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# WAUPACA County Post

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**LOCAL**



Don Tommet throws a left jab during the warm-up session of his Rock Steady Boxing class at the Waupaca Senior Center. James Card Photo

## Taking a punch at Parkinson's

Boxing program offsets symptoms

BY JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA — Peter Manley put up his fists and threw the first punch: a left jab followed by a right cross. He ducked slightly and came up with a slashing left hook and a lights-out right uppercut.

He wasn't fighting another boxer. He is fighting Parkinson's disease.

He is one of a handful of boxers that train twice a week at the Waupaca Recreation Center.

The classes are led by instructors of the Senior Center.

The no-contact program is called Rock Steady Boxing and it is based on the premise that the boxing can reverse, reduce and delay the symptoms of Parkinson's



Wally Koehler slugs the heavy bag as Sara Reybrock holds it steady. James Card Photo

disease.

Rock Steady Boxing is a nation-wide nonprofit and was founded in 2006 by Scott Newman who was diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson's. His friend Vince Perez was a Golden Gloves boxer and came up with a boxing-based exercise program that might help

offset the symptoms of the disease.

Newman made excellent progress and it matched up with medical literature that supported the idea that strenuous exercise that involves mobility, balance, coordination, strength and rhythm could slow the progression of Parkinson's.

Manley's corner-person is his wife Mary. The corner-person assists the boxer in the drills and rounds up training equipment.

The name is derived from the world of prizefighting where a "cornerman" will plug a nosebleed or apply an

**Boxing**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## Candy shop opens in Waupaca

Waupaca has new sweet spot

BY JAMES CARD  
STAFF REPORTER

WAUPACA — At 107 W. Fulton St. in downtown Waupaca there is a giant hoard of candy that evokes old memories when the days were sweet and simple.

Here customers may find the familiar names of DumDums, Tootsie Rolls, Mallo Cups, Lemonheads, Smarties, Charleston Chew, Chick-O-Stick, Fireballs, Dubble Bubble, Candy Buttons, Jelly Belly, Sugar Babies and Jaw Busters.

All these sweetness is located at Shindig, a new store that is modeled after an old-time candy shop. One wall is covered with shelving that holds transparent jars of candy that reaches from floor to ceiling. Kids can help themselves. Some of the top-shelf candy is accessible by step ladder.

The candy jars are color coded with dots that match white paper bags to dump the candy into. Green dots are 10-cent candies, yellow dots are a quarter, red dots are 50 cents and orange dots



Shindig is modeled after an old-fashioned candy shop. Candy starts at 10 cents a piece. James Card Photo

are \$1. Pens and markers are provided to write the amount of candy that ends up in each bag.

"I wanted that dime store type of feeling of keeping things on the cheaper end. Where a kid can bring a dollar in and get 10 pieces of candy. Granted, they are going to learn about Uncle Sam and that it's going to be

\$1.06," said owner Carolyn Niemuth.

Running a candy store was something that she and her husband Bruce have always thought about. When they were walking downtown earlier this year, they noticed the building was for sale. A call to a realtor friend put things in motion.

"So many people have come in and brought their

kid and said, 'When I was a kid I used to walk three blocks after school and buy this for a dime,'" said Niemuth.

She also said grandparents have stopped in to pick up some candy that they haven't seen in years, for themselves.

Niemuth said it is fun seeing children come into

**Candy**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## NL school board member censured

Text messages lead to complaint

BY JOHN FAUCHER  
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON — The New London School Board voted 4-3 on Nov. 8 to censure board member John Heideman for sending an unsolicited text message to a district resident.

The text message was in regards to an email that the resident sent in October to some district staff and board members regarding district COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Board members Chris Martinson, Pete Bosquez and Heideman were not included as recipients of the resident's Oct. 19 email.

Heideman had learned of the email and its author from another board member.

That's when he made contact via text.

The resident said she did not initiate a text with Heideman and she stated once the conversation be-



Heideman

gan she attempted to end it twice, but he continued messaging.

The resident subsequently filed a complaint with the district.

