



A Look Back At 2025 Part 1

January: (8) Matthew Olson, 40, of Cumberland has been charged with 2nd degree sexual assault of a child under the age of 16 years old. The report of the chief indicates that Olson began sexually assaulting the child since she was nine years old. He is facing 40 years in prison and fined \$100,000 if convicted.

(15) The Wisconsin Badgers honored former players at last Friday's contest versus Minnesota. Among those honored was Cumberland resident and 1965 graduate John Schell. Schell helped the Beavers to the state tournament in 1965 and is a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Schell played for the Badgers from 1966 through 1969 and was drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks in the 8th round in 1969. The Beavers court is named in his honor.

On January 8, 2025, removal/dredging of sediment from Library Lake commenced. The process began in September 2024 by installing sheet piling to block off the channel under Grove Street bridge between Library Lake and Rabbit Bay.

(22) Emergency Response Teams from both Barron County and Rusk County made entry into a residence on Jeffrey Blvd. Devin Baldwin, of Cumberland had badly assaulted his mother and refused to come out of the residence. Baldwin was eventually removed and taken to jail. This was his third time ERT have been called to the residence and the standoff lasted three hours.

(22) Congratulations to Jack Owens and Harrison Rupel for going over 100 career wins. The two helped propel Cumberland to the tournament Championship at last weekend's Beaver Dam Slam.

Cumberland Athletic Director Lorne Majewski presented Dawson Johnson a series of plaques honoring the Four Time State Champion. Johnson now wrestles for the University of Minnesota.

Company Honor Graduate!



LCpl. Jack Owens (right), of Cumberland, stands with Sgt. Jacob Rademacher of Recruiting Sub-Station Eau Claire following the graduation ceremony at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on Nov. 25. Owens was named Company Honor Graduate — the top recruit among 505 Marines — and the Marine Corps flew Sgt. Rademacher to San Diego to recognize his achievement. Owens is pictured holding the company honor graduate award.

Cumberland's Jack Owens Named Company Honor Graduate at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego; Owens earns top honor among 505 recruits; Marine Corps flies in his hometown recruiter for the ceremony

CUMBERLAND — When Jack Owens left Wisconsin this fall to begin the demanding 13-week journey of Marine Corps recruit training at MCRD San Diego, he set his sights on earning the title of United States Marine. What he achieved instead was something even rarer. Owens, a Cumberland native with family ties to Comstock, graduated on November 25, 2025, as the

Cont'd on page 2



Lexi Anderson

(29) Twelve year old Lexi Anderson, of Cumberland, was in need of a new heart and underwent a successful heart transplant surgery at Children's Hospital of Milwaukee last Tuesday, January 21. Lexi was first diagnosed with Restrictive Cardiomyopathy in December of 2023. Restrictive Cardiomyopathy is a rare form of heart fail-

Cont'd on page 11



City crews work to remove snow early Monday morning. Snow reports from the area vary from 5 or 6 inches up to 11 in Sarona from the Sunday night storm.

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Wisconsin Northwest Heritage Passage Announces 2025 Grant Recipients Supporting Area Art Teachers

Spooner, WI — December 28, 2025 — The Wisconsin Northwest Heritage Passage (WNHP), a non-profit 501(c)(3) arts advocacy organization, is proud to announce the recipients of its 2026 grant program, dedicated to supporting art teachers across Northwest Wisconsin. This initiative will provide nine \$500 grants for the Spring 2026 semester, empowering local educators to enhance their art programs and supplement supply budgets.

The WNHP grant program aims to enrich the educational experience for students in grades K-12 and promote the visual arts throughout the region. With these funds, teachers can acquire additional materials and resources to inspire creativity and engagement in their classrooms.

2025 Grant Recipients:

- Christine Sik — Spooner High School
- Kimberly Pearson — St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, Spooner
- Meaghan Sorenson — Hayward High School
- Amanda Buck — Spooner Middle School
- Annette Sellner — Spooner Elementary School
- Ellyn Schneider — Barron Middle School
- Holly Waterman — Cumberland Middle School
- Rebecca Johnson — Turtle Lake High School
- Brianna Hagmann — Northwood School, Minong

In addition to the grant program, WNHP is committed to showcasing student talent through its annual exhibition at the Arts in Hand Gallery in Spooner. Selected students have the opportunity to display their artwork, with a special opening reception for families, friends, and the community. This initiative expands students' understanding of the arts beyond the classroom and encourages them to pursue their creative passions.

Since its founding in 1999, Wisconsin Northwest Heritage Passage has worked to promote and celebrate the handmade arts of Northwest Wisconsin. The organization's mission is to educate the public about the significant impact of the creative community on the region's cultural and economic vitality, while fostering growth within the area's artistic industries.

Support for the Arts in Hand Gallery in Spooner directly enables the funding of these art teacher grants. By visiting, participating in events, or contributing to the gallery, you help sustain vital arts education opportunities for students and teachers throughout Northwest Wisconsin.

For more information about Wisconsin Northwest Heritage Passage and ways to support, visit <https://www.artsinhand.com/> about.

Jack Owens...

Company Honor Graduate — the highest distinction awarded to a recruit and an honor reserved for the top performer among 505 Marines in his training company.

Owens trained with 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Alpha Company, Platoon 1003, where he demonstrated standout leadership from the start. He served as Platoon Guide throughout his entire training, assisting drill instructors in maintaining standards, discipline, and motivation within the platoon.

His exceptional performance across all areas of recruit training — leadership, academics, physical fitness, marksmanship, and character — led to his selection as Company Honor Graduate. This achievement earned him a promotion to E3 Lance Corporal.

As a result, the Marine Corps flew in his hometown recruiter, Sgt. Jacob Rademacher of Recruiting Sub-Station Eau Claire, to attend the ceremony where Owens received formal recognition.

“Jack has worked incredibly hard for this,” said his mother. “We are so proud of his courage, commitment, and leadership. He set his mind on becoming a Marine, and he exceeded every expectation.”

Following graduation, Owens will continue his Marine Corps training as he begins the next phase of his military career. For the community of Cumberland, his achievement is a source of pride and a reflection of the values that shaped him long before he stepped onto the yellow footprints at MCRD San Diego.

Governor Evers Signs Executive Order #283 Declaring an Energy Emergency

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers announced on December 23rd he has signed Executive Order #283, extending the energy emergency in the state of Wisconsin. Due to persistent challenges caused by a pipeline disruption within the Midwestern pipeline distribution system, coupled with high demand for residential heating fuel, including heating oil and propane, Executive Order #283 will support the swift and efficient delivery of these products throughout the state. Executive Order #283 replaces Executive Order #282 signed by Gov. Evers on December 5th.

“The health, welfare, and safety of our neighbors depend on access to fuel for home heating, and as disruptions continue, this emergency declaration will help ensure folks and families across the state have the fuel they need to stay warm and safe,” said Gov. Evers.

According to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's Office of Energy Innovation, multiple suppliers report continued challenges with having to drive further distances to collect needed products.

Executive Order #283 extends the waiver of certain state and federal hours of service and adds a waiver to state weight limit restrictions, allowing suppliers to get caught up from the pipeline and weather-related delays. The waiver remains in effect through January 16 or as long as drivers transporting residential heating fuel are responding to the emergency, whichever is shorter.

