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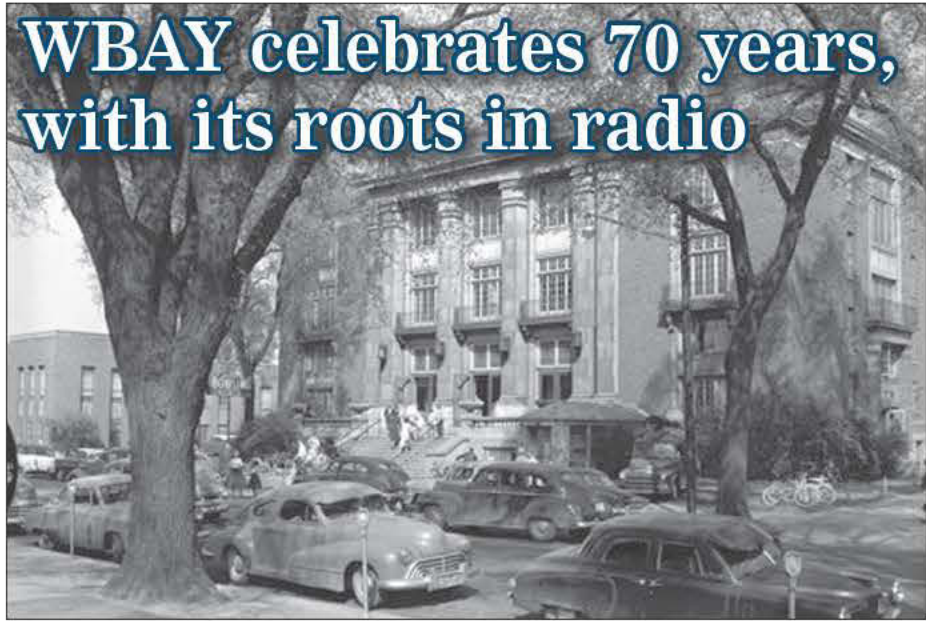
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WBAY celebrates 70 years, with its roots in radio

In 1928, the radio station opened a studio in the Columbus Community Club in Green Bay, operating remotely with their tower at St. Norbert College. WBAY photo

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GREEN BAY/DE PERE – While Green Bay’s WBAY marks its 70th anniversary of coming into Green Bay area homes, its roots go much deeper than televised broadcasting.

“So WBAY actually started at St. Norbert College with an interest in crystal radios. This was around 1922,” explained Ted Miller, WBAY web manager/digital director and station historian.

“Radio was just becoming a thing, and apparently some students in the physics club and their teacher, one of the priests at St. Norbert, they were interested, they wanted to figure out

how to make a radio.

“And they had an engineering student. It sounds like he was an adult, like a continuing education student we call them now, because he had experience in engineering already and he was going back to St. Norbert for education — Cletus Collom.”

Collom came to St. Norbert College from Michigan.

He was older than other students in his class, due to dropping out of school following his father’s death to help his mother support five other children.

“Cletus developed his interest in electricity as a young boy. His interest was stimulated even more after he read a book on the life

of Thomas Edison, a book which Cletus inherited from his father,” stated material from the 1959 St. Norbert College Alma Mater Award program.

“His quest for more knowledge led him to study batteries, wires, door bells and anything that was operated by electricity. In the meantime, Cletus also had an opportunity to work in radio which helped him develop his talents more fully.

“In 1921, he built his own amateur radio set and began broadcasting.”

Collom was able to return to his education at St. Norbert College, where he used his talents to kick

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Meet Green Bay Area Public School’s next superintendent

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GREEN BAY – At the March 13 meeting of the Green Bay Area Public School District Board of Education, board members unanimously approved a motion to offer a contract to Dr. Claude J. Tiller, Jr. as the district’s new superintendent.

Tiller currently serves as assistant superintendent over high school transformation for the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

He has also served as the school improvement grant facilitator and monitor for the State of Michigan Department of Education School Improvement Support Unit

and has worked in the roles of director of finance and operations, consultant, district turnaround specialist, adjunct university instructor, community ombudsman, school principal and a classroom teacher in public school districts.

