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VOLUME 39

ISSUE 46

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**FREE**

# Homelessness: Providing a sense of belonging and love

BY KRIS LEONHARDT  
MMC SENIOR EDITOR

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) programming is providing assistance to those experiencing homelessness that is designed to create a sense of belonging and love.

Homelessness often sees the intersection of complex health and social challenges.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), of an estimated 4,515 people in Wisconsin considered homeless, 1 in 5 live with a serious mental illness.

The Wisconsin DHS Peer Services says that often “the best remedy for mental health and substance use challenges is the attention of someone who understands.”

Peer support mobilizes those with lived experience to provide support to others in similar situations, such as homelessness, substance use and mental and physical health.

A 2013 study completed by K.F. Bean, M.S. Shafer and M. Glennon found that through peer support, “98 percent of the participants remained in housing after 12 months. Individuals who were housed reported significant increases in their access to and utilization of planned health care services and quality of life, and reductions in their involvement in the criminal justice system.”

DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services Peer Coordinator Lynn Maday-Bigboy explained that with peer support training, the focus is on self-care as well as community care.

“We certainly talk about taking care of each other. We think about the delicate topics we talk about. We explore things such as trauma, historical collective trauma, supporting people, considering suicide diagnoses, the effects of stigma, systemic marginalization and oppression and also voluntary commitment,” she stated.

“We recognize that in self-care everyone does not have equal access to practicing self-care,” added DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services Peer Coordinator Marguerit Galindo.

“With self-care, there comes a level of privilege and not everybody has that privilege. In our society, we know that many times when you hear somebody say that they’re going to take some time for self-care, it often times has a monetary value to it. Not all people can do that.

“So, we’ve acknowledged that in community care we find connection and community engagement; we find deeper, deeper relationships and healing can take place within lost connections as well.

“Recovery and meaningful living are intertwined with community engagement and community care. [Recognizing] our interconnectedness and nurturing close relationships fulfills that innate need. So with that, we understand like we all know that Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs is like that sense of belonging and love and every one of us has that need. So, when working alongside in a peer modeling and learning how to either a) connect back



Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week runs Nov. 11-18. Please consider a donation to help eradicate homelessness in our community. Visit GoFundMe.com to donate to “Wisconsin Newspapers Supporting Homelessness.” **MMC File Photo**

to their community that they’ve already had in place or b) cultivate community within new places by finding out what type of community they are interested in becoming a part of and then providing that resource and walking alongside of them.”

Galindo added that it is also important in these situations to check in with them.

“Are you checking in regularly with folks to see how they’re doing, not wait until they’re reaching out to you;

but, actually reaching out to them and seeing how they’re doing and going beyond the ‘Hi, how are you?’ piece of things, but really stopping and intentionally listening and hearing how they’re actually doing?” she said.

“When we hear those things and we hear the challenges or maybe they’re just sharing their joy with us. We can, you know, be intentional about our listening and validate those feelings that they’re sharing with us.”

See **HOMELESSNESS** page 4

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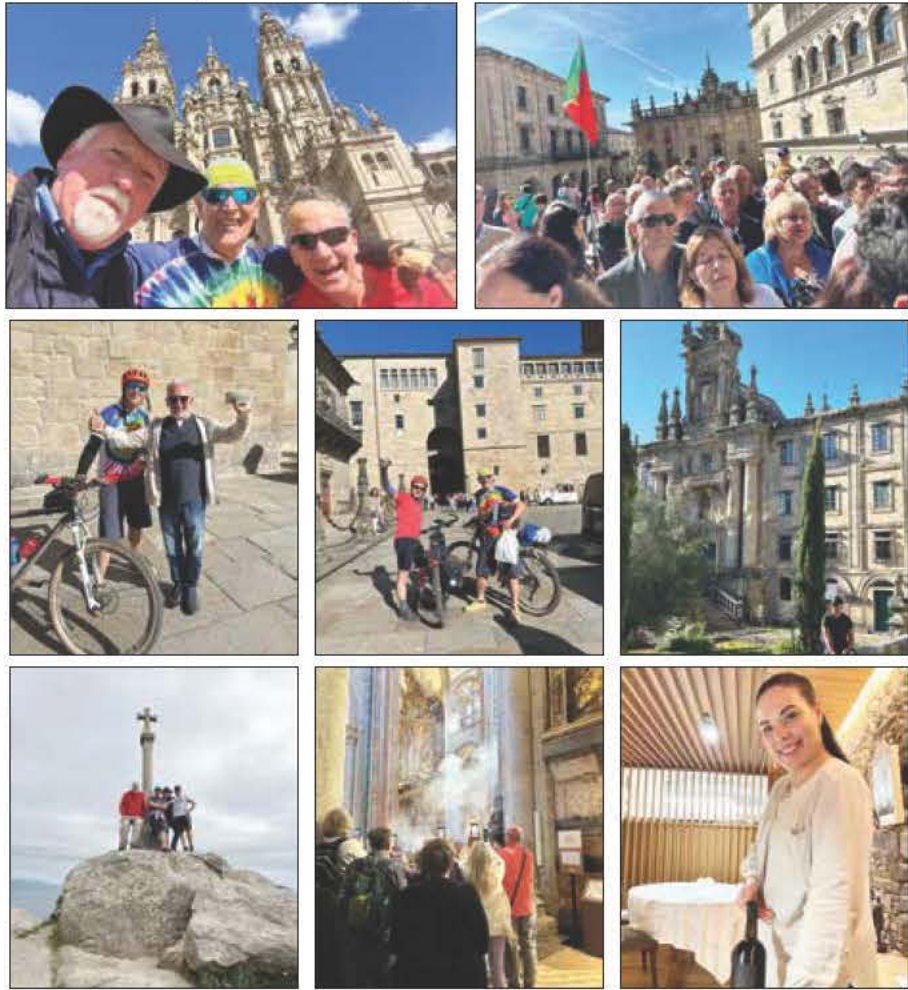






PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Get Up and Ride  
(or Walk) the Camino



Dear Reader,

The Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of St. James, has a history that spans over a thousand years. Its origins are rooted in the early 9th century, when the tomb of Saint James was miraculously discovered in what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.

The discovery of the apostle's remains turned the site into a major Christian pilgrimage destination, rivaling even Jerusalem and Rome. Pilgrims from all over Europe began making their way to Santiago, and the routes leading to the shrine gradually formed what we now know as the Camino.

