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Rotary Winter Wonderland: A tradition unlike any other

BY MIKE WARREN **EDITOR**

MARSHFIELD - There are holiday light displays. And then there's the Rotary Winter Wonderland display. The annual holiday light show is back for an 18th season at Wildwood Zoo in

more lights this year," Co-Chair Al Nystrom told us Nov. 13. "We were able to, with the help of a lift truck, get up with some elevation on a number of trees, so you're gonna see some trees are decorated 60 to 70 feet above ground. We haven't had that in quite a few years. That's gonna stand out for sure. I do feel like we

Marshfield. "I do feel like we've added

See ROTARY page 7

Marshfield Rotary will welcome thousands of visitors over 38 days to its 18th annual Holiday Lights display Nov. 24-Dec. 31 at Wildwood Zoo. MMC staff photo



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Auburndale honors Veterans in special way

BY MIKE WARREN EDITOR

AUBURNDALE -There are Veterans Day
ceremonies. And then
there's Auburndale High
School's Veterans Day
program.

The school held its annual Veterans Day ceremony in Tim Anderson Gymnasium Nov. 10, followed by a meal for Veterans in the high school library, served by students.

"Auburndale schools are unbelievable in the way they treat Veterans," said Stratford's Terry Schoenherr, a Vietnamera Marine Corp vet. "Auburndale VFW is now a part of the Stratford VFW. The two joined a number of years ago when Auburndale was struggling," added Schoenherr, who serves as a liaison between the



Judging by sophomore Kennedy Crane's reaction, the student servers enjoyed themselves as much as the Veterans did, during Auburndale High School's annual Veterans Day activities, including a meal after a ceremony held in the school gym. The Veterans we spoke with during lunch said they appreciate the gesture every year.

Mike Warren photo

VFW and Auburndale High School. "The school has been so supportive of the VFW since the two got together. Just unreal. It's amazing," Schoenherr said,

of the way the school caters to Veterans. "The feeling from the school and the

See VETERANS
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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Finding Gratitude in the Present and History of Thanksgiving

Dear Reader,

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's a perfect time to reflect on the history of this beloved holiday and remind ourselves of the importance of gratitude in our lives. Thanksgiving Day in America has a rich and meaningful past, steeped in tradition and a spirit of coming together.

The origins of Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1621 when the Pilgrims, who had recently arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts, celebrated a bountiful harvest with the Wampanoag people. This gathering marked the first Thanksgiving feast, a symbol of unity and gratitude for the blessings of the land. Over the years, the observance of Thanksgiving evolved, becoming a national holiday in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Today, Thanksgiving is a time when families and friends gather around tables filled with a cornucopia of dishes. But it's not just about the delicious food. It's about acknowledging the "little things" that make



our lives rich and meaningful.

In our fast-paced world, it's easy to overlook the everyday blessings. Thanksgiving serves as a reminder to pause and reflect on the small joys that often go unnoticed. Whether it's a warm smile from a stranger, a beautiful sunset, or a heartfelt conversation, there is much to

be thankful for if we open our hearts and minds to it.

Gratitude has the power to transform our lives. It shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have, promoting positivity and resilience. So this Thanksgiving, I encourage you to harken back to the spirit of that first celebration and find gratitude in your own life. Share your blessings with others, embrace the little moments, and let the warmth of thankfulness fill your heart.

As a publisher, I'm grateful for the opportunity to share stories, thoughts, and reflections with all of you. Thank you for being a part of our community. We wish you a wonderful and gratitude-filled Thanksgiving.

With warm regards, PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher



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Monroe Crossing coming to Pittsville



Monroe Crossing is coming to Pittsville on Dec. 3 at 3 p.m.

Submitted photo

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

PITTSVILLE -- Whether playing bluegrass or material outside the genre, Monroe Crossing is one of the most entertaining acts in bluegrass today and they are coming Dec. 3 to the Pittsville School Auditorium for a Sunday afternoon Christmas show.

Monroe Crossing performs an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, original bluegrass and some surprising selections outside the bluegrass genre. Named in honor of Bill Monroe, the Father of Bluegrass Music, Monroe Crossing's superb musicianship has entertained audiences throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. They are favorites among bluegrass connoisseurs and non-bluegrass audiences alike. They love introducing newcomers to bluegrass music.