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Barron County Sheriff 537-3106
Polk County Sheriff 485-8300

Emergency 911

Cumberland American Legion
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Ruby's Pantry

Saturday, January 3
Distribution will be held at Cumberland Fire Hall as a drive through Pantry. Everyone Welcome!
Please do not arrive before 6:30 AM
NO Registration Required
Distribution from 8 to 9:30 AM
Donation is \$25 per share
Cash Preferred - No Checks Please

✓ Cumberland's Ruby's Pantry will remain a drive through Pantry at the Cumberland Fire Hall.
✓ The Fire Hall is located behind the Elementary School. You will be directed to line up in the 3M parking lot. Please follow our parking directors.
✓ Fast Track guests will line up on the far side of the 3M parking lot.

CUMBERLAND AREA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY
Cumberland Area Food Pantry
Open Fridays 1-3 pm
1290 1st Ave. • Cumberland
For first time visit please provide name and address information and bring a sturdy bags to carry food.
Donations of unexpired food items can be brought to the pantry Fridays from 12 pm to 3:30 pm.
Cash donations can be sent to the pantry PO Box 741 Cumberland.
For further information or emergency food assistance, please call 715-822-3767.
Find us on Facebook @ Cumberland Area Food Pantry
cumberlandfoodpantry@gmail.com

This Pantry is an Equal Opportunity TEFAP Provider

SCHOOL LUNCH

Thursday, January 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR! NO SCHOOL.

Friday, January 2
NO SCHOOL

Monday, January 5
Chicken patty, fries, carrots.
MS/HS: Pizza. ES: Uncrustables.

Tuesday, January 6
Nachos, corn, black beans.
MS/HS: Pizza. ES: Uncrustables.

Wednesday, January 7
Lasagna with meat, broccoli, homemade wheat bread.
MS/HS: Pizza. ES: Uncrustables.

All meals are served with a variety of 1/2 pint of milk, fresh, frozen and canned fruits and vegetables. MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO VENDOR AVAILABILITY.

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ALL NIGHT PARKING PROHIBITED:

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CUMBERLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERINGS

THURSDAY, JAN. 1: • NO SCHOOL • CHRISTMAS VACATION •

FRIDAY, JAN. 2: • NO SCHOOL • CHRISTMAS VACATION •

MONDAY, JAN. 5: • 6:30-7:30 am CCE Pickleball - ES Gym • 5:45-8:45 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Hayward •

TUESDAY, JAN. 6: • 6:30 am-7:30 am CCE Pickleball - ES Gym • 4-5 pm CCE: Choose Fit • 5:45-8:45 pm HS Boys Basketball Invite @ Ashland • 7-9 pm HS Wrestling Home vs Barron •

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7: • 6:30-7:30 am CCE Pickleball •

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Facilitated by Mary Ricci
Let us help you be successful on your 2026 wellness health journey toward improving your health!

This is a wellness program you will love! This program will provide you with nutritional expertise and experience for well-balanced health. You will be provided with menus, shopping lists and delicious recipes!

This new session will take place Wednesday evenings
January 7, 2026 - February 4, 2026
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm • Thomas St. Angelo Public Library-Cumberland
Please Register by January 3, 2026

A one-time charge of \$49 will cover the cost of the manual used for this program.
* The first 5 people to register will receive the class manual for FREE!
TO REGISTER....Contact: Mary A Ricci 715-822-3655 or Susan Bridger CCE Director, Email: sbrid@csdmail.com, Call: 715-822-5121 ext. 403

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Now that Winter is on it's way... The weather will most likely force you inside....

**Visit the Cumberland Elementary School*
(Enter through the Gym doors) Monday -thru- Friday
**Gym Door will be open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m.*
Wednesday Evening: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
**November and December - Saturday - 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*
(Exception will be 12/7-1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. - Cost: Free -

To register or for further questions, contact:
Susan Bridger CCE Director 715-822-5121 ext. 403 or sbrid@csdmail.com

Cumberland School Board Holds Last Meeting of 2025 by Mark R. Fuller

The Cumberland School Board gathered in the Middle School Commons on December 22 as they held their monthly meeting, the last of 2025. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board quickly passed the Consent Agenda and began the evening with the District Reports.

Director of Learning Isaac Lundquist began the evening by updating the Board on the recently completed Access Testing of Grades 5-12, the upcoming testing of Pilot programs for Grades 2-5 in the Core Knowledge Language Arts Curriculum, and the first round of Interventions for reading efficiency. These interventions include literacy screenings to identify at-risk students, leading to personalized strategies to help each student achieve academic growth.

Mr. Lundquist gave an example to the Board of one current student whose intervention increased his reading by 35 percent, while discussing the January use of two Pilot Curriculum programs for teachers in Grades 2-5 which will run for approximately nine weeks. Both programs have received strong endorsements from Wisconsin Schools currently using these curriculums.

Lundquist added the current Wonders Curriculum at the Elementary has been successful, but added, "We're always on the lookout for even stronger and more impactful curriculums for our students."

Next up were the Action Items, which began with the approval of 24 revisions and one policy replacement as required annually to meet Statutory Compliances and Federal and State Laws. Minimal changes were needed and the Board passed the required changes following a brief discussion.

The Board then approved the School Safety Plan in accordance with the Wisconsin Statute requiring an on-site safety assessment be conducted before the Board approves such a plan. That drill was held on December 9 involving the local Police Department, Fire Department, and School Administration.

Superintendent Dr. Barry Rose gave an overview of the event which included a written summary by Police Chief Wolfe and confirmed things went well. Following the discussion, the Safety Plan was approved.

The Action Items concluded with the Board approving contracts for Lorne Majewski as JV Basketball Coach and William Rosenow as C-Team Coach.

Next up was an update from Superintendent Dr. Rose on the High School Project. He gave a positive and gratifying look at where the School Stands with both Phase B, the West Wing and Gymnasium, and Phase C, the

Commons and two-story. Dr. Rose used a series of pictures to show the quickly on-going changes.

Dr. Rose further gave an update on the green house, kitchen and gymnasium, where two new scoreboards will be installed over Christmas break. He added a December 3 Finance Meeting showed all checks and balances for the project were good and investments were going well.

The Evening concluded with Reports from the three building Principals.

Elementary Principal Ferguson discussed a successful "Shop with a Cop Night", the Kindergarten Gingerbread making event, and the annual Christmas Concerts which drew huge crowds and lots of praise.

Middle School Principal Green gave a rundown on the many activities going on in both the classrooms and out, Caroling in the community by students, and a very successful Penny Wars for Margaret's Project Santa.

High School Principal Dan Hopkins concluded the evening by discussing the excellent work done by the Maintenance Staff for the Holiday Concerts, recent classroom involvement by some of the communities Veterans, and the beginning of tryouts for the Spring Musical, "Annie."

Following the Administrative Reports, the Board adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 19.

Happy New Year 1900; The Island City Enters a New Century by Mark R. Fuller

It was December 1899 and as the end of another year neared and the 20th Century lay on the Horizon the residents of Cumberland prepared first for Christmas. Merchants from the Chicago Store, S. W. Hines Mercantile, Jacobsons, The Company Store, and E. Zimmerman and Company filled the December Advocates with great deals for the city residents and their family members.

Finding savings and good deals were necessary as the average 1899 family had an annual income of only \$3,000 with many having no indoor plumbing, phone, or a car. About half of the Nation's children lived in poverty, while many of the youth did not attend school past 8th grade; instead, laboring in factories or fields. The life expectancy of a male was 51 and female 46, while infant and child mortality rates were high.