The resident felt the conversation was "inappropriate for a member of the school board" and it made her feel "very uncomfortable" that Heideman was contacting her since she did not initiate it.

School Board Vice President Pete Bosquez conducted an investigation of the complaint and brought board members up to date at the Nov. 8 meeting.

Bosquez explained that Wegner stepped away

**Censure**

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11



## 'Nuncrackers'

The Waupaca Community Theatre will present "Nuncrackers" at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 9-11, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Gerold Opera House in Weyauwega. With a cast of 11 performers, the holiday musical is co-directed by Liz Kelly and Linda Trepasso. A live orchestra accompanies the show. Tickets are \$17 and \$22. More information can be found at www.fineartsfestival.org and on the Waupaca Community Theatre's Facebook page. Pictured, from left, are Kira Morrissey, Lori Bauer and Carmen Riebel.

James Card Photo

## Clintonville considers property revaluation

Last assessment conducted in 2008

BY BERT LEHMAN  
STAFF REPORTER

CLINTONVILLE — The city of Clintonville is considering a revaluation of properties before the state mandates it.

In a Nov. 9 memo to the Clintonville Common Council, then City Administrator Sharon Eveland said the city lost almost \$3 million in assessed value in 2021.

"This is not because we have lost businesses or buildings, but rather because our assessment ratio has dropped significantly," Eveland said. "What that means is that our residential properties are selling for, on average, 115% of the assessed value. The state does this calculation and then adjusts the as-

essed value of manufacturing so that manufacturing is not carrying a disproportionate share of the tax burden."

She said the state of Wisconsin allows municipalities to be within a 90-110% range. Once a municipality is out of that range for three years, the state will require the municipality do a revaluation of all the properties.

Clintonville last did a revaluation in 2008, and that was an exterior revaluation, Eveland said.

Eveland recommended the city start preparing to do a full revaluation, including building interiors.

The cost to do a revaluation is estimated to be between \$70,000 and \$115,000.

"This would be an operational expense but it would be very difficult

**Property**

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

**BOXING**

FROM PAGE 1

enswell to reduce swelling in between rounds.

"It is good exercise and its good social interaction," said Manley, a former triathlete. "It keeps you on track and you try some exercises and some different things. They have a lot of different equipment so it stays interesting."

They drove over from Wisconsin Rapids to attend the class. So far the Waupaca class has attracted people from Antigo, Wausau and Stevens Point.

There are 16 Rock Steady Boxing programs in Wisconsin. The only other ones in the central Wisconsin region are Wautoma, Oshkosh, Appleton and Green Bay.

The training session starts with a series of stretching and coordination drills led



Mark Boll works over the speed bag which is one of many exercises participants do throughout the course of the boxing class. James Card Photo

by Sara Reybrock, the Senior Center coordinator. She earned her certification at the Rock Steady Headquarters in Indianapolis and started classes in Waupaca in September 2020.

Vanessa Wowzynski, a physical therapist at Thedacare, and Helen Halverson, a fitness instructor, are also

certified coaches involved in the program.

After the warm-up, the gloves come on and the boxers progress through a series of jabs, crosses, hooks and uppercuts. The corner-person puts on a pair of punch mitts and the boxers can hit freely with a combination of punches mixed with ducking movements.

Don Tommet was diagnosed with Parkinson's last year and has been training since the first class. He pointed out that some people with Parkinson's have tremors and he does not. For him, it was a loss of balance.

"It helps with balance. When you're boxing you've got to lift," he said as he demonstrated how a boxer shifts their weight from one foot to another when throwing a punch.

"There's improved balance, walking, coordination, speech. All the aspects we focus on we see improvement,

said Wowzynski.

"Besides the classes, it is also a support group and it's good to see how other people are doing," said Tommet.

Next, they took turns slugging the heavy bag and then moved onto a freestanding torso dummy named Bob. The boxers grabbed Bob by the shoulders and kned him in the gut.

They moved onto the speed bag which is hit on a three count: Bam! Thump, thump, thump, bam! It is the trickiest of all the drills to master but the reward is increased eye-hand coordination and a better developed sense of rhythm.