During the Middle Ages, the Camino de Santiago became a well-established network of trails and roads. The pilgrimage was a profound spiritual journey, offering penance and the opportunity to seek forgiveness. It also served as a cultural exchange route, with pilgrims sharing stories, music, and art, contributing to the spread of knowledge and ideas across Europe.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the Camino saw a decline in popularity, partly due to political turmoil in Spain and changes in religious practices. However, the pilgrimage experienced a revival in the late 20th century, largely driven by a renewed interest in spirituality, adventure, and a desire to connect with history and culture.

Today, the Camino de Santiago has regained its status as one of the world's most famous pilgrimages. It offers a range of routes, each with its unique charm, from the rugged Camino Francés to the coastal Camino del Norte. Pilgrims, whether driven by faith or a desire for self-discovery, continue to walk or cycle these ancient paths, forging new traditions while honoring the rich history that underlies this remarkable journey.

I walked the Camino eight years ago which was a pilgrimage. Recently my two cousins, Jimmy Shea (famous author of the book "Get Up And Ride") and his trusted wingman Marty Moldovan, rode their bikes from Pamplona to Santiago. I met them for moral support and also with a car to help carry some of their gear towards the end of their pilgrimage. It was glorious to film those guys riding in to the front of the Basilica after their arduous trek on the road. We especially savored the brotherhood of bonding at Mass that Sunday as the last people who were able to enter with hundreds left outside to possibly catch it another time. "Buen Camino," it was!

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher



Members of Marshfield's ACE chapter, organized and led by Liam Kaplan (far right), march along Central Ave. Nov. 8, protesting the continued use and possible expansion of Enbridge Energy's Line 5 oil pipeline which passes through a small portion of northern Wisconsin.

Mike Warren photo

MHS students  
march, rally  
against oil pipeline

**BY MIKE WARREN EDITOR**

MARSHFIELD -- A student-led environmental advocacy group from Marshfield used a Nov. 8 march and rally in the city's downtown to show its opposition to the continued use and proposed expansion of an oil pipeline hundreds of miles away.

The Marshfield chapter of Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE) gathered at Wenzel Plaza before marching along Central Ave., while chanting and carrying signs aimed at raising public awareness of what it calls "the perils of the Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline and its threat to the Great Lakes, state parks, and Wisconsin's drinking water."

ACE's Action Team from Marshfield High School is led by senior Liam Kaplan.

"We're a brand new club this year trying to get a presence for climate advocacy in Marshfield. The other chapters of this organization in Wisconsin are in Milwaukee and Madison, so it's really cool that we can have one here in Marshfield," Kaplan told those gathered in Wenzel Plaza prior to the group's march down Main Street Marshfield.

The rally served as a platform for the youth of Marshfield to voice their concerns and advocate for a transition away from fossil fuel dependency, challenging an industry that prioritizes profit over the well-being of people and the planet, according to an ACE press release.

Line 5 is a 645-mile oil pipeline owned by the Canadian multinational corporation Enbridge. Constructed in 1953, the pipeline conveys crude oil from western Canada to eastern Canada via a sliver of far northern Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the Lower Peninsula. The line starts at Superior, WI and ends at Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

"We're taking the risk, but not getting any of the benefit from having that pipeline there," said Kaplan. "Enbridge also doesn't have a great track record for being conscious about its impact on the environment. It was responsible for the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history back in 2010, Kalamazoo, Michigan. It is unacceptable for this company to continue operating in such a critical area. We believe the Great Lakes are an important area to protect. It is an essential source of fresh water," Kaplan added. "A spill from Line 5 would be devastating for people and wildlife who rely on the Great Lakes. We believe all people have the responsibility to advocate for the environment's health, and shutting down Line 5 would not only protect the Great Lakes, but also potentially reduce fossil fuels emission from the oil it pumps. We need to put people and their environment over Enbridge's profit and we need to encourage alternative forms of energy with renewables. Shutting down Line 5 would potentially stop those carbon emissions and incentivize companies like Enbridge and others out there to look for alternative sources of energy."

ACE has gathered a petition with more than 3,000 signatures from people urging the shutdown of Line 5.

"We love our great lakes and that's a part of Wisconsin and Michigan that a lot of people connect with and go to, and our northern forests are one of the areas where there's a lot of old-growth forests and a lot of wildlife and ecosystems that really have not been super altered by humans, and a spill from Line 5 would threaten that whole system," Kaplan told us. "From the information out there, it doesn't seem like a company that has been taking responsibility for its impact on the environment."

The Marshfield group's action was held in conjunction with a group of other Wisconsin students who were holding a press conference to outline their concerns, as well as meeting with staff from the Wisconsin DNR aimed at halting any projects associated with Line 5.

HOMELESSNESS  
from page 1

**Training and funding**

Over 1,500 peer specialists are currently certified in the state of Wisconsin.

DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services Supervisor of Integrated Services Kenya Bright said that there are two different tracks of funding for the program.

"DHS funds about seven to 10 trainings a year, and then there are sometimes agencies that want to have their own training where all of their staff is trained. So, those eight or so agencies can come together

as a community or agencies can themselves pay to have trainers train their staff. It's the same curriculum. They don't veer off of what the training would be. But those are called community trainings or private trainings because they're not just generally open to the public," she explained.

"Combined with the public ones that DHS funds and the community-specific trainings, we do over 20 trainings a year and we just continue to grow because more and more people are very interested in becoming certified."

"We've had, just thinking off the top of my head, like clinics and hospitals that have sponsored trainings for community-specific (programming) because the value there is tremendous. Who can come along and walk alongside someone with a mental health and substance-use

crisis," Maday-Bigboy stated.

"Now we'll have youth as a certification, certified peer specialist and then also the parent peer specialist. So, it really encompasses everybody, and the goal is to have anybody that wants to receive peer support in the state of Wisconsin have that accessibility to them."

"We are enough. We are all we need to survive. We always have been. We're all we've got. Be good to each other. Take care of each other. That really encompasses what peers do."

**Five fundamental processes**

Certification includes a 48-hour training session and a test.

The certification curriculum highlights five fundamental processes, including:

Connecting – involves establishing a comfortable working relationship; Exploring – works with exploring who the person is and what their story is; Supporting – take all of the information you have gathered and ask what type of resources might aid them; Planning – exploring what pathways are available; Advocating – exploring their rights and options and walking alongside them to obtain them.

For more information, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/peer-services/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/peer-services/index.htm).

*Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week runs Nov. 11-18. Please consider a donation to help eradicate homelessness in our community. Visit [GoFundMe.com](http://GoFundMe.com) to donate to "Wisconsin Newspapers Supporting Homelessness."*

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Publisher  
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# Public hearing set for 2024 city budget

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**  
MARSHFIELD -- The City of Marshfield invites community members to attend a public hearing on the proposed 2024 city budget on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m. The purpose is to allow for citizen input before the Common Council considers approval of the final budget. The proposed budget is available for inspection at City Hall from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Friday. The proposed budget may also be found on the city's website, at 2024 Proposed Budget.

The total assessed value of all property in the city increased by approximately 37 percent over last year, due largely to the recent revaluation of property. However,

the total tax levy, which is greatly restricted by state levy limits, is only allowed to be increased by .73 percent for 2023 taxes payable in 2024. Combining the total tax levy with the significant increase in assessed value, the city's tax rate (per \$1,000 of assessed value) would fall under the proposed budget, from \$10.59 this year to be determined under the 2024 budget.

"The proposed 2024 budget allows the city to maintain the high-quality services that we have provided in 2023 while addressing key staffing needs and continuing the positive financial direction that we have been working toward in recent years," said City Administrator Steve Barg. "I am very optimistic for the future of our community."

# Give blood, celebrate 20th Anniversary of 'Elf'

## Exclusive gift for donors this month

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**  
WAUSAU -- For many, watching the classic holiday movie "Elf" has been a heartwarming tradition for 20 years. This month, the American Red Cross is encouraging people to add a new tradition as the holiday season begins: Spread cheer with a blood or platelet donation.

Donations are critical to the blood supply as the holiday season draws near -- a time when blood donations often decline. Donors of all blood types are urged to give, especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets.



Those who donate blood this month receive a pair of officially-licensed Elf and Red Cross socks as a thank you gift, while supplies last. Submitted photo

County blood donation opportunities include:  
Marshfield -- Nov. 27, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 750 S. Central Ave.

**How to donate blood**  
A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may

be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

**About the American Red Cross**  
The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and

supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or follow on Twitter at @RedCross.

"Elf" and all related characters and elements © & TM New Line Productions, Inc.

## OVERFLOW from page 2

"This pipe is approaching 50 years old and a few years ago -- not knowing 100 percent the condition of this pipe -- we dug it up in various locations and it's been in really good shape, but what we did we decided that we'd get some repair parts just in case we had an issue like this come up, and with what took place we had all the parts that we needed in stock and were able to make the repair pretty quickly after locating it."

Crews responded to the leak shortly after 1 p.m. on Nov. 8 and had all of the necessary repairs made in six hours, after initially reporting the road closure at Becker-and-Willow would likely remain in place for 24-48 hours.

Turchi said the lifespan of this particular sewer lateral is 75-100 years.

"And we wanted to just be prepared just in case," Turchi added. "Because we don't know the entire condition of the pipe from one end to the other."

This particular pipe is a little over 10,000 feet in length, or nearly two miles. City officials estimate the leak released

approximately 950,000 gallons of untreated sanitary sewer flows into McMillan Creek (formerly known as Squaw Creek). City crews, along with several contracted waste haulers, immediately began pumping water from McMillan Creek to contain and mitigate the sanitary sewer overflow. Water removed has been delivered to the city's wastewater plant for proper treatment.

City staff are continuing to work closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to properly collect and treat this sanitary sewer overflow. Until this clean up can be finalized the city is requesting the public refrain from using McMillan Creek from its intersection with Becker Road to its intersection with Stadt Road.

Please note this was a release to surface water only and this leak poses no hazard to the drinking water system within the city.

If there are questions related to this event, please contact the Public Works Department at (715) 486-2034 or the Wastewater Treatment Division at (715) 486-2007.

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**Kraft Miracle Whip** ..... 30 oz. **\$3.50**

**Vlasic Oval Dill Pickles** ..... 46 oz. **\$1.99**

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**Jimmy Dean FC Sausage Links** .... 36 ct. **\$3.99**

**Jimmy Dean FC Sausage Patties** ... 24 ct. **\$3.99**

*Sale Prices Valid through November 18. While supplies last.*





Athena and Minerva are making themselves at home in their new enclosure at Wildwood Zoo in Marshfield. Submitted photo

## Wildwood Zoo welcomes owls

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Wildwood Park and Zoo has announced the newest additions.

On Oct. 22, zoo officials welcomed two hatch-year eastern screech owls to the roster. Both owls are likely females based on their size and are grey phase in color. The pair, like all the birds at the zoo, were injured in the wild and determined to be non-releasable due to the extent of their eye injuries. While hearing is a more important sense for owls when it comes to survival, a young owl with no skillset has a much lower chance of thriving if released. Both owls were found in Indiana and cared for by rehabilitation centers who gave them all the time they needed to recover from their injuries.

Athena and Minerva are settling into their exhibit beautifully, and with a little searching, are usually pretty visible. The city thanks both Hoots to Howls Wildlife

Rehab and Wildcat Creek Wildlife Centers for entrusting the owls to the zoo's care and assisting in the transfer.

Screech owls are cavity nesters and feel very comfortable tucked away into holes and nest boxes. This means they may be difficult to see but visiting close to dusk or dawn gives you the best chance to catch a peak. They inhabit almost any area with sufficient tree cover and can thrive in farmland, suburban landscapes, and even city parks.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with the Wildwood Zoo news, be sure to check the zoo's Facebook page. In addition to keeping up with the animals, you can learn more about the special events, new exhibits and other happenings. As always, the staff and volunteers at Wildwood Zoo thank you for your past and future support and patronage.

## Millard named Loyal Ingredients general manager

MADISON -- Dustin Millard recently joined Vita Plus as the general manager of Loyal Ingredients LLC in Loyal. He will be providing leadership of the commodities brokerage team in all capacities and focus on serving customers through merchandising plans, market analysis and on-site discussions with customers.

Millard earned his Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science in Management degrees from the University of Phoenix. He has 17 years of management experience in the feed and grain industry, including serving as a regional operations manager.



Millard

In each position, he consistently managed a broad geographic area with a diverse customer base and gained efficiencies and supported objectives while maintaining and building relationships with customers and staff.

Loyal Ingredients LLC is an employee-owned company and part of the Vita Plus family of companies.

For more information about the organization, call 715-255-8555 or visit [www.vitaplus.com/our-businesses/loyal-ingredients](http://www.vitaplus.com/our-businesses/loyal-ingredients).