Despite these statistics, an article in the Advocate emphasized the recent growth and prosperity of Barron County as New Year's Eve neared. The paper announced that 40,000 acres had been sold to settlers in 1899, adding, "Official records show that Barron County has developed during the past five years faster than any County in the State."

This led the Counties population to surpass 27,000 by the end of the year.

Cumberland was also growing as the same paper listed changes to the city over the past year which included 20 rebuilt or improved residences, two new mills, and a new saloon building by S. Palmer. Additionally, two more new Saloons were opening soon as the Mumbleau brothers of Minneapolis were moving into the Seddon Building and John Goodman had announced his new establishment could be found in the Rasmus Johnson Building.

Additionally, there were major changes coming to the Island City bank as O. A. Ritan, who founded the Bank in 1895, announced he was moving to Oregon for health reasons. First arriving in the area in 1874, Ritan was part of the original group that was petitioned to make Cumberland a city, donated the land where First Lutheran Church was built, served as the President of the City Council, and served as a member of the County Board of Supervisors for several years.

Upon leaving, he would say, "I bespeak for this Institution and for the city of Cumberland continued growth and prosperity. With the kindest feeling for the people of Cumberland and Barron County, I bid you farewell for the present."

The deluge of Christmas mail and the closing of schools on December 22 indicated Christmas was near.

To help those not getting their mail regularly, each December Advocate posted a list of letters that had not been picked up. The Post Office listed 10 letters "Uncalled for" as of December 16, including ones for Lars Gilbertson, Oscar Olson, and Orpha Hinch.

For others who checked for mail, but didn't get any, the Advocate offered a bit of humor, saying, "What a woebegone lot of faces there are when the Cumberland boys go to the Post Office and fail to get any mail. Girl's, take pity on them."

Schools, meanwhile, closed after their yearly Christmas programs. Teachers headed to their well-deserved Christmas breaks, while Principal Pease planned to include a stop at the Wisconsin Teacher's Association meetings in Milwaukee. The High School, meanwhile, put out their Second Annual "Island City Student Newspaper," which was published by the Advocate. The paper called it, "A very interesting sheet and a credit to the students."

As a prelude to the

PTA, which was founded in 1910, the mothers of the school children met before the upcoming Christmas break to hold a meeting on Saturday, December 16 to discuss issues of the day. It was pronounced as a success and those in attendance said, "It is believed that an occasional meeting of this kind will result in much good."

Soon, the many Christmas activities were over and the transition to a new Century lie just days ahead. Celebrations around the Country would be largely regional with little known as to what went on in other communities. There was no Dick Clark or Times Square ball drop to bring in 1900.

The only National Event that received attention was the story of the 1892 Steamship, the SS Warimoo. In this unique story, it was positioned on New Year's Eve at the intersection of the Equator and International Date Line with its bow in the Southern Hemisphere and its stern in the Northern Hemisphere where it existed in different days, months, years, seasons, and centuries simultaneously.

In the Island City, meanwhile, other than the family get-togethers that took place in homes, the only Island City community event on Sunday, December 31 was an 8:00 pm watch party at the Methodist Church. Sponsored by the cities churches and young people's societies, It offered an invitation to the residents of Cumberland to, "Watch the old year out and the new year and new century in."

I'm sure all who attended that event 125 years ago enjoyed their time together and wondered what lie ahead. Something we've continued to do each year since and will do this Wednesday night.

Here's wishing each of you a very Happy New Year and all the best in 2026.

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Sudoku Puzzle #4150-M

1			2		3			
	4			5	6			7
				4			8	
	8				2	9	7	5
		9	4		8	6		
7	6	2	5				4	
	5			1				
8			7	2			3	
			6		9			4

PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 1997 Madonna movie

6 Boyfriend

10 U.S. Department of Agriculture

14 Grant an extension

15 Make

16 Trudge

17 Afloat (2 wds.)

18 Mead

19 Canned meat

20 Drunkard

21 Movie star

23 Chemical compound

25 On top

26 Compass point

27 Elect (2 wds.)

30 Meter

34 Cook's garb

35 Skins

36 Grows acorns

38 Smarted

39 Wrath

40 Promised

42 Truss

43 Evils

44 Chili con ____

45 Rudely

48 Armor plate

49 Duet

50 Cur

51 Look closely

54 September (abbr.)

55 Animal foot

58 European monetary unit

59 Egg-shaped

61 Shift

63 Prego's competition

64 Type of organ

65 Opposite of ally

66 Potato sprouts

67 Soothe

68 Idiots

DOWN

1 Epochs

2 Oppose

3 Institution (abbr.)

4 Ball holder

5 Expecting

6 Jazz

7 Duke

8 Is

9 Relaxes

10 North of downtown

11 Ghetto

12 Ended

13 Jewish calendar month

22 Put on

24 South by east

25 Long time

27 Cosmic

28 Ocular

29 Not as false

30 Permed

31 Greek god of war

32 Beer brand

33 Merits

35 Stuff

37 Joint

40 Scurried

41 Stay

43 Different forms of an element

46 Abominable

47 Star

48 Coffee holder

50 Scrimmage

51 Dried-up

52 Wharf

53 Goad

54 Drains sap

55 Secondary

56 Vertex

57 Reasons

60 By way of

62 Card game

Opinion



Out My Window

by Paul Bucher, Editor

Well how about that snow storm! Thank goodness the wind didn’t get as bad as forecasted, or I’m pretty sure there would have been a lot of power outages. Channel 11 out of the cities said Rice Lake got 9 inches and Sarona 11 inches. I figure we got something closer to 9 at my house up by Timberland. It was the wet heavy stuff underneath for sure, as my driveway is now a skating rink. As an ice fisherman, I wish we would not have gotten that much, but I know skiers, snowmobilers and snow lovers in general are smiling this morning. I will say it is very pretty!

-0-

It is that time of year that it tends to get pretty quiet here at the newspaper. It’s funny during the busy parts of the year we have ton’s of photo’s and there is always something going on. As we put together this week’s paper a day early, I don’t have much for photo’s at all. Sports are quiet with the Christmas break and not much took place this past week. I have to remind myself its like this every year, always gets slower for a few months. It does allow for a few extra days of fishing I must say. Speaking of fishing, I finally got on some perch! I have had a heck of a time the past couple of months finding my favorite fish to eat. Man, they are so good, I had them twice the past couple of days. I hope I can get through the snow and go fish them again soon.

-0-

Boy, every time I think I know what’s going on in the NFL, I sure don’t. From one week to the next there is constantly games that make you scratch your head. Parity at its finest, at least this year there are some new teams with good records that should be fun to watch in the playoffs. The Packers will need to get it turned around in a hurry if they are going to make any noise when the playoffs start. I’m afraid injuries might be too much to over come but who knows. The Bears meanwhile, continue to play games that are a blast to watch. I’m not sure if they can continue to get turnovers at the same pace they have for most of the season. Typically playoff teams don’t turn the ball over very often. It will be fun to watch. It is not very often that a Packer-Vikings game this time of year means nothing, but that is the case for next weekend’s border battle. A little bragging rights is all! Have a great week and Happy New Year to all!



Inside Wisconsin

by Tom Still

“Year in review: Business, economic column themes grouped”

MADISON, Wis. – Writing a weekly business-centric column can mean 52 different themes within a year – or, more likely, a patchwork of recurring themes that weave a larger picture.