After training on a balance beam and a stability ball, they grabbed a pair of dumbbells and worked their way through sets of curls, presses, extensions, kickbacks and flies.

Out came the floor mats and they did some bird dog stretches and then rolled over on their backs for a meditation and deep breathing session. With the sound of gentle ocean waves in the background, instructor Halverson talked them into a mesmerizing state of peaceful bliss.

At the end of the session, they gathered in a circle and shouted their rallying cry in their battle against Parkinson's: "Never. Underestimate. The heart. Of a fighter!"

**PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

**'Tis The Season To Be Safe**

Dear Reader,

The holidays are upon us and with all the joyous activities and celebrations, big and small, we can be lulled into a false sense of security. When as a host or a guest, either pouring or receiving libations, think moderation... especially if there is driving involved.

When the season is over, we want to carry forward with pleasant memories made with those we cherish, not the residual nightmarish effects of a night gone bad.

Happy (and safe) Holidays.



**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
PUBLISHER

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"

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**THREE SQUARES RESTAURANT**

**Mobil**



Carolyn Niemuth has always wanted to open a candy shop. Shindig opened in late November and her two daughters help in the store. Her daughter Luci lends a hand at the counter. James Card Photo

**CANDY**

FROM PAGE 1

the store and watch their brains start calculating how much candy they can get for a buck and some change. "The kids come in with their little Velcro wallets. On the first day this little girl came in with a tiara and a purse with her own money in it," she said.

Not all the tubs hold candy. They have warning labels that read: "Do not eat. This is a toy."

The toys are a mix of plastic dinosaurs, mini puzzles, unicorns, toy cars, kazoo's, spinning tops, whirly gigs and other gew-gaws.

There is also another warning sign: "Pick candy, not your nose! Please use hand sanitizer before reaching into jars."

Besides candy there are other snacks such as Andy Capp's fries, Moon

Pies, and freshly popped popcorn. A cotton candy machine sits in one corner and is ready for use.

Even the drinks have a nostalgic flavor: Dad's root beer, Orange Crush soda, cherry cola, grape pop, ginger ale, fruit punch and lemonade.

During the winter months there is hot chocolate and this summer there are plans for snow cones and a lemonade stand.

There is an upstairs loft where children can hang out and play board games and it is also available for private birthday parties. Soon to be installed is a Beam interactive projector game system. Think of it as a floor mat-sized touch screen but for kids to step upon while playing a variety of games.

Gift certificates are available and the store is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday

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**CENSURE**  
FROM PAGE 1

from the investigative role because the complainant is a family member of Wegner's. "I was informed that a woman from the district had complained of receiving inappropriate text messages from Mr. Heideman. I was also informed Mr. Wegner stepped away from the investigation of the complaint. So as the vice-president it falls onto me," said Bosquez.

**Investigation**

"As the investigator I initially had to determine who should conduct the full investigation," said Bosquez. He said that if there had been any possibility of a crime, law enforcement would have conducted the investigation. He also said if the complaint had involved too many board members, then an outside agency would have conducted the investigation. Neither of which occurred.

"The investigator of this type of complaint has two responsibilities to the board. Protect board members from false accusations and protect the board's integrity when a legitimate complaint comes to the board," Bosquez said.

"The public demands and deserves to know the board takes complaints seriously and will hold members accountable for their actions when appropriate," said Bosquez.

He said he met with the complainant at the district office.

"She had several issues with being contacted by Mr. Heideman regarding an email she had sent to several staff and school board members. Mr. Martinson, Mr. Heideman and I were not included in the email. She stated she wanted an investigation into the matter and would forward a copy of the text messages to me for review," said Bosquez.

He also noted that District Administrator Scott Bleck shared the email at 6:13 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, with the full board as part of standard operating procedures.

**Nothing illegal or immoral**

"I received a copy of the text messages and found that the messages were not illegal or immoral. The text messages were only between the complainant and Mr. Heideman. With that information I began the full investigation," Bosquez said.

He then set up a meeting with Heideman to discuss the allegations.

