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January 27, 2023 - Volume LIII - No. 4 | \$2.00 Established in 1970

GREEN BAY | DE PERE | ASHWAUBENON | HOWARD | SUAMICO | ALLOUEZ | BELLEVUE | HOBART | SEYMOUR

Father-daughter duo are integral part of game day

BY JOSH STALOCH CONTRIBUTING WRITER

GREEN BAY – Shane Schick has been an equipment assistant with the Green Bay Packers for 24 seasons.

His responsibilities with the organization are numerous and crucial to what happens behind the scenes on gameday.

He was with the team for its most recent Super Bowl win; he's seen coaching changes and the switch from a once-in-a-generation quarterback to another once-in-a-generation quarterback.

He's got a lot of great stories to tell, but the one that puts the biggest smile on his face is how, at the start of the 2022 season, his daughter, Alexis, joined the crew as the team's referee assistant.



Shane and Alexis Schick, pictured here in the Packers' locker room, had a great first season of working together at Lambeau Field on game days. Josh Staloch photo

See FATHER page 4

Meet the four candidates for Green Bay mayor

BY KRIS LEONHARDT EDITOR IN CHIEF

GREEN BAY – On Feb. 21, city of Green Bay voters will narrow a field of four mayoral candidates down to two during its primary election.

We reached out to the four candidates to learn more about them and why they are running.

Following are their responses:

Paul Boucher

Please provide a little information about yourself:

I have dedicated my life to the study of sociology.

I graduated from Green Bay East High School in 1984.

See MAYOR page 10



As the population of senior citizens rises, the number of caregivers decreases. Stock photo

Addressing a need UW-Green Bay seeks caregiver crisis solutions

BY WILLIAM KOPP CONTRIBUTING WRITER

GREEN BAY – The caregiver crisis is a growing issue in northern Wisconsin.

As the population of senior citizens rises exponentially, the relative number of caregivers decreases.

Northern Wisconsin is expected to have a 72% increase in citizens 65 and older by 2040 while the growth of young workers, particularly in healthcare with assisted living, will only increase by 12%.

"Right now those 65 and older make up 15% of our

[Wisconsin's] population," University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Program Manager for Business and Government Outreach Laura Nolan said. "By 2024, they will make up 24%."

That's a large increase,

See CAREGIVERS page 8

Ashwaubenon district to vote on \$3.9 million referendum

BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ASHWAUBENON – On April 4, voters in the Ashwaubenon School District will decide the fate of a \$3.9 million referendum.

District leaders say the referendum is designed not necessarily to introduce new programs or propose projects, but rather to maintain quality programming that already exists

within the district, and that the referendum exists due to the state's school budget limits not keeping up with inflation.

"This is different from other referendums that we've done," said assistant superintendent, Keith Lucius. "Inflation is hitting us so hard, and we need to make decisions now because we need to make decisions on staff. We have to make decisions on pro-

grams, we have to make decisions on how the next school year is going to run, and without those increases, we have to protect ourselves so that we can maintain the quality programming that our community and students expect.

"It's really a matter of putting out what we need to keep up with inflation and being sure that we can continue everything that

See REFERENDUM page 9



District leaders say the referendum is designed to maintain the quality programming that already exists within the district. Kris Leonhardt photo

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

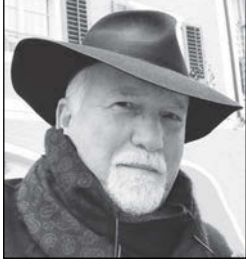
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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

On the advent of joy

Dear Reader,

In life, there are people and events that bring us joy. We feel joy when we see an old friend after a long hiatus; attend a concert or musical which is well constructed and plays like a three dimensional cascade through the sense; walk in the door and someone not only notices but leaps to their feet to hug you and welcome your presence.



Yes, those ordinary people to others in an ordinary world, can be extraordinary people to us who bring extraordinary joys to our lives, making it all seem worthwhile. They are the messages of hope in a world that needs it more than anything.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

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



A couple of visitors stop by Bruce the Spruce's area at the Neville Public Museum. **Neville Museum photo**

BE OUR GUEST

A message from Bruce the Spruce

Hi, everyone. Santa and I made it back to the North Pole safely.

I hope some of you were able to see us flying through the sky Saturday evening, Jan. 7.

The temperature was only 7 degrees Fahrenheit – the cold weather does not bother me, as Santa always has me bundled up tightly in a huge burlap bag to protect my branches.

Santa weathers the cold pretty well.

Thank you for coming to visit with me.

I hope you enjoyed our time together as much as I did.

I always love spending time with you; my friend Em, from Neenah; Eden and her little brother (first time meeting me); Ani, Maddie, and Mairead from Aldo Leopold school;

plus the many other youngsters and oldsters that have magic in their hearts.

Be sure to come again next year so I can see how much you have grown.

Luckily, you are able to eat the carrots; I can only take up the juice through my roots.

I did not see Breanna Rose or her cousins, Lillianna or Colton.

I missed you and hope you can come next year.

Also, a big thank you to the staff at Neville Public Museum for the great job they do every year decorating me.