Tiller received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, a master

of education from Bowling Green State University, an education specialist degree from Wayne State University in Detroit and a doctor of education from the American College of Education.

Press Times staff recently met with Dr. Tiller to learn more about the district’s next superintendent.

Detroit to Green Bay — that’s a big difference:

So, the weather is not too much different so that’s the key there. But, you know, I’ve been in Michigan small town areas. Benton Harbor was very, very small, way smaller than Green Bay. I went to school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. You

know, Ann Arbor is a college town, very small, very cozy. So, it’s a fun movie.

When I did my move into the community (in Green Bay) by me coming down a day ahead of time and just eating at the local restaurant there; the people are just wonderful. They embraced

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Golden Apple winner uses key tools of the trade to reach students

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GREEN BAY – Bay Harbor Elementary Educator Kristen Possley has several

tools of the trade on which she relies to meet the students where they are not only in skills, but in character and demeanor as well.

As a K-2 cross-categorical special education teacher, she works with a variety of skill levels and abilities but uses several key attributes to reach her students.

While flexibility and adaptability are part of Possley’s educational tools for effective teaching, she also sees empathy and positivity as crucial aspects in the classroom.

“One of the most valuable traits that an educator can have is empathy. This is one of my guiding stars when it comes to nurturing our school culture,” Possley stated.

“Empathy allows me to see through different perspectives and allows me to be more forgiving, more

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Howard-Suamico School District Board of Education Director Greg Klimek, at left, and Howard-Suamico School District Superintendent Damian LaCroix, at right, congratulate Bay Harbor teacher, Kristen Possley, on her Golden Apple Award. Greater Green Bay Area Chamber photo



The League sewing newborn clothing for children born into low income households, during the early years. Service League of Green Bay photo

Service League marks 90 years of charitable contribution

BY RICK COHLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

GREEN BAY – In 1933, about four years into the Great Depression, a number of Green Bay women looked at the poverty

around them and decided to try to help where they could.

Helen Joannes, wife of Leland Joannes, one of the Green Bay Packers founders, and Florence Parmen-

tier, wife of Jules Parmentier, a successful businessman, were instrumental in the formation of the Service League of Green Bay, starting with 33 members.

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Into the Past brought to you by the Neville Museum



Larry Kabat holds up one of 20,000 bumper stickers being distributed at Green Bay gas stations by Martha's Coffee Club on Dec. 15, 1968. Also pictured are Bill Christensen, Carl Zoll, George Neitzel, Howie Blindauer and Don Rondeau. Martha's Coffee Club started in 1947 at Martha's Restaurant on Broadway (now Our Place Family Restaurant), when friends started to meet to discuss Packer games. The tradition has continued, though the club moved to Bay Motel and Family Restaurant in the 1980s.

Photo courtesy of the Neville Public Museum of Brown County.

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present and able to connect deeply with others.

"Recently a student's father passed away. Empathy brought me to be in this situation with her and her family, and it is allowing me to walk with her and support her in her new reality.

"I am able to connect with many students by being positive and using humor. They see me in action modeling the behavior I expect from them in return. Last year I participated in the Dash for Cash event. What better way to share my sense of humor than by wearing a silly onesie and doing cartwheels?"

She said that while she participated for fun, the funding allowed her to cre-

ate a "much-needed" sensory room, complete with a calming bubble wall, tactile boards and breathing-buddy stuffed animals.

"I have specifically connected with one student who had struggled for over two years to speak in public, diagnosed with a condition called selective mutism. Allowing him to be who he is and not forcing anything (empathy), and using our funny and off-beat sense of shared humor, I was able to allow him to determine when it was the right time to whisper to me.