Bosquez said Heideman acknowledged receiving copies of the text message exchange and confirmed that it was a true and accurate representation of the text conversation.

After reviewing the school district's policies, Bosquez said he felt Heideman violated Policy 165, under the Board Member Code of Ethics.

**Board discusses censure**

Heideman was given a chance to explain why he contacted the woman via text.

"The reason I reached out to her is because I was informed of the email and I believe it's important we try to get back to everybody who contacts us. We try. Sometimes that's not possible," said Heideman.

"I have had a previous dealing with her. We previously advocated for her and her kids on a different matter in the past, when she contacted me and that's why I instantly had her contact info," said Heideman.

"So I got back to her. Because a lot of times you forget somebody on the email link and I wanted to know what we were talking about. I don't like to take somebody else's word for some-

thing. I'll ask a question rather than guess. That's how this got initiated," said Heideman.

Board members debated the topic for the next one hour and 15 minutes.

The debate included several different attempts at motions and amendments to motions.

They also looked at printed copies of the text message exchange between Heideman and the complainant.

**Text messages**

The Press Star obtained a copy of the exchange in the days after the Nov. 8 meeting.

District officials said the documents were public record and at least one individual had filed an open record request to obtain them.

At 3:49 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, Heideman texted the complainant's cell phone number and asked, "Did you send an email to some of the school board?"

"Who is this?" the complainant asked.

"John Heideman."

"Yes I did, but I didn't email you so who circulated it and why are you contacting me?" the complainant texted. "I already know what your beliefs are on covid/masking/vaccines etc. I've seen the board meetings."

"I was wondering if you could send me a copy?" Heideman asked.

"For what?" complainant asked.

"So I could read it rather than taking somebody else's word for it," Heideman responded.

The text conversation then ended at 3:49 p.m.

At 6:46 p.m., later that evening, Heideman texted, "No need to send it. Mr. Bleck shared it to all board members. By your email I don't think there are many things you and I would agree on. I will respond to you to follow your own advice and look at the facts/data. Compare Waupaca

county youth suicide numbers to covid deaths. I won't even bother you with the FACT that policies you support CAUSED much of mental health crisis we are currently dealing with."

"What are the Waupaca County Health Department, hospitals and health department recommendations?" the complainant asked.

She stated he could choose to "disregard those recommendations as not important," but she said she would continue to take her advice from experts and people qualified to give those recommendations.

"You are entitled to your own beliefs, but as a school board member it is your responsibility to make sure children and staff are safe even if that interferes with your beliefs," the woman continued.

Two more exchanges occurred leading up to 7:21 p.m. when the complainant ended her last statement with "Goodnight."

Heideman sent another text at 7:23 p.m.

At 7:24 the complainant responded, "Unless you are ready to talk about the questions I asked as a tax payer and parent stop messaging me. Goodnight."

A minute later Heideman sent, "You didn't really ask any questions you just made long winded statements."

**School board debates messages**

Board member Chris Martinson said he felt Heideman was targeted because of his difference in opinions.

Martinson even introduced a motion that the board should commend Heideman for reaching out and responding to a constituent. The motion failed.

Board member Katie Batten asked for clarification and if the complaint was based entirely on the texting.

"The text," said Bosquez. "That is all the complaint was about. That John reached out to her when she deliberately didn't send him the email. And then several times [in texts] said goodnight and wanted to end the conversation and John continued," said Bosquez.

"It's not so much what he said. It's the fact that he initially contacted her, and that he continued to send messages when she made it clear, in my eyes, that she didn't want to talk to him anymore," Bosquez said.

Wegner said, "Communication with a constituent should take place in the board's email because that's the way the message was received."

Bosquez noted, "Part of that onion too is that now, technically John's phone is subject to open records request because he conducted board business on the phone."

"I don't know why anybody would ask for it but, people have to be aware that if you use your personal device under certain circumstances those devices can be searched for that material," said Bosquez.

Board member Mark Grossman noted that once Bleck shared the email with all the board members, Heideman's request and texts to the complainant could have ended.

"He should have stopped at that," said Grossman.