## Local non-profit to host free Christmas in the Barn event



FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Memory Lane Farm, Inc., a farm-based non-profit, will be hosting the third annual "Christmas in the Barn" event on Friday, Dec. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 12:30 to 7 p.m. at 8638 Heritage Drive, Marshfield.

Experience the story of Christmas told with live animals and actors, exciting sounds and smells, and beautiful set design. Taking guests back in time, the family-friendly free event will be held at the historic Wolf family farm, located on Marshfield's southern edge.

The unique Christmas event is open for all ages, featuring a live Nativity, a walk through the streets of Bethlehem's markets, petting zoo, children's activities, mercantile with local artisan items, outdoor activities and more. Light refreshments will be available.

As in the past, guests are invited to donate items for a local non-profit. This year donated items will benefit two local outreach programs of Compassion In Action. Paper goods (toilet, paper towels, napkins, etc.) will support The Bread Barn Food Pantry and new socks and underwear will support The Cashmere & Corduroy Closet, an outreach for women and children in crisis.

Memory Lane Farm's mission is to provide farm-based opportunities to people of all ages to enhance lives through learning, exploring and self-discovery. The non-profit has been serving the community since 2018 through individualized mentoring, horse-powered reading program, farm and horse camps, foster care camps, equine-assisted team building, field trips and other events.

## Mid-State introduces series of Saturday business classes



Wirestock

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -- Mid-State Technical College is offering a new series of business classes this spring called Build Your Business Saturdays. The series offers flexibility for new and continuing students alike.

Courses in the series include Introduction to Business, Organizational Behavior, Microsoft Office-Introduction and Entrepreneurial Management. Each course has just four sessions held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning in January and ending in May.

"We regularly hear from students how much they appreciate the flexibility of our business courses because we offer online and evening sessions," said Benjamin

Nusz, dean of the Stevens Point Campus and Business Management & Leadership Development programs. "We know how fast our weeks can fill up. Perhaps the only available time is on the weekends. We want to make sure that every student has the opportunity to enroll today."

Students have the option to take one course or the entire series. Upon completion of the first three courses, students will earn the Business Skills certificate. Students can then continue on in the Business Management associate in applied science program.

Learn more at [mstc.edu/business-saturdays](http://mstc.edu/business-saturdays).

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326278



# SHP investment in Spencer FFA benefits new animal barn

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc. fosters connections and supports local nonprofits and organizations through its Employee-Driven Corporate Giving program where Marshfield Clinic Health System employees can nominate organizations to receive donations. The Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter in Spencer received a \$1,000 contribution toward their future goals of a new animal barn.

FFA provides opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, learn about agriculture and pursue careers in the industry. Spencer FFA nurtures a sense of community and teamwork among its members and helps cultivate the next generation of farmers, scientists and leaders. Taking action to support this community, Brooke Krause, a Security Health Plan account coordinator, former Spencer FFA member and active alumni member, nominated Spencer FFA for Security Health Plan's Employee-Driven Corporate Giving program.

"Spencer FFA does more than just teach kids about agriculture," Krause said. "Students attend many workshops and conventions to grow their leadership and life skills that will make them more confident people for the rest of their lives."

It was the dream of a late Spencer FFA advisor to construct an animal barn and lab on the school's grounds. This donation will be earmarked toward this project, creating more opportunities for younger generations to get hands on experience with animal science careers.

"By investing in FFA, we are investing in the future and ensuring that young people have the necessary tools and opportunities to succeed in this vital industry," said Security Health Plan Chief Executive Officer Krista Hoglund.

If you are interested in donating to this cause, please email Sam Schmitt, current Spencer FFA advisor, at sschmitt@spencer.k12.wi.us or find them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/spencerffawi.

For more information concerning Security Health Plan's Employee-Driven Corporate Giving, visit www.securityhealth.org/about-us/edcg.

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-Coral, Casey, Mike & Logan (Buckaroo)-*

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has a spacious, two bedroom, one bathroom apartment available for immediate occupancy in Cedar Rail Court, 601 S. Cedar Avenue, Marshfield.

Cedar Rail Court is a centrally located, secure facility with an on-site caretaker during weekends, weekday evening and early morning hours. A grocery store and the downtown area are only steps away from the front door.

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Sharon Helwig • 715-305-9971 • MLS#22234960 ..... \$298,500

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Corpus Christi Church - 10075 Cty Hwy BB  
Dental Crafters - 1000 Corporate Drive  
Discovery Station - 248 S Central Ave  
Edward Jones - 1031 W McMillan Street  
Fleet Farm - 1101 W Upham Street  
Foremost Farms - 1511 E 4th Street  
Health In Motion - 204 N Central Ave  
High Street Salon - 210 S Central Ave

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Immanuel Lutheran Church - 604 S Chestnut Ave  
J-Rolls - 401 S Anton  
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Marshfield Family Chiropractic - 343A S Central Ave  
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 Key River Memory Care - 1606 N St Joseph Ave  
 Stratford Homes - 212501 Hwy 97 - Stratford  
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# DNR asks public to report black bear dens this winter

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**

MADISON -- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages the public to report any black bear den locations across Wisconsin to help with an ongoing study on black bear reproduction in Wisconsin.

The Black Bear Litter and Diet Survey, now entering its third year of data collection, will generate updated estimates of black bear reproductive rates within each of the state's bear management zones. These updated estimates will improve the accuracy of the population models used in each zone.

Additionally, researchers are investigating a possible connection between the consumption of human food by bears and bear reproduction success, as diet can affect cub survival rates and litter sizes.

"The reports we receive from the public are an essential piece of this project," said Dr. Jennifer Price Tack, DNR Large Carnivore and Elk Research Scientist. "Obviously, people don't find bear dens every day, so it is important that people report them to us when they find them. Den reports help us meet sample size requirements for the study, which will increase the accuracy of black bear population estimates."

The public is encouraged to report as much information about occupied black bear dens as possible without approaching or disturbing the dens. Helpful information to report to the bear research team includes:

GPS coordinates of the den; Photos of the den, ideally showing it relative to its surroundings, from a safe distance (approximately 30 yards); Description of the den site and surrounding area, including landmarks; Any information on the bear(s) and bear activity near the site.

After reports are filed, Price Tack and her team will work with den reporters and landowners to visit the sites and determine if the dens are safe, accessible and active prior to any decision to survey. The research team may be unable to visit every reported den location this season. Dens that are known to be currently occupied will be prioritized.