Here are some common threads in my 2025 columns, as well as a few loose ends in the fabric.

Tariffs and trade (9) – Wisconsin’s economy is built on pillars such as manufacturing, agriculture, transportation and technology, all of which can be subject to outside pressures. A column in January shortly after President Trump took office noted: “The worry is that retaliatory tariffs – the essence of a trade war – would disrupt the supply chain ... Business costs could rise over time and consumers would likely wind up paying more.”

As the year closed with “affordability” being a buzzword, the ups-and-down of tariffs, trade and foreign investment will likely remain on the 2026 topic list.

Research and development (10) – As the administration rolled out cuts in federal support for academic R&D, an early 2025 column noted: “Trump may well be justified in dialing back federal spend-

ing; the nation has run a deficit every year since 2001 ... What’s alarming is that university research seems like a counter-productive place to start.”

That theme was revisited around Wisconsin’s expertise in cancer detection and treatment, immunotherapy, vaccine development, engineering, agriculture, computing and more. These disciplines help to spark young companies or reinvigorate the old. As the rest of the world (especially China) catches up to the United States, expect other R&D funding updates in 2026.

Entrepreneurship and early stage investing (12) – In a January column that noted Wisconsin lags most states in startups of all types, from barbershops to biotech, I noted: “The answers to Wisconsin’s startup shortage are complex ... Whether you live in a small town or a major city, you should care about how many young companies are born and how many survive infancy. Those startups may grow up to be the major employers of tomorrow.”

As the year progressed, columns looked at some encouraging tech startup trends as tracked by an out-of-state observer; angel and venture capital in-

vestments and needs; state of Wisconsin tax policies; the rise of Exact Sciences; and examples of success outside the state’s largest cities. Expect more such reports in 2026.

Energy needs and solutions (7) – Several columns noted it’s tempting to blame the rise of artificial intelligence and data centers for rising energy needs, but bigger drivers are a generally expanding economy; electric vehicles; the continuing electrification of many industrial sectors; and the fact that consumers tend to buy any device that comes with a power cord. Examples of possible solutions in Wisconsin were renewables such as solar energy, renewed interest in nuclear fission and homegrown successes in nuclear fusion.

Fusion is not just a futuristic energy source. As three Wisconsin companies are demonstrating, atomic isotopes produced through nuclear fusion can fight cancer, enhance national security, inspect industrial components and recycle nuclear waste. That story will be followed in 2026.

AI pros and cons (4) – This topic grew hotter in Wisconsin and the nation as the year wore on. Proponents see the potential

for breakthroughs in a variety of economic sectors; skeptics worry about deep fakes and scammers, energy and water use, effects on children, the loss of entry-level jobs and more.

One recent column noted how “physical AI” could bolster Wisconsin’s core industries: “To borrow a title from a hit holiday movie, perhaps “AI For Good” needs time in the theater of popular opinion.”

Will national standards for AI use and abuse calm legitimate fears? Let’s hope so, because international competition won’t stand still for fragmented 50-state arguments. More to be covered in the new year.

Other topics: This mixed bag included the need to create a College of Computing and AI at UW-Madison, which was approved by the Board of Regents in December. Rural health care and economic stability were another theme. The surprising resilience of smoking despite decades of evidence linking it to cancer and other health dangers was among others.

Happy New Year and thanks for reading!

Still is president of the Wisconsin Technology Council. He can be reached at tstill@wisconsinintechcouncil.com.



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Tues-Thurs: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

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✂ Letters to the Editor: The Cumberland Advocate welcomes letters to the editor, **500 words or less** on subjects of interest to our readers, however, the choice of any material is at the discretion of the editor. Letters are limited to one per month per person. Letters endorsing or criticizing candidates for elected office will not be published two weeks prior to the election.

The editor also reserves the right to edit letters to meet space requirements, clarify, or to avoid obscenity, libel, or invasion of privacy. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the address and phone number(s) for verification purposes.

Poetry and thank you letters are not appropriate. There will be a charge for letters of thank you from individuals and they will be included with the paid notices, not with Letters to the Editor.

Weekly deadline is 2:00 p.m. on Friday

A Look Back

10 Years Ago January 6, 2016

In honor of the holiday season, Cumberland Healthcare staff participated in a food drive to support the Cumberland Food Pantry. Cumberland Healthcare staff members were divided into team determined by the month that they were born in. The food drive was a huge success with a total of 475 items donated to the Cumberland Food Pantry. This is the third year staff members have participated in a food drive.

20 Years Ago January 4, 2006

For the sixth year, Theater in the Woods is sponsoring Community Collage-a fast moving series of vocal, instrumental, dance and theatrical performances by area junior and high school age students. This year, David Hopkins-Hile, of Cumberland, will be performing two original works for voice and guitar.

On December 29, at approximately 12:33 p.m., the Sheriff’s Department received a 911 call from Trapper’s Crossing Bait and Liquor Store in Chetek regarding an attempted armed robbery. Two males entered the store and demanded money from the clerk while displaying a handgun. The clerk removed a loaded shotgun

from under the counter and fired one round towards the suspects. The suspects fled the store without receiving any money. This incident is still under investigation.

30 Years Ago January 3, 1996

1995 was the safest hunting year on record, with 54 accidents, only one of which was fatal, according to the Department of Natural Resources. Five years ago, Wisconsin had 93 accidents with five fatalities, 10 years ago there were 98 accidents with nine fatalities.

40 Years Ago January 1, 1986

Lori Nyhus of Cumberland, was chosen as the grand prize winner in the Chamber of Commerce’s recent Snowflake Days drawing. Nyhus wins a dinner and show for two at the Carleton Celebrity Dinner Theater as well as a night’s accommodations in the Twin Cities.

The Cumberland Fire Department received 41 calls during 1985 including eight chimney fires and eight car fires. Other calls included 10 building fires, four grass fires, four false alarms and seven miscellaneous fires.

50 Years Ago January 1, 1976

William Bay, executive director of Impact Seven Inc., and a local resident of Cumberland, was recently awarded a beaded Indian medalion in recognition of his “long, outstanding concern and dedication to Indian Projects,” and particularly in the fields of alcoholism rehabilitation and economic development.

60 Years Ago January 6, 1966

Cumberland Rural Firemen were called to the Clarence Munchow home, six miles northwest of the city in Crystal Lake at 4:12 pm on Sunday. A chimney fire caused minor damage.

Airman Second Class Dennis L. Crawford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Onie L. Caliguire of Cumberland, has been selected Outstanding Airman of the Month for his unit at Sheppard AFB, TX. Crawford was honored for his exemplary conduct and duty performance.

70 Years Ago January 5, 1956

The weather report for December shows the coldest reading was on December 19, when it dropped to minus 29, but that ain’t nothing compared to a minus 32 in 1946 and 33 below in 1936.

80 Years Ago January 3, 1946

For the first time in history, with the exception of the war years. Stokely Foods Inc., will run through the winter this year. Operations will probably continue through the winter months at much the same pace as they have during the summer.

FREE READING HELP

Barron County Area Literacy Council
715-637-5797

2025

WEATHER

Date	Hi	Lo	prec.	Snow
12/23	34	19	0.0	0.0
12/24	34	15	0.0	0.0
12/25	32	19	0.0	0.0
12/26	30	24	0.05	0.0
12/27	33	30	trace	0.0
12/28	33	31	0.01	0.0
12/29	33	8	0.36	5.2

Temperature and precipitation readings are taken at 7 a.m. for the previous 24 hours and are provided by the Cumberland Utility Office.