"We probably wouldn't be here right now otherwise," he said.

Grossman also felt part of the Resolution of Censure could be struck down and he asked for removal of section (8) which included language stating Heideman was discourteous to the complainant.

"You could argue that being discourteous or not all night long," Grossman said.

"I think the main issue is he didn't follow the procedure per the policy and that is having the communica-

tion through his district account," said Grossman.

Martinson felt that if Heideman was to be censured then he [himself] should be added to the censure resolution stating that he also reached out to the person in a different meeting.

Bosquez noted that would be inappropriate because the complaint was not about Martinson.

"If you choose we can go through the whole process again," said Bosquez.

Martinson requested an amendment that would have added him to the censure, but the motion failed.

"I want to be clear that I stand for accessibility to our citizens," said Martinson.

"That's not what this is about Chris," said Bosquez. He then stated any board member feeling they may have a conflict of interest could choose to recuse themselves from voting on the resolution of censure.

Wegner stated he did not have an ethical reason to recuse himself because he did not conduct the investigation, and he did not talk with the complainant about it.

Bosquez made a motion to approve the resolution of censure with the suggested removal of (8) as listed in the Board member code of ethics.

Wegner, Bosquez, Grossman and Ruckdashel voted in favor of the motion. Heideman, Martinson and Batten voted against.

The censure publicly admonishes Heideman for his actions but does not result in any formal punishment or sanctions.

Heideman responded to a request for comment from the Press Star in the days following the vote.

"The board investigated a complaint filed against me and found I did nothing immoral or illegal," he said. "I will continue to represent the voters of the School District of New London."

**PROPERTY**  
FROM PAGE 1

to add this to the budget without blowing past the ERP limit," Eveland said. "Because the city has at least two more years before the state would start the process to mandate the city go through a revaluation, I am recommending that the city consider reviewing it's operational savings next year so that just the final payment would need to be budgeted in 2023. This could potentially allow the assessor to begin the revaluation process next year and possibly complete before the end of 2022 or for sure in 2023. While I understand this is a huge expense, I firmly believe a full interior revalua-

tion would be the best option and I do not believe that waiting until the State mandates it is the right way to go either."

**Finance meeting**

At the Nov. 8 Finance Committee meeting, Eveland reiterated that the city is taking a "pretty significant hit" this year on the assessed value of properties in the city. She said the city's assessment ratio has been decreasing over the years, and will eventually fall to a point where the state of Wisconsin will mandate a revaluation.

She said the ratio this year about 85%.

The ratio was 107% in 2016, and has been going down each year since.

"Anything below 90% will start that year one count (toward being required to do a revaluation)," Eveland said.

Losing assessed value means even if the city does not change its levy by a single dollar, the city's mill rate will still go up, Eveland said.

Adam Servi, the city's assessor, said that currently residential properties are appreciating faster than manufacturing properties.

"Because the state wants us to assess all properties at the same percentage of market value, this year manufacturing was much lower than what I anticipated, and much lower than in years past," Servi said.

Servi said the model for local assessments was set for commercial, residential, and vacant land properties after

the 2008 revaluation.

He said it is recommended that revaluations take place around every eight years.

Servi noted the city is now out of compliance with state statutes.

If the city remains out of compliance in 2022, 2023 and 2024, the city would receive a non-compliance letter from the state. A second notice would be sent in 2025 if the city remained out of compliance. If still out of compliance in 2026, a state-supervised assessment would be ordered for 2027.

Servi recommended that the city not wait that long to do a revaluation. He recommended doing one the third or fourth year out of compliance and get into compliance before the state orders it to do so.

"If the state steps in, all the costs are passed on to the city," Servi said.

When asked when he recommended the city do a revaluation of properties, Servi said in 2023 or 2024. He added that a revaluation should be able to be completed in one year.

Eveland said she believes what is happening in Clintonville is a "correction" regarding property values.

"I think our homes probably should be assessed higher than what they are, and I definitely think, with as long as it's been (since the last revaluation) that there's likely some unpermitted work," Eveland said.

