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CHANGE IN MEETING – NOW 10:30 a.m. Dec. 3. Page 6.

Prepare to Vote in 2023

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Henry Fries is out, but not down

Henry Fries lost decisively when he ran as an independent for State Assembly District 40 against GOP incumbent Rep. Kevin Petersen.

“The barrier to our shared goal, victory over a 16-year incumbent, was too great for us to overcome,” Fries said in a statement.

His strongest showing was in Waupaca County, where he won 5,449 of his 6,296 total votes in District 40. Petersen also got most of his votes in Waupaca County, 16,152 out of his total 19,361.

Fries, 18, said he will set aside electoral politics for now, while he focuses next on gaining broader perspectives in college.

Despite the loss, “our fight is not over,” he said. “The voice of this young generation will not be forgotten.”

elections.wi.gov



The Fries campaign sponsored an election-night party on Nov. 8 at the Democratic Party of Waupaca County headquarters in Manawa. From left are Alton Ross, Hélène Pohl, Tom Olson, Hope Olson, Alyssa Durrant, Henry Fries, Miles Wenberg, and Grace Hansen.

Photo supplied by Fries campaign

Volunteers invited to lay wreaths at veterans' cemetery

A December tradition will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, N2265 County Rd. QQ, King, Wis. Volunteers will gather a little before 10 a.m. to lay wreaths at each grave of a veteran or family member. Burials at the location started in 1888 with veterans of the Civil War (1861-1865).

The decorations are provided by Wreaths Across America (WAA), which is supported by donations, said Andrew Whitman, cemetery director. A ceremony at 11 a.m. will be conducted by the American Legion Riders WI District 8, out of Wausau, Wis.

wreathscrossamerica.org, facebook.com, dva.state.wi.gov

Salute to service members

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Dec. 7 — The U.S. Congress in August 1994 designated Dec. 7 to remember the 1941 Japanese attack on the territory of Hawaii, which killed thousands and destroyed the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the harbor. After it, America was drawn into World War II.

nps.gov

U.S. National Guard birthday, Dec. 13 — On this date in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts, based on an order of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's General Court.

nationalguard.mil

U.S. Space Force birthday, Dec. 20 — Signed into existence in 2019 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, the U.S. Space Force is a separate military branch organized under the U.S. Air Force. The USSF Guardians have responsibilities in defending American interests in outer space, including warfare, intelligence gathering, and communications.

spaceforce.mil, mybaseguide.com



Cultural days

Hanukkah, sundown Dec. 18 to sundown Dec. 26 — The Jewish festival in 2022 is also known as Chanukah for Hebrew year 5783. It marks the miraculous victory of the Maccabees, Jewish freedom fighters, over the Seleucidian Greek occupiers of Jerusalem in the year 139 BCE.

chabad.org, hebc.com

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 — Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whose teachings form the basis of their religion. The date was chosen centuries ago, and its traditions have become a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon.

christianity.com; history.com

Kwanzaa, begins on Dec. 26 — Started in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a noted Black American scholar and activist, the name derives from a phrase that means “first fruits” in Swahili. It is a time of communal self-affirmation and recognition that knowledge of Black history is worthwhile.

spokesman-recorder.com

Two progressives run in the Feb. 21 primary for Wisconsin Supreme Court

At least two progressive candidates will vie for a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court in the primary election on Feb. 21, 2023. The outcome of the election on April 4, 2023, will decide whether the majority of the seven-member court is liberal or conservative.

The two progressives in the race are Dane County Circuit Judge Everett Mitchell and Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz.

Two conservative candidates have announced. Republican-backed Dan Kelly was appointed in 2016 and defeated in 2020 by progressive Jill Karofsky. Waukesha County Judge Jennifer Dorow, judge in the Waukesha parade-deaths trial, made her candidacy public on Nov. 29. She will vie for GOP support.

In the race, officially nonpartisan, only two candidates will

advance from the primary to the general election to fill the seat of Justice Pat Roggensack, who is in the current four-justice conservative majority. She is retiring after two 10-year terms.

In the next few years, the court is expected to rule on a wide range of issues, from abortion access to redistricting of legislative maps.

Dec. 1 is the starting date for collecting signatures on nomination papers. The deadline for judicial candidates to file is Jan. 3.

judgeeverettmitchell.com; janetforjustice.com; pbswisconsin.org; ballotpedia.org; jsonline.com; madison.com



Dane County Circuit Judge Everett Mitchell has worked to incorporate trauma-informed practices in Juvenile Division courtrooms.

Henry Fries campaign



Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz said on her website that she is running “to get politics out of the courtroom.”