Barronett News

By Judy Pieper

The Christmas Eve candlelight service at Barronett Lutheran was, as usual, beautiful. We had a quite a few visitors joining us that evening, and Pastor Todd made the story of Christmas seem new again.

The congregation of Barronett Lutheran would, once again, like to thank Pastor Karen Johnson for filling in at the organ for our regular organist, Geri Pittman, on Christmas Eve. I probably do not have to tell you this, but Karen plays the organ beautifully, and we appreciate the fact that she always so graciously agrees to play for us.

The reason Geri was not at our church that evening was that she spends every Christmas Eve with her family. First, they had dinner and a birthday celebration for her son and daughter-in-law, Dan and Jess, at Geri's house. After that, they drove over to St. Matthew's Lutheran church in Almena for their Christmas Eve program, in which granddaughter, Brooke, participated.

I had the indoor decorations up the beginning of last week, but I didn't think that I would be able to get the outdoor things out this year. Well, Miriah and Jeremy Olson stopped by on Monday and helped us get the outside things set up. Everything looks so nice now – we have the nativity scene, a Christmas tree, three deer, and icicle lights around the gazebo. I will take everything back into the garage in a couple weeks -- except for the icicle lights. It's so nice to have a little light out there when we are walking into the house on these dark evenings. Life is good!!

The Straw family had a wonderful weekend. Mar-

vin and Marshall drove over to Green Bay on Saturday morning to attend the Packer/Raven's football game that evening. (Not one of the Packer's finest hours.) They spent Saturday night in Green Bay, and came back Sunday. Marvin said that when they first started home the roads were pretty much okay, but as they got closer to home, they got a little dicey.

While the guys were gone, Mandy and Morgan had a great girls' day out. They started with a shopping trip, and ended the day by going to a movie. I have to say, just to make my cousin, Jerry Birk, happy, it sounds like a good time was had by all.

Jim Copus drove up from Brooklyn, WI, last Monday to visit with friends and family before Christmas. He comes up from his winter place in Florida every year to spend Christmas in the frozen north. (Crazy man.) We're glad – It's always great to have family together at this time of year. He stopped by to visit early that afternoon, and then he and Pat Olson came over later and visited for quite a while. Pat and I both sent cookies home with him to share with his family when they had their get-together at his daughter, Denyse's, house on Christmas day.

Jerry Marsh, Jodi Ladd, Ginny and Tami Wickersham and Tami's son and daughter, Kassim and Fatim, Savanna Marsh and Ryan Twomey spent Christmas in Worcester, MA with Alec, Sanara and Chiara Caracappa. They spent Christmas Eve with Alec's parents, Joe and Linda, and the rest of the

Caracappa family. I would have loved to be out there with them, spoiling that precious new baby, but it was not to be this year. I did text Jerry and told him that, if they had any problems with flight cancellations, I would be happy to drive my little-bitty Prius out there and bring them all home. (Can you imagine that many people in that little car? I would have had to shove some of them in a car-top carrier.)

Speaking of shoving people in places for trips, I have to tell you a story about my cousin, Curt Hefty. Curt had a dog that he took with him everywhere he went. One time one of his friends accused him of loving that dog more than he loved his wife, Mary Kay. Curt had a quick answer for that, he said something like this: "Well, think about it – If I put the dog and Mary Kay in the trunk of my car, drove from our house in Anchorage to North Dakota and then opened the trunk, which one do you think would be happy to see me." He did have a point.

Nate Hargrove and Alyse and Tru Lehmann spent Christmas day with Nate's sister and brother-in-law, Emily and Jeremy Bartz, at their home in Rice Lake. Tru said that they all had a fantastic time visiting with the family.

On Sunday Tru and Bella Neitzel went skiing at Christie Mountain. They had a great time, but by the time they got back to this area the roads were pretty bad so, instead of coming home, Tru spent the night with the Neitzel family.

I better run. I hope you have a very happy and healthy 2026. See you in the new year.

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SENIOR DINING

Thursday, January 1

No Meal Service - New Year's Day

Friday, January 2

Classic tator tot casserole with beef and mixed vegetables, pickled beets, assorted bread, fruit cobbler.

Monday, January 5

Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, assorted bread, chilled pears.

Tuesday, January 6

Ham & swiss sandwich, creamy bacon and potato soup, fruit and yogurt granola parfait.

Wednesday, January 7

Baked cod with creamy dill sauce, boiled potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, chocolate pudding.

Lunch is served at 11:45 am and includes milk and/or coffee. Suggested contribution is \$8.00 per meal for anyone 60 years or older and \$15.00 full cost for those under 60. Please reserve your meal 24 hours ahead of time by calling The Cumberland Senior Center at 715-822-8794. MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

(No reservation needed for Soup & Salad Bar days on the 1st an 3rd Tuesday of the month served 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.) The Senior Center is located at 1255 Webb St.

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10 Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Free Brain Health Program Coming to Mosaic Technologies this January

The Aging & Disability Resource Center is offering a valuable opportunity for older adults to enhance their cognitive wellness with a free seven-week “Boost Your Brain and Memory” class this January and February.

Program Details

The comprehensive program will run for seven sessions on Tuesdays from January 13th through February 24th, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Classes will be held at Mosaic Technologies in the Training Center located at 401 S 1st St. in Cameron, Wisconsin.

A Holistic Approach to Brain Health

What sets this program apart is its holistic approach to improving brain health in older adults. Rather than focusing on just one aspect of cognitive wellness, participants will discover new habits that support overall brain health while simultane-

ously practicing specific skills designed to enhance memory performance.

The program recognizes that maintaining sharp cognitive function as we age requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses multiple factors affecting brain health. Participants can expect to learn evidence-based techniques and lifestyle modifications that support long-term cognitive wellness.

Program Benefits

Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills including:

- New habits to maintain optimal brain health
- Specific techniques for improving memory performance
- Strategies for supporting cognitive function as you age
- A supportive environment to practice new skills with peers

Registration Information

This valuable program is offered completely free of charge. Interested participants are encouraged to register early to secure their spot.

Registration can be completed in two ways:

- Online: Visit www.adrcconnections.org/registrations
- By phone: Call 715-537-6225

Why Brain Health Matters

As we age, maintaining cognitive health becomes increasingly important for independence, quality of life, and overall well-being. Programs like “Boost Your Brain and Memory” provide older adults with practical tools and strategies they can implement in their daily lives to support their cognitive function.

Mosaic Technologies’ decision to host this free program reflects a commitment to supporting the health and wellness needs

of older adults in the community. Don’t miss this opportunity to invest in your cognitive health. With limited space available and the program being offered at no charge, early registration is highly recommended for this seven-week journey toward better brain health and memory performance.

WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

There' will be no parking on any city street between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on any day between November 1 through April 1. Violators may be ticketed or towed.



Skinner

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Church Directory



“Joseph”
by Pastor John Miels
St. Paul Lutheran Church

Joseph, a carpenter, a man who may have indeed been a master builder, may have worked on the projects of Herod and the like. Our Lord needed a father figure strong and vigorous, one who could provide for his family, one who could lead the family to Egypt, and then back to Nazareth. He’d have to be a discreet man, a man of strength, not a talker or braggart.