Monroe Crossing consists of four distinct personalities with differing musical backgrounds. When combined, their individual histories make for a unique sound. The three original members are: Mark Anderson (bass), Lisa Fuglie (fiddle & lead vocals) and Matt Thompson (mandolin & harmony vocals). Derek Johnson (guitar & lead vocals) joined in

2011. The group utilizes a cadre of very talented banjo players, all of whom are alumni of the group. They are: Benji Flaming, David Robinson and Graham Sones.

In 2007, Monroe Crossing was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. They have appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2016, Monroe Crossing had the honor of being the first Minnesota bluegrass band to perform in South Korea.

Monroe Crossing will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Pittsville School Auditorium. Doors open at 2 p.m. with complimentary hot cider and cookies. General admission tickets are \$20 for adults, and the youth student price is \$5. As always, advance tickets are available for purchase at the downtown Pittsville office of Wisconsin Farm Business/Ortner Accounting.

Jingle all the way to the exact center of Wisconsin; don't miss this fine holiday performance of family Christmas entertainment, take the short sleigh ride to Pittsville and ring in the season.

VETERANS from page 2

support from the school is just amazing. It's hard to explain sometimes. The little things that they do that just mean so much, and then there's the big things they do that are on top of the little things that they do. When you come here, all the way along the sidewalk it's lined with American flags. Things like that when you drive up are so important."

"Mark Cournoyer and I got the idea one day during a fire drill," said organizer Joren Anderson.

After the first meal about six years ago, she said one event led to another.

"I would say our Veterans program was maybe 20 veterans," Anderson told us, during our Veterans Day visit. "Then we ended up just kind of making it bigger and better each year. So, it started out with one (Community Leadership) class. We had a Skype meeting with the Original Wisconsin Ducks (Wisconsin Dells), so then we ended up having our first Ducks trip (2018), and then everything kind

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<u>Publisher</u>

Patrick J. Wood, publisher@mmclocal.com

General Manager -

Mike Hollihan

Editor - Mike Warren

Graphic Designer

Tamara Mortensen

Office Manager/

Graphic Design Kevin Granquist

Sales Account Executive

Peggy Sue Behselich

Delivery

Jim Jozwiak

PaperChain

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OUNCIL

Times City

of expanded," Anderson added. "So, one day we ended up going to the gas station for Community Coffee down there, and we said, 'Hey, we can do that.' So then January of the following year (2019) we started Community Coffee and then the following year we started Veterans Coffee, and then we also have Mail Call. Veterans receive mail from students K-thru-12 four times a year."

The school's Veterans Coffee Club is held the second Tuesday of each month from 8 to 9:15 a.m. in the Anderson Gym lobby. If Veterans or active service members want to be added to the mailing list, contact Joren Anderson at janderson@aubschools. com with a name and address.

Veterans Day "The program has continued to grow each year," says Anderson. "We work closely with the Stratford and coordinate with the band and choir instructors, custodians, and principals of each building. Everyone helps out to make the Veterans Day program a success. Students district-wide write letters, drawings, and cards to send. the elementary students donate their Halloween candy to give to the Veterans at the Auburndale Veterans program."

The school also gives candy bags to Pittsville, Rudolph, Neillsville, Loyal and Tri-County schools, along with the Highground and the American Heroes Café in Wisconsin Rapids, for their Veterans Day programs. This year Auburndale students donated 530 pounds of candy.

Staff is also supportive, having students write Patriots Pen essays, making posters and artwork, and everyone offers to pitch in where it's pooded

"It's a group effort to continue to honor and respect our Veterans on Veterans Day and throughout the year," Anderson added. "The veterans verv are appreciative of the small acts we do, but it's nothing compared to the sacrifices they have made for us. One of the best parts/ results of all the activities we do is the relationships it has created between the Veterans and students."

Anderson also teaches U.S History, and she says the Veterans programs Auburndale coordinates brings some of that history alive for students, and gives it a face and a name.

"It's getting their experience from a world view versus central Wisconsin."