She added that a revaluation would help ensure that each property in the city is properly assessed.

No action was taken at the meeting.

**SERVICES**  
FROM PAGE 6

be difficult for many people, especially in rural areas where strong broadband internet services might not be as easily accessible," she said.

The CDC Vaccination Supplement Grant also includes vaccine assistance, including COVID-19 vaccination education.

"By offering COVID-19 education, our teams can

share the facts around the vaccine and the virus, as well as address misinformation," she said.

The grant also helps provide other vaccinations, including updating tetanus shots and boosters, which is important in a farm environment. It also offers access to the shingles vaccine for farmers over 50 and pneumococcal vaccines for those over 65.

The RHI program has

been supported by ThedaCare and other local health care organizations, as well as local agribusinesses, banks and individuals. Support also comes from the ThedaCare Family of Foundations, which has a designated RHI fund where supporters can continue to contribute to the program.

For more information about the ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative, call 715-524-1488.

**Book debated in Manawa**

BY HOLLY NEUMANN  
STAFF REPORTER

MANAWA – Following a written complaint by Stacey Trinrud, the School District of Manawa is now reviewing the book Looking for Alaska by John Green, which can be found in the middle/high school library.

Trinrud told the district's Book Review Committee Nov. 16 that the book contains sexually explicit encounters in detail, bad language and normalizes dishonesty, hazing, underage drinking and smoking.

Looking for Alaska is available for students ages 11–18.

"Remember that this is no longer just a high school library," Trinrud said. "This should have been taken into account when including the younger children. When the dynamics of this building changed, this district also needed to make changes to ensure the safety of the new younger children that are now entering this library."

Trinrud said the book's educational value is outweighed by the fact that it is filled with behaviors that do not align

with the district's philosophy and goals for the children.

"Why not be exemplary?" she asked. "We don't have to follow the normal just because other schools are doing it. We can remove the junk. We have little kids in that school now and that was not taken into consideration. The world is changed by your example and not your opinion and that's a fact."

District Library Media Specialist Jen Krueger also spoke about Looking for Alaska.

**Book**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

**NOTICE OF HOSPITAL PRICE INCREASE FOR THEDACARE MEDICAL CENTER-NEW LONDON AND THEDACARE MEDICAL CENTER-WAUPACA**

ThedaCare Medical Center–New London, located at 1405 Mill Street, New London, WI 54961, and ThedaCare Medical Center–Waupaca, located at 800 Riverside Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981, will increase charges for the fiscal year January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Selected hospital charges will change effective January 1, 2022 as follows.

The overall increase to total gross revenue from services to patients is anticipated to result in an average increase of 5%. The last revision was on February 15, 2021 and reflected an average increase of 5% for ThedaCare Medical Center–New London and ThedaCare Medical Center–Waupaca.

	THEDACARE MEDICAL CENTER-NEW LONDON				THEDACARE MEDICAL CENTER-WAUPACA			
	2022	2021	Dollar Change	% Variance	2022	2021	Dollar Change	% Variance
<b>Room &amp; Board</b>								
Private	\$1,493	\$1,358	\$136	10%	\$1,493	\$1,358	\$136	10%
Nursery Level I					\$783	\$768	\$15	2%
ICU					\$3,628	\$3,269	\$360	11%
Swing Bed Semi-Private	\$252	\$247	\$5	2%	\$252	\$247	\$5	2%
<b>Emergency Room</b>								
Medical Visit Level III	\$866	\$849	\$17	2%	\$866	\$849	\$17	2%
<b>Birth Center</b>								
Labor Level 3/Hour					\$102	\$100	\$2	2%
Delivery Level I					\$3,525	\$1,025	\$2,500	244%
Circumcision					\$199	\$176	\$23	13%
<b>Other Imaging Svcs.</b>								
Mammography Screen	\$483	\$474	\$9	2%	\$483	\$474	\$9	2%
Mammography Diagnostic	\$509	\$499	\$10	2%	\$509	\$499	\$10	2%

The price increase is centered on continuing our ability to provide safe, expert, local care to the communities we serve.