His betrothed was lovely of spirit and countenance. Uh oh, found to be with child; pregnant. Did he know Mary as he thought he did? Evidence suggested something else. An angel came in a dream and set Joseph straight. Do not fear, for the child is conceived by the Holy Spirit, God’s Son. Born to save His people from their sin. Emanuel, God with us.

Joseph, the evidence suggests, would go on to have other children with Mary, children who were not, sisters or brothers from another mother. He did not know her before the child was born. That’s the significant part. There is no defilement, nothing untoward. Marital relations bring no stain to those involved. Quite the opposite. In joy of a Savior, there would be joy in an expanding family of another Joseph, a Simon, a Jude, and a James. Sisters, too. Joseph would take Mary, with child, to Bethlehem. From Egypt to Nazareth, a growing family.

That would explain how they left the 12 year Jesus in Nazareth. Other children were in tow. Mary was mobile, moving to the hill country to see Elizabeth, to Bethlehem to be registered with Joseph, the legal father. Joseph loved Jesus as his own, a reminder that all children belong to God, all children are to know our Father who art in heaven. Joseph was a guardian. The struggles would be real, the danger, the hardships, and also the joy. Mary’s Son would save His people from their sins. And that meant Joseph and Mary, also a sinner in need of salvation.

We may think of Joseph and his restless nights, of dreams that took him out of danger into unfamiliar places, of dreams that took his growing family home to Nazareth. Mary was and is blessed among women, now and always. But Joseph shall take a special place in our hearts and admiration. A man in full, strong and faithful, fit for headship in a family human and divine.

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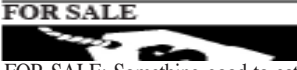
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CUMBERLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025
Regular Board Meeting
Middle School Commons,
6:01 p.m. Open Session,
Closed to Follow

Present: Board – Gideo, Hyatt, Rieper, Skinner & Stone
Administration - Rose, Ferguson, Green & Hopkins

President Stone announced that this was a legally and properly noticed meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Motion was made by Gideo, seconded by Rieper, to approve items a-e on the Consent Agenda as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.

2. a. Isaac Lundquist, Curriculum update
b. Lorne Majewski, Athletic update

3. Motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Gideo, to approve the Cumberland School District Library Media Plan. All voting aye, motion carried.

4. Motion was made by Hyatt, seconded by Rieper, to approve Abigail Henke as Assistant Softball Coach. All voting aye, motion carried.

5. Heard various discussion items, administrative reports, and noted meetings/events.

Motion made by Gideo, seconded by Rieper, to adjourn to closed session. President Stone requested that the clerk conduct a roll call vote to adjourn to a closed session for the purpose of considering employment and compensation, performance evaluations, and discussing negotiations per Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (1)(c), specifically to discuss District Administrator evaluation. By roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried to immediately adjourn to closed session.

A motion was made by Gideo, seconded by Skinner, to reconvene to open session to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye, motion carried.

Having no further business to conduct, motion was made to adjourn by Hyatt, seconded by Skinner. All voting aye, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Jennifer Hyatt
Cumberland School District Clerk

Published in the Cumberland Advocate on December 31, 2025. WNAXLP

NOTICE
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
BARRON COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(Informal Administration)
CASE NO. 2025 PR 131

In the Matter of the Estate of Faith Darlene Barker, deceased, Case No. 2025 PR 131.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/17/1945 and date of death 06/18/2025, was domiciled in Barron County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1643 2nd Avenue, PO Box 432, Cumberland, WI 54829.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 6, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Barron County Justice Center, 1420 St. Hwy. 25 N., Barron, Wisconsin, Room 2700.

/S/ Deanne E. Larson
Probate Registrar
December 02, 2025

Steve Barker
1039 Camphor St.
Hickory Creek, TX 75065

Published in the Cumberland Advocate on December 31, January 7 & January 14, 2026. WNAXLP

NOTICE
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
BARRON COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(Informal Administration)
CASE NO. 2025 PR 000128

In the Matter of the Estate of Frank S. Ranallo, deceased, Case No. 2025 PR 128.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/08/1931 and date of death 09/23/2025, was domiciled in Barron County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1300 Water Street, Cumberland, WI 54829.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 6, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Barron County Justice Center, 1420 St. Hwy. 25 N., Barron, Wisconsin, Room 2700.

/S/ Deanne E. Larson
Probate Registrar
December 02, 2025

Anthony K. Berg,
Attorney at Law LLC
1344 Second Ave.
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-3455 • BAR# 1077438

Published in the Cumberland Advocate on December 31, January 7 & January 14, 2026. WNAXLP

NOTICE

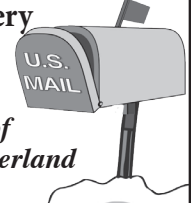
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors for Town of Maple Plain will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, located at 393 26th Avenue. The hall is accessible to all persons.

The agenda will be posted no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting and on the Town's website, www.townofmapleplain.wi.gov

Danielle Maxwell-Parker,
Clerk
Town of Maple Plain

Published in the Cumberland Advocate December 31, 2025. WNAXLP

Reminder to City Residents! It is your responsibility to keep your mailboxes cleared for mail delivery



City of Cumberland

Year in Review...

lure that is very aggressive and has no cure. The lining of the heart thickens until it can no longer pump blood.

Since 1982 the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association has awarded the most outstanding senior basketball player in the state the honor of Mr. Basketball. Among this year's six state finalists, the Beavers Senior Gavin Gores is the winner. Gores, the school's all time leading scorer is averaging 35 points and 14.2 rebounds per game for the 9-4 Beavers.



Gavin Gores

February (12) Gavin Gores became just the 60th player in State History in any division to score 2000 career points. Gores is currently 3rd in the state in scoring and is also 6th in rebounding.

Logan Peterson claimed the 157 pound HON Conference Championship with 3 wins at last weekend's HON meet in Northwestern.

Braden Johnson pinned three straight opponents to run away with 126 pound title at the HON meet last weekend at Northwestern. Johnson raised his record to 38-1.

Mike Paffel was recognized by the City of Cumberland for his exemplary service to the City as a member of the Airport Commission for over 32 years, beginning January 1992.



State Wrestlers from left to right are Jack Owens, Logan Peterson, Braden Johnson and Cooper Schramski.

(26) The Beavers strong wrestling tradition continues as four wrestlers are headed to the State Tournament at the Kohl Center. They are Jack Owens Sectional Champion, Logan Peterson Sectional Runner-Up, Braden Johnson Sectional Champion and Cooper Schramski Third Place.

Louie's Finer Meats once again proved why they are one of the best meat markets anywhere in the world by earning 20 Gold Medals and one Bronze medal, the largest international competition in the world held by the German Butchers Association from Frankfurt Germany at Iowa State University. Louie's also captured the "Cup of Honour" for their entries.

March (5) The Cumberland Basketball Beavers are Co HON Champions for 2024/25. It is the Beavers first Conference Championship in 53 years. They share the title with Northwestern High School.

(12) Members of the Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA) gathered Friday, January 31, in River Falls where WBA installed their 2025 leadership team. The new Hall of Fame inductee this year was Michelle Beyreis from Cumberland Federal Bank. Award candidates were nominated by their local builders association and selected by the WBA awards committee.