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Stars & Stripes Forever Fund

This fund was developed to support the annual Pittsville Fourth of July fireworks. This fund will help ensure this event continues to be celebrated each year with the support of the community. If you'd like to donate to this fund please go to www.marshfield. foundation and click the DONATE NOW button and do a search for this fund.

SHP Answer Centers available during open enrollment period

MARSHFIELD – Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc. has six Answer Center locations to provide Wisconsin residents with a convenient option to get their Medicare or Health Insurance Marketplace coverage questions answered.

Security Health Plan Answer Centers are conveniently located inside Marshfield Clinic Health System locations where patients can take advantage of face-to-face consultations. These in-person meetings are with a licensed Security Health Plan sales representative and individuals can learn which health care coverage might be right for them. Among other places, Answer Centers are located in Stevens Point and Weston. Wisconsinites are also welcome to schedule an appointment at Security Health Plan's main office in Marshfield.

"Insurance can get complicated,

especially when you're trying to decide what's best for you and what's best for your family," said Security Health Plan Consumer Sales Manager Amy Parrish. "At an Answer Center, people meet one-on-one with a licensed insurance representative to review their options conveniently and confidentially."

The annual enrollment period for Medicare is open through Dec. 7, and for the Health Insurance Marketplace it is through Jan. 15, 2024.

You can easily schedule a Medicare appointment at a Security Health Plan Answer Center by calling 1-844-267-9198 or schedule online at www.securityhealth. org/appointment.

To get answers to your questions about Health Insurance Marketplace coverage go to www.securityhealth.org/answercenters.

Program prompted by pandemic returns

Donations delivered with meals Christmas week



Some of the acceptable items for the "Silver Sparks" program. Donations will be gifted to Home Delivered Meals recipients in Marshfield Christmas week. Donation drop boxes are at MACCI, United Way and Marshfield Medical Center's cafeteria.

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – A donation program that was born out of the 2020 shutdowns related to the pandemic is now in its fourth year.

"(Silver Sparks) was derived from the year of Covid, 2020, and the year that most people were foregoing Thanksgiving with their families, and possibly Christmas," says Kris Hughes, Coordinator of Marshfield Medical Center's Home Delivered Meals program. "Most of the recipients were alone and devoid of human touch. Their voices on the phone had become melancholy, defeated, sad, and withdrawn," she says. "They were alone with their four walls, and the news they were hearing on their televisions and radios was bleak, at best, as it pertained to Covid and their demographic. Holidays can be very difficult for people, especially those who have lost loved ones. There is an eternal void that exists for them. Their solace is to be with people that bridge happiness for them."

That needs still exists, Hughes says. "Silver Sparks" is meant to give a feeling of warmth and kindness, and to rekindle good memories. She began rounding up donations, items such as instant cocoa, socks, mittens, hand soap, lotion, night lights, ornaments, word search books, and decks of cards, to name a few. "After all, it is the little things, and memories

of them, that get all of us through tough times," Hughes adds. "My hope is that each bag, and each little item in each bag, is like a much-needed hug. I hope that it is a gift that brings warmth and happiness, and that each recipient feels like they are special and thought about this holiday season. We are 'paying it back' to people who have already given so much to their communities, and to others, in their lifetimes."

Donations to the "Silver Sparks" program can be made in several ways. Drop boxes will be available at the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry office at 700 S. Central Ave., Marshfield Area United Way at 612 W. Blodgett St. and in the cafeteria of the

hospital through Dec. 15.

Hughes is hoping for 800 small donations to cover all those served by Home Delivered Meals.

"We have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, in a good way," she adds. "We can spread happiness to those who are most alone, and we need to look at people and realize that everyone is somebody's someone."

The small gift bags will be given to meal recipients the week of Christmas by Home Delivered Meals drivers. Questions can be directed to Kristin Hughes, MMC Home Delivered Meals Coordinator, at 715-387-9585.



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AAA: 1.1 million Wisconsinites expected to travel over Thanksgiving weekend

Holiday forecast is third highest in over twenty years

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MADISON -- AAA projects more than 1.1 million Wisconsinites will travel 50 miles or more during the Thanksgiving holiday travel period. This year's forecast is the third highest on record, with an expected 25,672 (2.4 percent) more holiday travelers than last year.

