

## Time to take a new 'interim' role with the paper

Hi, folks. I've been asked to assume the role of interim editor-in-chief of NEW Media, this nimble little company that publishes the Shawano Leader, Oconto County Times Herald, and the Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News.

When I first took on the position of Times Herald editor, I figured I wouldn't have time to get too personally engaged in the community.

After all, I said to myself, after 40-odd years of doing journalism — a couple of decades in radio news and then a couple of decades in newspapers, with a quixotic run for Assembly



**WARREN BLUHM**

in between, all of it in my beloved Northeast Wisconsin — I was almost at retirement age, and they would need someone else, someone younger, in no time at all. Better to leave it to my successor to engage the community.

Four years later ...

I was the one who asked that the title include the word "interim."

After all, I said, I'm already past retirement age, and you'll need someone else, someone younger, in no time at all.

It'll be interesting to see where we all are in four years.

In a sense, everything we do is "interim," even our "permanent" jobs. I think I've learned it's better to dive in for the duration, however long that duration lasts.

So, how are we doing? We are approaching the first anniversary of our pandemic-related interim (that word again) decision to semi-merge the three papers into a weekly entity

that shares a little more than half of its pages among themselves, with unique local covers and interior pages more specific to our local communities — and, of course, the three outlets share the same daily online presence, [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com).

What could we do better? What do you miss? Email [wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com](mailto:wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com) or voicemail/text 920-848-3427 to let me know.

We may or may not be able to provide what you want, but I promise to be, well, engaged.

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Readers can contact Warren Bluhm at [wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com](mailto:wbluhm@newmedia-wi.com).

## Transition comes to NEW Media as editor steps down

There is a time for grand speech-making and flowery prose.

This is not the time.

Rather, it is a time to reflect, and most of all, to say, "Thanks."

With this edition, I will be turning over the oversight of the three newspapers and website that make up the editorial portion of NEW Media, Inc. to the steady hand of Warren Bluhm. Some readers will recognize the name as the editor of the Oconto County Times Herald. He has had a long career in journalism and a wealth of editorial experience.

But I can't leave this position without acknowledging how grateful I am to have been in it.



**CAROL RYCEK**

First, thanks to Warren and my colleagues at NEW Media for making sure that the news will continue to be printed and posted. The staff is committed to offering subscribers fact-based, fair coverage of Shawano, Menominee and Oconto counties. This type of coverage is a service that newspapers have provided since the inception of the United States, and its role was deemed so important that the found-

ing fathers included it in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

In rural America, small newspapers fill a void that large-market TV stations and national media overlook. While social media has a role in local communication, newspapers take steps that social media does not — validating both facts and sources.

Newspapers, whether in print or online, are a place where the hard questions are asked. We appreciate those who answer those hard questions.

Thank you to everyone who was photographed, spoke on the phone or sat for interviews, sharing the best, and sometimes, the worst, mo-

ments of your lives.

It has been a privilege to be a witness to everything from pop-up weddings to political transitions; to share the excitement of sports and the creativity of local artists; to relay the story of someone who reached a 100-year birthday and a young entrepreneur who started a new business in the midst of a pandemic.

Thank you for your support through your subscriptions and advertising. NEW Media may be a constitutionally-protected entity, but it is also a small, local business.

As the now former editor-in-chief, it is time for a personal transition, and for one last time, to say, "Thanks."