Protasiewicz campaign

Concern about book bans might drive school board elections

The hot topics in school board elections have shifted from such considerations as how much money to spend on girls' volleyball versus boys' football. Now topics include whether the school library should be cleansed of any books that make people feel uncomfortable.

Progressive candidates for the 2023 elections in Waupaca County who are concerned about book banning and other conservative goals are invited to receive campaign help from the Waupaca County

Democratic Party. These include a meeting place, buttons, and phone banks.

“The school board is responsible for establishing goals, setting policy and overseeing resources for the school district,” the Wisconsin Association of School Boards says in its New School Board Member Handbook at wasb.org.

Because of staggered terms, two to three board positions are up for election most years
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2023 School Board elections

Continued from page 3

in each school district. To find the open spots, search online for “(name of city) School Board.” The election is officially nonpartisan but often features a divide between conservative and progressive ideas.

Candidates can begin collecting petition signatures on Dec. 1. The deadline for school board candidates to file petitions is Jan. 3.

County book reviews

The suppression of information has a long, distressing history in the world, including book burning used by the German Nazis as a measure of thought control during the 1930’s and 1940’s.

In Waupaca County, a written complaint to the Manawa School District resulted in a panel review of the coming-of-age novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green, the *Waupaca County Post* reported on Dec. 1, 2021. Manawa district officials did not respond by press time to two requests for the results of the review.

At the Waupaca Public Library, the award-winning book is shelved in an area called the Teen Room. Library Director Eric Bailey said the public library has received a written “Request for Reconsideration” about two books this year, neither to that book.

The requests “never reached the level of a panel review,” he said. Both were resolved through interaction with the patrons.

Books unite us, censorship divides us, Manawa District Library Media Specialist Jen Krueger told the *County Post* in the 2021 article. “Students need to see themselves in the books they read. They also need to see others that are unlike them,” she told the Post.

Did a Texas pol start this push?

The recent push for book banning in schools might have started with a letter by GOP State Rep. Matt Krause of Texas District 93. On October 25, 2021, as chair of the Committee on General Investigating, he wrote to public school officials asking for an investigation into a 16-

page list of books — he wanted to know where the books were located in school libraries and the amount of money they cost.

He wanted districts to identify materials “that address or contain the following topics: human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), sexually explicit images, graphic presentations of sexual behavior that is in violation of the law, or contain material that might make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress because of their race or sex or convey that a student, by virtue of their race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.”

Within a year, Texas led the nation in book banning in schools, with more than 800 titles removed, the *Dallas Morning News* reported on Sept. 19, 2022.

At the time Krause raised his questions, he was running for attorney general of Texas but he dropped out before the primary.

wasb.org; waupacanow.com; dallasnews.com ; static.texastribune.org

Know of a book under review?

Paca Blue News intends to keep seeking information about requests to review books in schools or public libraries. If a reader has information about this issue, please contact the Waupaca Democratic Party at 715-316-3165 or at *waupacademocrats.com*, or by mail, P.O. Box 123, Manawa, WI 54949.

Please include your contact information.

**Progressives win
when progressives vote —
VOTE**

Give until it helps

Bells are ringing — Even if the Salvation Army isn't your top charitable priority, a dollar bill or spare change can lift the spirits of the volunteers at Red Kettles outside grocery stores.

Inside, stock up for food pantries — Needed are shelf-stable food items, hygiene supplies, and cleaning products. Donate directly to pantries or at WCDP headquarters in Manawa.

Since 2001, Democratic volunteers have made deliveries twice to New London and Manawa and once to Marion, Waupaca, and Weymont. Volunteers are needed to deliver the next binful to one of these locations: Bear Creek (Outagamie County), Clintonville, Dale (Outagamie County), Iola, or Scandinavia.

A list of pantries is available at waupacademocrats.com (give back). Or contact waupacademocrats@gmail.com for locations and pantry contact info. For a list of food items, see waupacacounty-wi.gov (community resources).

Ink and toner — Empty printer cartridges donated at Dems HQ in Manawa will be recycled at Staples by a rewards member. The proceeds, \$2 per cartridge, will be used to buy office supplies.

A cold winter — War crimes, energy infrastructure in ruins, winter closing in: Refugees, residents, and the military of Ukraine need help in the long grind against Russia. Two long-established charities that offer aid are the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders. The nonprofit USO serves the American troops who were sent to Europe in response to the current Russian push, which started Feb. 24, 2022.

Additional nonpartisan offices on spring 2023 ballot

In addition to a state Supreme Court justice and school board members, the nonpartisan spring election in Wisconsin includes “every elective town, village and city office,” says the *Wisconsin Blue Book* (2021-2022 edition). Also on the ballot will be additional judges, some county offices, and the state superintendent of public instruction.