The Cumberland Beavers claimed the Regional Championship last Saturday night in a packed Elmer Beran Gymnasium. The Beavers outlasted Cameron in a double overtime 63-60 thriller. Team members from left to right are John Richter, Parker Peterson, Calvin Cunningham, Chayden Berghammer, Gavin Gores, Carson Catlin, Troy Majewski, Max Odden, Uriah Johnson, Alex LaBlanc, Jack Richter and Edwin Martinez.



Cumberland Firefighters pay tribute to Bill Metnik with a final goodbye.

(19) Members of the Cumberland Fire Department paid tribute to Bill Metnik with a final goodbye stopping by the Metnik home last Thursday, March 13th, in full gear along with every fire truck the department has along with some fireworks. Metnik, who was battling cancer passed away on March 15th. Metnik was a 20 year member of the department and was instrumental in forming the Cumberland Fire District which includes the townships of Lakeland, Cumberland, Maple Plain, Crystal Lake and the City of Cumberland.

Congratulations to Mya Gardner who completed her first solo flight on February 18th, 2025. Most traditional training aircraft had tandem seating (one in front of

Cont'd on page 12

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www.wisconsinpublicnotice.org

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Sports

Boy’s Basketball Team Drops Contest to Grantsburg; Rice Lake Next

The Cumberland Basketball Team finished up their pre-Christmas Schedule with a 59-53 loss to the Grantsburg Pirates in a game at Cumberland last Tuesday night. With the victory, the Pirates raise their record to 2 and 4 on the year, while the Beavers fall to 1 and 5.

Grantsburg built up a 33-23 halftime lead and hung on to victory despite a late Cumberland rally. The difference in the contest was Pirates Junior Alex Hale, who hit five of six shots from beyond the arc to pace the Grantsburg attack. The Pirates also hit 13 of 15 free throws in the game.

Cumberland Senior Troy

Majewski led the Beavers with 14 points including three treys. He added eight assists in a strong performance. Senior Calvin Cunningham also had a nice game for Coach Ryan Zemke with 12 points.

On the season, Max Odden leads the Beavers in scoring at 12.4 points per game, while Majewski is scoring at a 12 PPG clip.

The Beavers participated in the Rice Lake Holiday Tournament on December 29 and 30 and then get back into HON play with a trip to Ashland on Tuesday, January 6. On Friday, January 9, Cumberland hosts Hayward at 7:00 pm.



Calvin Cunningham and Max Odden contest a shot in the Beavers loss to Grantsburg last week in Cumberland. Photo by Lauren McCreary.

Girls Basketball Game Against Spring Valley postponed; Off Until January 5

The Cumberland Girl’s Basketball Team is on their Christmas break, following the postponement of their December 22 game in Spring Valley. The team will be back in action on Monday, January 5, with a contest in Hayward beginning at 7:00 pm. On Thursday, January 8, the team will return to their home floor with a game against the Ladysmith Lumberjacks.

The team is 1 and 7 over the first eight games, but have shown improvement under Coach Tim Obr. Starting a very young lineup, they are being led by Ju-

nior Raegan Beecroft, who is averaging 12.2 points and 6.6 rebounds per contest. Sophomore Abby Schultz is also playing well while scoring 5.8 points and pulling down 7.9 rebounds per game.

The team’s biggest need in the season’s second half is to improve on their shooting where they are currently hitting on only 30 percent of their field goal attempts and 50 percent of their free throws. “The girls are working hard and we are anxious to return to the court,” concluded Coach Obr.

Girls Hockey heads into Christmas Break with Victory Over Northern Tier

The Hayward Co-op Girl’s Hockey Team heads into their Christmas break following a 4-1 victory over Northern Tier last week. Northern Tier is a team out of Osseo, Minnesota.

The Hurricanes outshot their opponent 45-21 and rolled to a 2-0 lead after two periods, closing things out by outscoring the Tier 2-1 in period three. It was a rough contest with 10 penalties called in the game including three roughing calls on Hayward.

Cumberland’s Olivia Holzman-Byrne picked up her second goal of the season in period two. She now has two goals and an assist in the team’s first seven games.

The team was scheduled for a contest in Hayward on December 29 and 30 against the Coulee Region Cyclones, but details were sketchy. The team is next scheduled for a contest against Northern Shore at 7:00 pm on January 6.



Cumberland junior Andrea Santangelo waits for a move from a Pirate player during the boys home loss last week on the Beavers home floor. Photo by Kaylee Jackson.

Wrestling Team at Northern Badger; Host Barron on January 6

The Cumberland Wrestling Team was in River Falls on Monday and Tuesday for the annual Northern Badger Wrestling Tournament. The Northern Badger, established in 1985, is considered one of the highest-quality wrestling tournaments in the state and annually produces great matches. There

were 48 teams competing in this year’s 40th Classic. Following the Tournament, the Beavers will be back in action on Tuesday, January 6, when they host Barron at 7:00 pm. On Saturday, January 10, the team will head to Merrill, Wisconsin for their Invitational beginning at 9:15 am.

Northwest Icemen Pick up 1-0 Win Over Rice Lake

The Northwest Icemen played a pair of games prior to the Christmas break, dropping a competitive 3-2 decision to Medford on December 19 before picking up a 1-0 win over Rice Lake on December 20. The victory gives the Icemen a record of 1 and 9 with their next game scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, when they travel to Amery for a 7:00 pm start.

The Medford game was an even battle with the Ice-

men outshooting their opponents 34-33. The contest was filled with penalties with 15 infractions called in the contest. Braydon Roberts had both of the Icemen goals.

On Saturday, December 20, the Icemen picked up their first win of the year with a 1-0 victory over Rice Lake. The loss drops Rice Lake’s record to 0 and 7 on the season. There were no statistics posted on the game as of December 27.



Cumberland’s Olivia Holzman-Byrne scored her second goal of the season in the girls win over Northern Tier. Holzman-Byrne shows a ton of dedication traveling to Hayward almost daily to play for the co-op hockey team.

Sports Look Back, January 6, 1965

When you hit 58% of your field goal attempts and 71% of your free throws, winning ball games is a fairly easy task in any league. The Cumberland Beavers have done just that in rolling up six straight victories this season.

The Beavers have four men averaging in double figures with John Schell leading the way with a 20 point per game average. Schell dominates other Beaver statistics as well while ranking second in the con-

ference in scoring. Steve Helbig and Phil Nelson are also among the top ten scorers in the conference and Jim O’Dell has pushed his scoring average into the double figure bracket.

Coach Elmer Beran’s Beavers have enjoyed pro-type shooting averages thus far as they have hit 191 of 332 shots from the field excluding the Ladysmith game for which statistics were not available. In six games, the Beavers have averaged 88.1 points per game while op-

ponents have averaged 57 points per game. The Beavers have also been hot from the free throw line with 85 of 120 attempts made for a 71% average.

Schell leads the regulars with a phenomenal 78.5 shooting percentage. John Talbot has shot only 14 times in five games but has connected on 10 shots for a 71% average. Schell also leads the rebounders with 68 followed by Jim O’Dell with 32 rebounds. O’Dell has intercepted more pass-

es than anyone else with 26 steals while Helbig has been the top playmaker with 15 assists. Peter Kiesch has been the highest scoring substitute with 7.5 points per game followed by Dave Dosch with 4.3 points per game.

The Beavers will be gunning for victory number seven when they host the powerful Barron Bears on Friday, January 8.