**What data will be collected**

As part of each survey, DNR staff will collect biological data from these dens, including sex, weight and body measurements. Mother bears, known as sows, will be outfitted with GPS collars. These collars help staff learn more about bear foraging behavior and locate the sows in the following years for continued study. Revisiting the sows will help staff monitor the reproductive success of each sow, including her litter frequency, litter size and the survival rates of her cubs. Data on sow weight, body measurements and age are also collected.

While surveying, bear health and safety are a top priority. Designated staff monitor the sow's breathing and heart rate while the rest of the team gathers the needed samples



DNR scientists are conducting a study to learn more about black bear cub survival rates, litter frequencies and litter sizes, which will be used to improve population estimates for the species.

**WI DNR photo**

and measurements as quickly as possible. Any cubs present at the den are carefully weighed and sexed. Cubs are tucked into staff's coats to keep them warm because the cubs cannot yet regulate their temperature. Once researchers finish collecting samples and fitting the GPS collar, the sow and cubs are returned to their den.

**Looking ahead**

The Black Bear Litter and Diet Survey team will continue to survey dens for the next six to seven years. Over that time, the research team hopes to place tracking collars on at least 100 sows across the state's bear management zones, with approximately 20 collars per zone.

Thus far, the team is on pace to achieve their sample-size target, but they will need new reports each year to meet their benchmark.

To report a known black bear den, visit the DNR's black bear den submission form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7DSMFZS>.

# The Packers and World War II

**BY KRIS LEONHARDT**  
SENIOR EDITOR

*UW-Green Bay began the inaugural session of its "History of the Green Bay Packers Certificate" program on Sept. 6. The virtual, eight-week, two-hour class allows participants to "uncover the team's storied history and get an inside look at the Packers Hall of Fame." Over the next few months, we will provide a glimpse of the class experience through Titledown 101.*

World War II had a large impact on the Green Bay Packers as well as other National Football League teams.

Almost three dozen Packer players were active members of the team when they were inducted into military service during the war.

"There are two that are probably the most significant players (to enter service.) One of them would be Tony Canadeo, who was a Packer Hall of Famer," explained Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame Curator Brent Hensel.

"He missed most of the 1944 season and all of 1945 while serving in World War II. In fact, he tells a story where he came home on furlough... his wife had just had a baby. And then, he actually stays a couple of weeks longer, saying that his wife's not feeling well and they kind of made it up so he could spend more time with his child, for obvious reasons.

"He would return then in 1946 to lead the Packers in rushing in their ground attack, eventually retiring in 1952.

"Probably the most interesting story though for the Packers would be Howard



Sue Wallen, pictured with a few Packer players at the Astor Hotel in Green Bay, was like a housemother to the team.

**Green Bay Press-Gazette photo**

"Smiley" Johnson."

Johnson was killed in action on Iwo Jima in 1945.

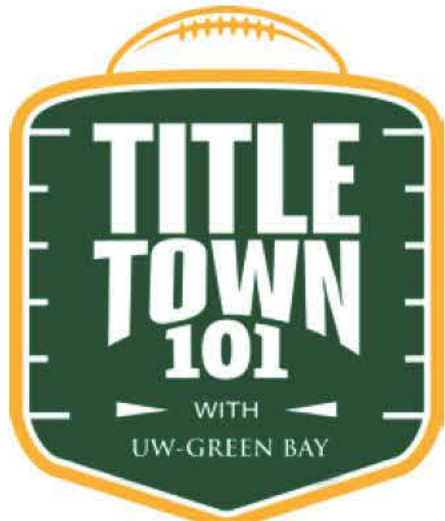
"He had played guard for the Packers in 1940 and 1941. Because he died in that significant battle in World War II, he was later awarded the Second Silver Star for his service," Hensel said.

"Another kind of fun unique story involving World War II was Sue Wallen. Sue

Wallen worked at the Astor Hotel. From the mid-1930s until she was married in 1947, Sue Wallen ran the front desk at the Astor Hotel.

"The hotel was located in the heart of Green Bay and almost all the players lived there during the season. From 1929 until eventually when the Packers bought Rockwood Lodge...

"The Astor Hotel was kind of like a



fraternity house for the players, and Sue Wallen was kind of like their housemother.

"According to Charley Brock, one of the Packer players during this time period, when many of the Packers were called into service in World War II, Wallen would become a pen pal to them writing letters back and forth telling them what was going on in Green Bay and with the Packers. She would send personal notes and updates about the team and then sadly she would lose her only son at Pearl Harbor, which happened to be the first Green Bay casualty of World War II."

Wallen's son, Earl, died during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, on the U.S. Battleship California.

He was just 21.

Green Bay's American Legion Sullivan-Wallen Post No. 11 now carries his name.

*For more on the program, visit [www.uwgb.edu/certificate-programs/history-of-the-green-bay-packers](http://www.uwgb.edu/certificate-programs/history-of-the-green-bay-packers).*



**HARVESTED A DEER? HERE'S WHAT'S NEXT:**

- Register your deer through GameReg. Registration is required and must be completed by 5 p.m. the day after the deer carcass is recovered.
- Get your deer tested for Chronic Wasting Disease. CWD testing is not required, but it is recommended. It's also free and easy to do.
- Process your deer and enjoy your venison. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control recommend not eating venison from deer that have tested positive for CWD.
- Safely dispose of deer carcass waste. Several options are available to safely and legally dispose of deer carcass waste to help slow the spread of CWD.

**SAFETY SHOULD BE EVERY HUNTER'S TOP TARGET EACH FALL:**

- Remember, at least 50% of each hunter's clothing above the waist must be blaze orange or pink any time there is a firearm deer season in progress, and any head covering must be at least 50% blaze orange or pink.