Progressive candidates are invited to receive non-financial campaign help from the Waupaca County Democratic Party.

Because of staggered terms, not every position will be open for election every year.

Candidates must collect signatures on a nomination petition and file the nomination papers not later than the first Tuesday in the January preceding the spring election. In 2023, that is Jan. 3.

If only one candidate files for an office, that candidate will not be on the nonpartisan primary ballot on Feb. 21, 2023, but will advance directly to the April 4 general election. In general, if more than two candidates file, they will need to run in the primary election.

For more information, consult the local clerk at the town, village, city, or county levels.

JUST THE FACTS

Respect for Marriage Act passes Senate, goes to Biden

A bill to ensure that same-sex and interracial marriages are enshrined in federal law was passed on Nov. 29 by the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan 61-36 vote. The Respect for Marriage Act, H.R. 8404, goes to President Joe Biden for signing.

The bill repeals the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996, which defined marriage as between one man and one woman.

In the Wisconsin delegation, Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin voted yes. She was the first openly gay senator in 2012; she married her wife in 2018. GOP Sen. Ron Johnson voted no.

senate.gov; congress.gov; pbs.org; jsonline.com;

More political information

- 8th Congressional District, www.facebook.com/groups/8thcddemgroup
- Democratic Party of Wisconsin, www.wisdems.org
- National Democratic Committee, www.democrats.org
- www.ballotpedia.org
- myvote.wi.gov
- waupacademocrats.com

Dec. 3 elections postponed

The election of party officers scheduled at the monthly meeting on Dec. 3 has been postponed until our party constitutional changes have been approved by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW). The DPW panel will be meeting during the week of Dec. 5.

Assuming that the changes to the constitution are approved, party officers will be elected on Dec. 10, in person and by zoom.

Watch for information by e-mail.

Officers will be elected in even-numbered years to coincide with the governor/presidential election cycles.

Also, volunteers are needed to staff the office during Manawa's winter festival, "Miracle on Bridge Street."

Another key event at the meeting Dec. 3 will be the call for a panel of volunteers to decide on priorities in calendar year 2023. Once volunteers are gathered, a one-time meeting is intended.

Most outreach stopped in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid, departures, and deaths. In 2022, the group participated in the Manawa Rodeo Parade and the County Fair.

Activities that could be resumed include representation at community festivals in Iola, New London, Scandinavia, Waupaca, and Weyauwega.

Some midterm vote totals from Waupaca County

In the midterm races for governor/lieutenant governor and U.S. senator, the votes in Waupaca County were about 2 to 1 for the Republican candidates over the Democrats.

Gov. Tony Evers was reelected with Sara Rodriguez as lieutenant governor by about 90,000 votes over GOP hopeful Tim Michels with Roger Roth as lieutenant governor. In Waupaca County, the Evers ticket got 7,990 votes to 14,939 for the Michels ticket. Mandela Barnes, the former lieutenant governor who ran for U.S. Senate, got slightly fewer votes in Waupaca County than Evers — 7,653 for Barnes to 15,525 for GOP incumbent Sen. Ron Johnson.

In the race for the 8th Congressional District seat, Julie Hancock, a late entrant as a Democratic write-in, got 213 votes in Waupaca County to 17,162 for GOP incumbent Rep. Mike Gallagher. Another Democratic write-in, Robbie Hoffman, got 11 votes in Waupaca County. Libertarian Jacob J. VandenPlas and Independent Paul David Boucher both received tens of thousands of votes among the 310,196 votes cast in the 8th.

For more vote totals, see the Wisconsin Elections Commission, elections.wi.gov.

Poem of the Month

Ignoring the religious and cultural events of December, festivity is in sight with Ogden Nash (1902-1971). The onetime writer of advertising copy became America's leading producer of whimsical, comical, pun-ical verse. In "Winter Morning," Nash celebrates a commonplace of winter. For an explanation of some poetic tools he used, see [literary devices.net](https://literarydevices.net). No quiz later, just enjoy.

*That's the season to be young,
Catching snow flakes on your tongue.
Snow is snowy when it's snowing,
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.
literarydevices.net*

Meeting minutes summary, Nov. 12, 2022

— A final vote approved the changes in the county party Constitution. Officers will now be elected on a two-year cycle.

— There was discussion about how to increase paid memberships past the current mark of 99.

— The treasurer will transfer \$750 to the building fund, reducing the mortgage on the Manawa office.

— Future issues of *Paca Blue News* intend to look at any book banning in Waupaca County, the county childcare desert, and the coming election for Wisconsin Supreme Court.

— Now that midterm elections are past, office hours will be cut back to only Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., through 2022.

Summarized from minutes by secretary Barb Kobs