Well, I must help the elves stay awake, as they are already starting on next year's toys.

Stay warm, be good and as always, be kind.

*See you next year,
Bruce the Spruce*

The Press Times welcomes readers to share their thoughts and opinions as a letter to the editor.

Letters must be no more than 400 words and be emailed to kleonhardt@mmclocal.com with the subject line "letters to the editor."

Letters can also be mailed or dropped off to our office located at 310 West Walnut, 4th floor, Green Bay, WI 54303.

Letters must be received by Monday in order to be included in the Friday edition.



BE OUR GUEST

Text message absentee ballot tracking proposed

FROM THE OFFICE OF REP. DAVID STEFFEN

State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) announced legislation to create a notification system for absentee voters in Wisconsin.

Under the proposal, the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) would send a text message to voters to confirm receipt of their ballot application and mailed absentee ballot by the clerk. The program would be voluntary, and all voter phone numbers would be kept confidential. "Some voters are clearly

hesitant to put their ballot in the mail," said Rep. David Steffen. "By adding a

receipt confirmation text option, I believe many voters will feel more confident about our state's mail-in absentee ballot system."

Text message notifications have become commonplace in the private sector for nearly every service, including appointments, home deliveries, and travel updates. The bill authors believe this system will be easily and broadly ac-

cepted by the public around election time.

"This commonsense measure will give folks the ability to request their ballot with the assurance it was

received and more easily track its progress," said Sen. Cabral-Guevara. "Any way we can make simple improvements to the process will help build more confidence in our elections."

The proposed ballot receipt confirmation system would be an added feature to the existing MyVote

platform maintained and administered by WEC.

As a result, this proposed program would only cost \$10,000-\$30,000 per year after its initial implementation, which is estimated to cost \$25,000.

"I don't think there is an easier, less expensive, more impactful way to enhance the public's confidence in our elections," said Steffen.

For more information please contact Representative Steffen or Senator Cabral-Guevara at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov or Sen.Cabral-Guevara@legis.wisconsin.gov.



Steffen

REFERENDUM

from page 1

we're offering.

"Previous referendums have been about adding things that are new programs or services or buildings; this one is purely to keep doing what we're doing."

In a fast fact sheet distributed by the Ashwaubon School District Board and a powerpoint put together and presented Jan. 9 at Valley View Elementary School by Lucius and Ashwaubon School District Superintendent Kurt Weyers, the board hopes to inform the public with as many facts as possible so they can make a good, educated decision once the time of the referendum vote comes.

"We want to be transparent on this, and we want to make sure that we have, and present, all the information possible so that people can make a decision," Lucius explained.

Initially, the referendum was intended to be \$4.9 million per year for five years, based on data on the cost of residents per student

increase (\$2,305.44) multiplied by resident students within the district (2,161), as well as other inflation-related needs.

But after getting opinions and feedback from the public, the district lowered the referendum to \$3.9 million per year for five years, and 67% of a survey of 987 responders from the community said that they were in support of the referendum.

This referendum will be dedicated to maintaining quality programs, technology, staffing and class sizes within the district, not adding anything new, especially with inflation leading to increased costs in busing, cleaning services, staffing and increased prices of supplies from supply chains.

Lucius said that with the current economy, there is an 8% increase in costs from 2022 and a 4.7% increase from 2021, and there is an expected increase of about 7% in 2023.

As of 2020, Wisconsin was ranked 25th in the U.S. when it comes to how much is spent per student, having formerly been in

11th place in 2002, with the current revenue limit base per student at \$10,149.81.

Wisconsin's school spending is currently 5.6% below the average of \$13,494, with Ashwaubon's spending being a low-spending district in Wisconsin, spending about 93.5% of the Wisconsin average (\$12,740) per pupil within the district as of 2021.

Lucius explained that with an increase in budget, the district would struggle to maintain quality programming, and would result in the district reducing class offerings, available classroom technology, opportunities for athletics and other activities and reduced spending on building maintenance.

If the referendum passes, the estimated impact on the mill rate is \$1.68, which is down \$1.03 (-13.5%) compared to last year's mill rate and this is an impact that will decrease as property values increase and when the state increases Equalization Aid.

As an example, the property tax increase on a \$100,000 house would

only be \$196 annually, an amount that is \$0.31 below what the mill rate was in 2017-18.

"We'd like the public to know is that we are not alone in this. Districts across the state are in the same boat because it is a state budgetary issue, so we've got other districts in the area who are having similar budgetary issues as us... This is not an Ashwaubon-only issue - this is a state-wide issue," Lucius stated.

Future public meetings on the referendum will be held Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6-7 p.m., at Pioneer Elementary School, and Wednesday, March 22, 6-7 p.m., at the Cormier Early Education Center.

Questions may also be sent to Lucius at kluclus@ashwaubonk12.org or Weyers at kweyers@ashwaubonk12.org, or call (920)492-2900 and ask for Kieth or Kurt, or visit the referendum website <https://www.ashwaubon.k12.wi.us/community/2023-referendum.cfm>.