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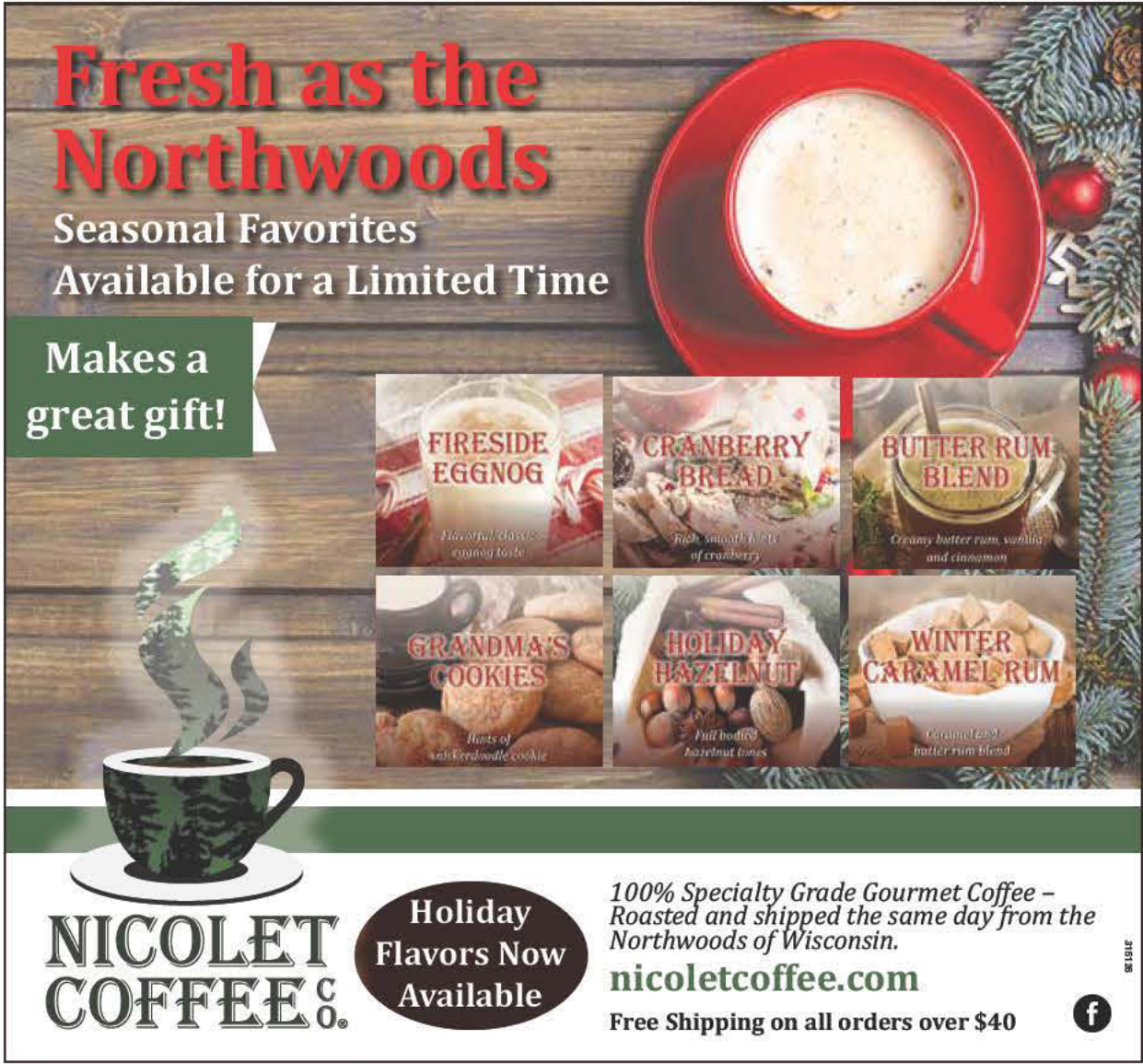
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# Honoring Marshfield's 150th

# Marshfield's 150 for 150: Jane Wagner

### NOMINATED BY GEORGETTE FRAZER

Servant leadership is a core value of Jane Wagner, who was a Family & Consumer Science teacher and Career and Technical Education Coordinator, creating opportunities for students to connect their academic coursework with firsthand work experience in the community. Her leadership and community collaboration were key to the creation of many business and education partnerships that continue to support the labor market and economic growth of Marshfield.

Jane Wagner was born and raised in Stratford. Her family lived on a farm until her father passed away in a car accident when she was nine years old. She remembers her mother as a hard worker who encouraged Jane to be the first person in her extended family to attend college.

Her mother was also an inspiration and role model for her daughter regarding the importance and value of serving others. In her childhood, Jane was active in 4-H and Girl Scouts. Both had an influence in developing her leadership skills and in her career choice to become a Family and Consumer Science teacher.

After living three years overseas in Korea and Germany with her husband John's American Red Cross Service job on military bases, her family returned to Wisconsin in the fall of 1979 so their daughter, Wendy, could begin school and they could establish roots near family. She and John valued family ties, so they gave up traveling with the American Red Cross to live in a permanent location.

Since no Home Economics teaching positions were available in Marshfield, Jane worked several part-time jobs as manager of the Wisconsin Women's Credit Union, consultant for Conway Diet Institute, and nutrition instructor for senior adults through Mid-State Technical College.

Ultimately, she began teaching Home Economics for the Granton Area Schools. She also continued her interest in promoting vocational learning by advising FHA/HERO students and serving as Local Vocational Education Coordinator for the district.

In 1985 Jane was hired by the Marshfield School District. She became involved in the community, both as a teacher and a civic leader. She taught Home Economics



at Marshfield Junior High for five years during which time she was recognized for her innovative curriculum design and received the Wisconsin State Home Economics Teacher of the Year Award in 1987 and the 2002 Title IX Award for Sex Equity Achievement.

Upon completion of her master's degree, Jane moved to Marshfield High School (MHS) where she took on teaching as well as administrative roles. Using knowledge gained while volunteering in local child-care centers over several summers, Jane developed a new class called "Careers with Kids." Upon completion of this class, students filled a local need for licensed child care teachers.

Students in that class planted the seed which grew into one of her most significant community partnerships. By collaborating with Child Care Centers of Marshfield administrator, Sue Babcock, the Tiny Tiger Leadership Team led by Jane fundraised for and opened the Tiny Tiger Intergenerational Center, providing "learning for all ages, caring for all stages." The Center has been in operation for 16 years and has a waiting list for children – it serves as a learning center for high school students and an adult day care facility for the Marshfield community.

Jane found a supportive partner, MACCI Executive Director Marilyn Hardacre, for her visionary ideas. They collaborated on several significant, community-wide, educational initiatives and partnerships including Youth Apprenticeship, Health Career Connections, Reality Store, Pathway Partners mentoring program and Crystal Apple teacher recognition programs. These programs are exceptional because they continue to thrive due to sustained business partnerships. Pam Johnson, parent of a Financial Services Youth Apprentice, stated, "Through this program, we observed growth in our son Brian's confidence, ability to work with others and confirmation of his career path."

