strikeouts.

Macie Zimmerman took the loss for Algoma pitching into the sixth inning giving up all ten runs on six hits while having trouble with control walking seven Spartans.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E	
ALG	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	—	0	1	2
L-C	0	2	1	3	2	2	x	—	10	7	2
WP – Erin Cherovsky	LP – Macie Zimmerman										



Maggie Hanmann makes a great catch and turns it into a double play vs the Algoma Wolves on May 3.

Submitted photo

L-C girls crush Clintonville Truckers 17-0

On Monday April 29, the Spartan softball team traveled to Clintonville and improved to 11-1 record in conference to remain tied for first place with a 17-0 victory.

Grace Kahr led off the game with a home run to center-field, and the Spartans never looked back.

Peyton Kaminski went three for four at the plate with three runs and three RBIs.

Baylee Wypiszewski started on the mound for L-C going two innings for the win.

Kate Van Ess also pitched two innings of scoreless ball.

Claire Papendorf took the loss for Clintonville giving up twelve runs on eight hits and seven walks in three innings of work.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E	
L-C	2	2	8	5	X	X	X	—	17	12	0
CLTV	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	—	0	3	6
WP – Baylee Wypiszewski	LP – Claire Papendorf										

Spartans clamp down on Waupaca Comets 10-1

On Tuesday April 30, the L-C softball team scored eight runs sending 14 batters to the plate in the first inning with eight hits featuring an RBI double by Kate Van Ess.

There was also four walks in the inning. L-C added to their lead in the third inning scoring two runs with a RBI double by Josie Dorner.

Kate Van Ess got win on the mound, pitching three innings of scoreless ball giving up one hit, one walk while striking out three.

Josie Peterson took the loss for Waupaca failing to get out of the first inning giving up seven runs, all earned on seven hits and two walks with no strike outs.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E	
WP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	1	3	0
L-C	8	0	2	0	0	0	X	—	10	13	0
WP – Kate Van Ess	LP – Josie Peterson										

All-woman fishing event set for May 17-19



In the Outdoors

BY KEVIN NAZE
 GUEST COLUMNIST

The group WI Women Fish bills itself as a fishing club for women only, with no boring meetings and no obligations other than to just go fishing.

Founder and president, Barb Carey, has been organizing fishing events for women since 2003.

“We teach, mentor, support and celebrate each other,” said Carey, who recently purchased a boat and set it up to charter on Lake Michigan. “No judgment, no mansplaining and no competition. We host fishing events and clinics, and we have classes for beginners and seasoned anglers.”

WI Women Fish is headed to Green Bay to host a walleye fishing event next weekend, May 17-19.

The goal is to build confidence in female boaters by teaching them how to navigate on larger bodies of water as well as learning various skills to help them catch fish.

Ten boaters and 20 co-anglers are registered for the event.

There's also a waiting list of co-anglers if more boaters sign up.

The event begins Friday morning with a group seminar, followed by boat control and safety on the water.



You never can be sure just what's going to bite when fishing the fertile waters of Green Bay. Charter captain Barb Carey and first mate Rikki Pardun show off a muskie caught and released last year. Walleyes, smallmouth bass, northern pike, brown trout, white bass and sheepshead are among the other common May catches.

Submitted photo

WiWomenFish/.

Trust the Science Act

Bipartisan legislation to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed the U.S. House last week by a vote of 209-205.

See **OUTDOORS** page 4

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