FINAL
WEEK
18

2025 Cumberland Advocate Football Contest

FINAL
WEEK
18



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New Orleans vs Atlanta



Miami vs New England



Denver vs LA Chargers



Las Vegas vs Kansas City



Houston vs Indianapolis



Minnesota vs Green Bay



Detroit vs Chicago



NY Giants vs Dallas



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Tampa Bay vs Carolina



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Spot Bar & Restaurant _____

Nezzy's Sports Bar & Grill _____

Peter & Annie's _____

Corner Bar _____

TIE-BREAKER (Please indicate game score)

Washington _____ VS Philadelphia _____

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1st Place
Tim Moynihan
10*

2nd Place
Darryl McCoy
10*

3rd Place
Jim Ellis
9*

Year In Review...

the other, with the student in front) and before headset technology improved an instructor would commonly have to tug on the back of the student’s shirt to get their attention. She also passed her FFA written knowledge test for her private pilot license.

The Cumberland Girls Basketball Team had two of its players named to the 2024-2025 HON All Conference squad. Senior Macy Beecroft was chosen to the Second Team while sister Raegan Beecroft was named as an Honorable Mention.

April (2) Former Cumberland High School graduate Raymond (Bo) Nelson and his K-9 partner Creed are the newest K-9 team in Barron County.

Cumberland Senior Gavin Gores has been named as one of ten players to the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association D4 All-State Team. He was also a member of the team last year. For his career, the Cumberland senior played in 103 varsity games, where he scored 2,360 points, grabbed 1,108 rebounds, dished out 174 assists, and had 119 blocked shots.

(9) Mark Mauer was honored as the Chamber of Commerce Humanitarian Citizen of the Year at the annual banquet held on April 1. Ron Helstern was honored as the Chamber of Commerce Business Citizen of the Year.

The Cumberland Fire District announces that Chief Rick Sebens has resigned from his position. Sebens has served the community with unwavering dedication and commitment for 20 years. Chad Olson has been appointed as the Interim Fire Chief for the Cumberland Fire District.

Four Cumberland high school musicians have been selected for the 2025 Wisconsin School Music Association State Honors Project. The WSMA State Honors Project is nationally recognized as one of the finest opportunities for young people. Students selected participate in an intensive and mandatory four day summer camp and perform in Madison as part of the Wisconsin State Music Conference. The students from Cumberland are Cash Daniels, Andrew Carlson, Willow Franc and Nadia Benson.

On March 30, the Heart O’ North Conference honored each school’s senior. The Cumberland Golf Course Female and Male WIAA Scholar Athlete nominees were announced. Charlotte Odden and Cooper Schramski are Cumberland’s nominees for 2024-2025.

(16) There will be a pre-construction meeting to discuss the 2025 resurfacing of Highway 63 from the west junction of WIS 48 to Charrie Lane. The construction will consist of removing and replacing pavement, closing access to the roadway at various locations to improve safety, upgrading pedestrian curb ramps, repairing and replacing curb, gutter and sidewalk, repairing sanitary sewer, extending two-way left turn pavement, and replacing pavement marking and signage.

Cumberland’s Tower House been purchased by a Minnesota couple who plan to turn it into a multi-use commercial building with a tavern, coffee shop, retail clothing store, event center and tourist rooms. The new owners are Dan and Rachael Smoot.

(23) Congratulations to the Hammer Bar who was the First Quarter winner for the 50 People & More who Care Grant of \$9,500.



Road Construction gets underway.

The US Highway 63 road construction project starts on Monday, April 28th. Highway 63 will remain open throughout the summer but expect delays. The \$3.68 million dollar project is expected to be completed in mid September.



Louie's Finer Meats had a great showing at the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors Awards Convention.

Louie’s Finer Meats had a great showing at the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors Awards Convention. Louie’s brought home several awards including Grand Champion for Cured Specialty Meat Products and Reserve Grand Champion for several entries.

(30) A level 4 predicted storm system caused some severe damage to Cumberland and the surrounding area. The main culprit was downed trees and power lines, but several structures sustained heavy damage as well. Hundreds of trees are down in the area with Cumberland, Haugen, Saron and many other areas in between. Super strong winds kicked up around 6:30 pm, causing quite the mess. Roads were blocked and power was knocked out to thousands.

The Wisconsin State Assembly met on April 22 to vote on a workforce development package. However, the Assembly began its session by recognizing Pastor Cody Kargus of Rice Lake’s Maranatha Evangelical Free Church as a Hometown Hero. The Hometown Hero program recognizes Wisconsin residents who go above and beyond to make a difference.



Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald retired after serving 17 years as Sheriff.

May (7) Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald will be retiring from Barron County Sheriff on June 1, 2025. Fitzgerald was Barron County Sheriff for 17 years.

(14) Alec Adams, owner of Amery Auto Salvage and Cumberland native, presented Cumberland Fire Chief Chad Olson and members of the fire department a check for \$7,769.70 to be used for the purchase of a new rescue boat for the fire district. Another \$2,000 was donated as “tips” during the Earth Day Customer Appreciation event that took place at Amery Salvage on Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26.

Congratulations to Cumberland senior Morgan Monchilovich for reaching 200 career strikeouts.

(21) 2025 Cumberland High School Valedictorian is Lilly Mayberry. Lilly graduated with a 4.0 GPA and will attend UW Madison with a major in Electrical Engineering. The 2025 Cumberland High School Salutatorian is Taylor Doolittle. Taylor graduated with a 4.0 GPA and will attend UW Eau Claire with a major in Finance.



Odden Flowers and Greenhouses held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the sale of the business to their son Trevor and his wife Michelle.

June (4) A ribbon cutting ceremony was held recently to celebrate new owners at Odden Flowers and Greenhouses, and not just any new owners. Dave and Mary have now “semi” retired and have sold the business to son Trevor and his wife Michelle. Odden Flowers and Greenhouses have been in the family since 1952.

The Cumberland Golf Team qualified for Sectionals which were held in Rice Lake on Tuesday, June 3. The team finished 4th, and Derrick Gideo is Regional Medalist.

On May 28th, 2025, Cumberland Officers conducted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle in Cumberland. K9 Kilo was deployed on the vehicle and gave alert to his handler of the odor of controlled substances in the vehicle. The search resulted in 492 grams of suspected methamphetamine or just under 1.1 pounds, along with a small amount of suspected marijuana. The driver was identified as Jeffery Snider.



A Ground breaking ceremony was held on June 5th for the High School \$32.95 million dollar renovation project.

(11) A groundbreaking ceremony was held last Thursday, June 5th for the High School Renovation Project. Work is now underway on the \$32.95 million dollar renovation. The major overhaul will include an overall update of the campus including major repairs and updates to the failing building systems.

(18) Two teens from Watertown, have been arrested with theft of a safe and other crimes in Cumberland burglary. A 911 caller advised that someone broke into his house and stole a safe. The teens forcibly entered the residence and used handgun, and other blunt objects.



\$25,250 dollars was raised as part of the annual Back The Red And Blue Fundraiser.

(25) The third annual Back the Red & Blue Street Fair was once again a huge success. \$25,250 was raised and donated equally to the Cumberland Police Department and the Cumberland Fire Department.

The 10th District American Legion Auxiliary nominated Holly Hargrave, for the Good Deed Award for donating her sheep at last years Barron County Fair to be auctioned to raise money for Lexi Anderson’s heart transplant. The sheep raised \$27,000. The Good Deed Award is a national award and quite prestigious.

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