"I give all the credit to the incredible business partners who opened their doors to mentor students in central Wisconsin. None of these programs would have been possible without the commitment and support of parents, MACCI and our community partners," said Jane. She lived the motto "It takes a village" to educate children. One of her greatest satisfactions was when students would

find their career path. Many of them are employed in Marshfield today.

For these achievements, the Marshfield Board of Education and the Wisconsin Technical College System presented Jane with their awards of excellence for her contributions to vocational education and the community. Jane also mentored new and student teachers and interns one-to-one, at MHS and through the UWSP Family & Consumer Science Departments. Said Jenni Fredrick, "As a new teacher, having Jane as my mentor helped me to refine my teaching skills and taught me the importance of fostering business-education partnerships. She inspired me to continue my education and earn a master's degree and administrator license in career and technical education. I am honored to be working in the school district role that Jane retired from in 2009 and value our friendship of over 20 years."

As Marshfield approached the 21st Century, these innovative programs placed our city in the forefront of School-to-Career Education. Jane's efforts were recognized by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation which presented her with its Fellowship Award for "superior ability to inspire love of learning in students, leadership, and service within and outside the classroom, and ability to motivate others."

Jane understood that baby boomer retirements would cause a critical shortage of skilled labor for Wisconsin. Responding proactively to this labor shortage in the construction industry, Aaron Staab and Jane met with construction industry leaders to fundraise and build an addition to Marshfield High School titled the Architecture, Construction & Engineering (ACE) Academy. Today, visiting the Academy you will see students building garden sheds and tree stands, and practicing electrical, plumbing and drywalling skills.

In her final year of teaching, Jane collaborated with Central City Credit Union to open a branch office at Marshfield High School. This facility helps Financial Services Youth Apprentices link academics with hands-on learning in finance.

During her career, Jane worked tirelessly to help students link their academic work to meaningful career and technical education opportunities in the Marshfield community. Her legacy will be remembered by former students and business partners for her dedication to educating students outside the walls of school through community engagement.

# Ruesch named Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter

### FOR HUB CITY TIMES

ABBOTSFORD -- Abbotsford High School senior Calley Ruesch has been named the Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter for the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

Ruesch carries a rigorous class schedule that includes Calculus, Written Communications, Oral/Interpersonal Communication, Fab Lab, Accounting, Publishing, Careers with Kids, Leadership Skills and Action, Marketing, Family Foods II, and Food and Fitness. Her co-curricular activities include Senior Class Vice President, National Honor Society, Student Senate (Vice President), Safe School Ambassador, Spanish Club, BLAST, FFA, FBLA (Marketing Coordinator), and Show Choir. She is also a member of the volleyball, basketball, and track & field teams.

English Teacher, Ally Meserole, highly recommended her for the Student of the Quarter award.

"Calley is an enthusiastic, intelligent, hardworking individual with strong goals who holds her classmates and teammates to these same high standards," Meserole stated. "She always puts in full effort on every activity, responsibility, or assignment, and if unclear about a

project or expectation, advocates for herself. She works most mornings and weekends on her family farm, and yet is ready to learn and participate in many school activities. Even as a busy high school student, she understands how to use her time sensibly and follows through with her responsibilities. She is strong and confident with the ambition to thrive in all areas of her life."

Ruesch's volunteerism attests to her belief in community service. She has been actively involved by helping in Lions Brunches and Blood Drives, FFA Alumni Dairy Breakfasts, Earth Day Cleanup, Alumni Volleyball Tournaments, Future Falcons Camps, sending cards to nurses and veterans, and FBLA Fun Runs.

When asked to identify an outstanding feature of the community, Calley applauded Abbotsford Elementary School's dual-language program, stating "each grade level provides both an English and a Spanish teacher, giving young children the opportunity to learn easier and faster. This is especially important since our school has a rapidly growing Hispanic population. The program has grown and



the Spanish program in the middle/high school is growing as well."

When asked to define a major world problem, Ruesch responded, "I would confront mental health which can affect one's emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Some people's problems are caused by their experiencing abuse or trauma as a child. Others develop mental health problems caused by stress at work or home, isolation, or experiencing discrimination."

Calley currently works on her family farm, Circle R Dairy, and as a lifeguard for the Abbotsford School District. After graduation, she plans to attend UW-Green Bay, majoring in Communications with emphasis on Public Relations and Sports. Her goals include interning for the college athletic department or the Green Bay Packers.

She is the daughter of David and Becky Ruesch of rural Abbotsford.

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| SPORTS |

MHS athletes sign letters of intent



Abby Ongna (center) is all smiles, after signing her Letter of Intent Nov. 8, to play college volleyball at Winona State University (MN). Abby's parents, Jeff and Kelly Ongna, were also on hand for the big occasion. Mike Warren photo

BY MIKE WARREN  
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – A pair of Marshfield High School student-athletes have signed letters of intent to play their respective sports at the collegiate level starting in 2024. Abby Ongna and Ayana Bousum each signed their National Letter of Intent during ceremonies at MHS on Nov. 8, the first day students could sign in all sports but football and basketball.

Ongna will play volleyball at Division 2 Winona State University (MN).

"I toured a lot of schools, but Winona truly did feel like a family to me,"

Ongna told Hub City Times following her signing ceremony in the MHS Commons. "When I first got there, their coaches, the team, everybody was just so inviting, letting me practice with them and it just really felt like a family, so I'm really proud to be playing there."

Ongna said she did not even consider playing college volleyball until her sophomore year in high school.

"I had played basketball my whole life, so that was a really hard choice for me," Ongna added. "I chose to stop playing basketball and played club volleyball and then just started putting

videos out and it just all kind of clicked.

"Offensively, I know Winona is graduating a few people, so hoping to step in. I know there's other people ahead of me and, honestly, if I don't get a starting spot that's perfectly fine because I'm willing to work to get there," Ongna said.

Beyond volleyball, Ongna will be enrolled in Winona State's nursing program.

Bousum, meanwhile, will be pre-Law as she majors in Business and minors in Psychology while playing Div. 2 basketball at Concordia-St. Paul (MN).

"A huge factor was the team and the coaches," Bousum told us following

her signing. "One thing that stood out at Concordia-St. Paul versus some other schools was just how the coaches welcomed me. They had such confidence in me. It was so clear and the love and support that I felt, barely knowing the coaches, was so important to me," Bousum added.

Ayana admitted the recruiting process was "stressful."

"I had some great options, really great options," she told us. "It was a really, really hard decision. Honestly, there was no wrong answer. At the end of the day it just came down to that welcoming that I felt."