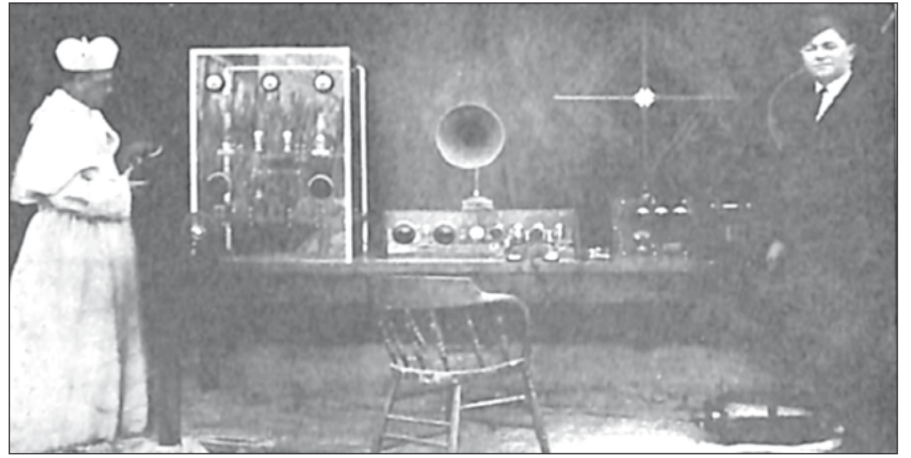
"It started with a very faint 'hi' and ever since then he has been whispering to communicate to everyone. I believe that our connection was one of the defining pieces of why he

was able to overcome this condition. That was one of the happiest and proudest days as an educator.

"Another young student would cry and fight morning drop-off to the point she would get sick nearly every day. She needed one person she could trust, feel safe with and make her feel happy when stepping in the door.

"The first year I taught her the mornings began like this but very quickly improved. Now she comes into school independently and confidently as I have earned her trust.

"Most of education in my role is not about academics. It's the bond built through honesty, respect, authentic conversations and genuine interactions."



Father Ignatius Van Dyke, at left, with Cletus Collom and the radio built by the St. Norbert College physics club. **St. Norbert College photo**

WBAY

from page 1

start a radio station. However, funding was an issue, with just \$50 given to the physics club for the project from the president.

"So they built an amateur radio, using money donated by parents, collected by the students. And one of the priests ran a candy shop at the college. So he provided like \$500 in profits from the candy shop," Miller further explained.

The entire cost of the station was just \$600 at the time, with a 100-watt transmitter.

"With the arrival of the (FCC) license and the equipment, the engineering staff of WHBY went to work day and night to ready the equipment and the studio for broadcasting. The staff consisted of: Mr. George Carey, Frater James A. Wagner and Father Ignatius Van Dyke, assisting the chief engineer, Cletus Collom," a *De Pere Journal-Democrat* article stated.

A transmitter was set up on the fourth floor of Boyle Hall on the St. Nor-

bert College and the first test of the equipment was held on March 25, 1925, as announcer, George Carey, stated, "This is the St. Norbert College Station, WHBY, in West De Pere, Wisconsin."

After weeks of testing, on April 6, 1925, the station went on air.

"The college authorities are desirous of having the public feel that they want to represent the public at large in the make-up of the programs," said college rector, Rev. M.J. Millay, in a *Green Bay Press-Gazette* article. "Suggestions will be gladly considered, as we hope to make the programs interesting to the larger number possible."

In early 1928, the radio station moved to the Green Bay Columbus Club building, putting a studio on the second floor of the building, operating remotely from the college's power station.

"With the completion of the new studio, WHBY would be able to present a better and more diversified program schedule. Many of the events held in the Columbus Club would

be of special interest to WHBY's listening audience," Father Milton C. Strebel, O.Praem wrote in his thesis on the station.

In 1930, the station constructed a 42- by 28-foot transmitter building and two 130-foot towers outside of De Pere on Highway 41.

A formal dedication was held, with Governor Walter J. Kohler, Sr. in attendance.

Over the upcoming years, the station struggled to obtain a license to broadcast at 1,000 watts and by 1935, the station had only gained the rights to operate at 250 watts.

But a new opportunity presented itself to purchase a 1,000-watt station from the Gillette Rubber Company in Eau Claire.

Moving the station — WTAQ — to Green Bay would necessitate the installation of a directional antenna, so as to not interfere with nearby stations.

The station came at a price tag of \$30,000.

The application was approved by the FCC in August 1935, and Green Bay became home to WTAQ.

Next week: Turning a profit

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