Bousum said her shooting ability is what stood out to the Concordia coaching staff.

"Pressure has never really gotten to me, especially on the court," she said. "So, when it comes to games where we need someone to step up, I will always be there. They have a senior that is graduating that I play really similar to, so she's a big part of their team, so they're hoping that

See **ATHLETES**  
page 16



Ayana Bousum completes a dribbling drill during a Nov. 8 practice at Marshfield High School, shortly after signing to play college basketball at Concordia University, St. Paul (MN). Mike Warren photo

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| SPORTS |

# Marshfield’s Varsho snubbed again

## Baseball’s No. 1 run-saver for 2023 denied Gold Glove for 2nd straight year

BY THOM GERRETSEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

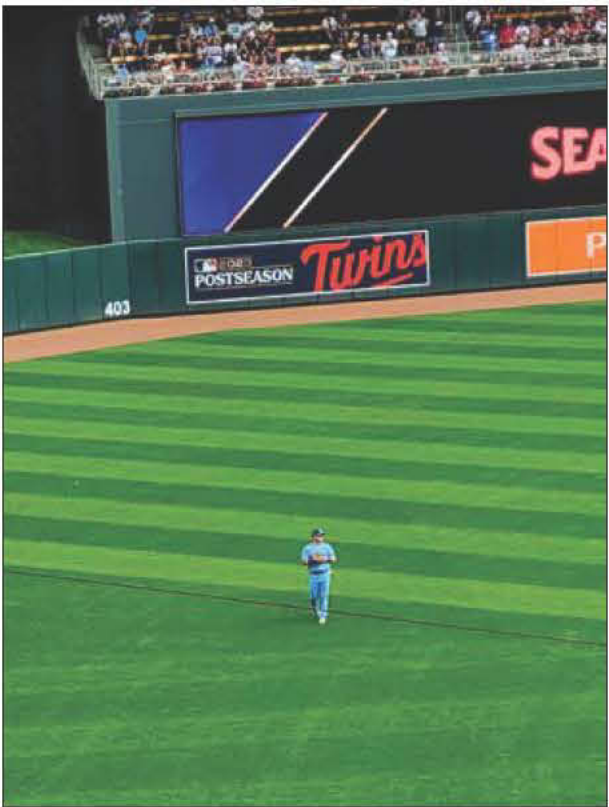
MARSHFIELD -- Daulton Varsho’s time will come. But not now. For the second year in a row, Marshfield’s home-grown Major Leaguer was a finalist for a Gold Glove Award. And for the second time, Varsho was snubbed when the honored fielders at each position in both the American & National leagues were announced Nov. 5.

According to the Fielding Bible (www.fieldingbible.com), Varsho used his outfield prowess to stop opponents from scoring 29 runs this season -- more than any big leaguer. His crime? Being too versatile. As Yahoo Sports reported, only 11 of Varsho’s 29 saved runs came when he played in left field -- the position where he was nominated. That winner, Steven Kwan of Cleveland, saved a Major League-high 16 runs in left.

Varsho was traded from Arizona to Toronto two days before Christmas in 2022. The Blue Jays undoubtedly valued his defensive talents: Toronto led both leagues in Defensive Runs Saved (DRS) with 85 this past season. Three other Blue Jays won Gold Gloves, tied for the most in the bigs.

Milwaukee Brewers’ fans can take pride that the Crew was the National League leader in saved runs with 68 -- second-best among MLB’s 30 clubs. Veteran first baseman Carlos Santana, traded to Milwaukee from Pittsburgh in July, was the Crew’s only Gold Glove finalist and he, too, fell short. Rookie second baseman Brice Turang was the Brewers’ top run-saver with 12. That put him at No. 27 on the Fielding Bible list with Santana 28th.

As for Varsho, Toronto pitcher Chris Bassitt all-but-said that his teammate was blatantly ripped off. Bassitt posted the Fielding Bible’s stats on X, the former Twitter, and



Though he didn’t win a Gold Glove, Marshfield’s Daulton Varsho did play in his career’s first two MLB Postseason games in 2023. He was the starting left fielder in both of Toronto’s playoff contests at Minnesota. Here, Varsho is shown in Game 1 of a best-of-3 AL Wild Card series at Target Field, Minneapolis, Oct. 3.

Thom Gerretsen photo

wrote: “The fact you can lead in defensive runs saved and not win a Gold Glove is pure stupidity only baseball can pull off.”

Varsho excelled as a catcher in college at UW-Milwaukee. He and his fans can thank the Arizona Diamondbacks for recognizing and helping grow this central Wisconsin native’s new fielding talents. That began to pay off in 2022, when Daulton became a finalist for two National League Gold Glove honors both in right field and as a utility player.

At 27, Daulton Varsho certainly has time to build his credentials. But as he enters his fifth Major League season in 2024, there appears to be little doubt -- certainly among many Marshfieldians and his other fans -- that he has already paid his dues.

### ATHLETES

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maybe I could either step into her shoes or grow into her shoes.

“It’ll be a big jump,” Bousum admitted. “There will be a big difference (going from high school to college basketball). But, throughout the summer I’m gonna play with my future teammates, Dani Minsaas (former Tiger), I’ll be with her a lot and I have a lot of friends and a lot of people that I met through AAU that are also going to high-level Division 2 schools, so I’ll be playing with the same people.”

“Anybody that signs their National Letter of Intent, I think it’s just something to go off of,” said Bousum’s high school basketball coach, Taylor Varsho. “But her work ethic, her hard work, her dedication to the program have also paid off. People just come to games, but the rest of the stuff behind the scenes is what separates them,” Varsho added. “It’s those little things that add up to big things. When Ayana transferred over (from Columbus Catholic) after her freshman year, one of her goals was to go play at the next level, and I said, ‘This is what you need to do.’

“I’m so happy for Ayana,” Varsho told us. “I think she’ll do great things over there. She can flat out shoot. Sometimes at this level, you know, you practice shooting, but having a pure shooter is something that you can’t teach sometimes. Ayana’s athletic ability to move up and down the floor defensively, offensively, she’s just an athletic kid, and again, you can’t sometimes teach that to high school players. I think the overall concept of she can shoot, she can play both ends of the floor, but also she’s a wonderful teammate,” Varsho added. “Those are things that probably go unnoticed sometimes. People think Ayana’s a quiet kid, but once you get to know her, her story is one that she should tell because it speaks volumes. Her story will just be a little part of this, but she will do great things moving to the next level.”

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