"Travel demand has been strong all year and that trend will continue with one of the busiest Thanksgivings on record," said Debbie Haas, Vice President of Travel for AAA – The Auto Club Group. "With more people taking to the roads, skies, rails and sea, travelers should expect congested roads and longer lines at transportation terminals. AAA encourages travelers to develop their plan now, leave early, and be courteous to others."

Most Thanksgiving travelers will drive to their destinations. AAA predicts over 961,000 Wisconsinites will take a road trip of 50 miles or more. That's nearly 14,000 more Florida drivers (+2.4 percent) than last year.

Gas prices should remain lower than last year

Thanksgiving road trips should be less costly at the gas pump this year. Despite global tensions causing ripples through the oil market, strong domestic gasoline supplies are causing pump prices to drop. Last Thanksgiving, the national average price for gasoline was \$3.58 per gallon, while the state average was \$3.23. Prices this November have averaged \$3.14 in Wisconsin and have been steadily falling. AAA believes gas prices should remain low through the holiday season unless oil prices suddenly spike. Visit GasPrices.AAA.com to view updated gas price averages.

Air travel sets new record for Wisconsin

AAA expects over 113,515 Wisconsinites to fly for Thanksgiving. That's over 8,700 (8.3 percent) more than 2022, which had also been a record-setting year.

Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving are the busiest air travel days ahead of the holiday and the most expensive. While Sunday is typically the busiest day to return home, AAA data shows Monday is also a popular day to fly back after Thanksgiving.

Cruise, bus, and train traffic gains ground

The number of Wisconsinites traveling by cruise, bus, and train over Thanksgiving is up nearly 11 percent over last year. AAA expects nearly 30,000 travelers to head



This stretch of WIS 17 in northern Wisconsin connects Rhinelander and Eagle River in Oneida and Vilas counties, and carries lots of hunters and holiday travelers this time of year.

WisDOT photo

odes of time updates."

out of town using these other modes of transportation, which suffered a severe setback during the pandemic, but have rebounded nicely.

"The cruise industry, in particular, has made a remarkable comeback, and thrives during the holidays," Haas added. "Holiday cruises are highly sought after as a means for large families to travel together and visit multiple destinations without having to worry about the cooking and cleanup. For those looking to plan a 2024 vacation, this is also a great time to connect with a travel advisor, who can navigate the many options available to find the best fit."

Best/worst times to drive

INRIX, a provider of transportation data and insights, expects Wednesday, Nov. 22, to be the busiest day on the roads during the Thanksgiving holiday travel period, with average travel times as high as 80 percent longer than normal in some metro areas. INRIX recommends leaving in the morning or after 6 p.m. to avoid the heaviest holiday congestion.

"The day before Thanksgiving is notoriously one of the most congested days on our roadways. Travelers should be prepared for long delays, especially in and around major metros," said Bob Pishue, transportation analyst at INRIX. "Knowing when and where congestion will build can help minimize holiday traffic frustrations. We advise drivers to use traffic apps, local DOT notifications, and 511 services for real-

Holiday booking prices

This holiday season, travelers are generally paying less for domestic trips compared to last year and more for international vacations. The one exception is airfare, which is slightly more expensive for domestic flights this season and a bit lower for international flights. Here's a breakdown of average booking prices for November and December, according to AAA data:

Flights

The average price for a domestic flight is \$681, up 5 percent from 2022.

The average price for an international flight is \$1,231, down 5.7 percent from last year.

Hotels

The average price for a domestic hotel stay is \$598, down 12 percent from 2022.

The average price for an international hotel stay is \$772, up 5 percent from last year.

Rental cars

The average price for a domestic rental car reservation is \$590, down 20 percent from 2022.

The average price for an international rental car reservation is \$696, up 9 percent

from last year. Cruises

The average price for a domestic cruise is \$1,507, down 12 percent compared to 2022.

The average price for an international

cruise is \$2,902, up 24 percent from last year.

Tours

The average price for a domestic tour is \$1,058, down 15 percent compared to 2022.

The average price for an international tour is \$1,208, up 21 percent from last year.

AAA's road trip tips

Get a full vehicle inspection before setting out on your trip. Leave early and allow extra time to get to your destination, so you are not in a rush. Identify alternate routes in case you encounter congestion or road closures. Avoid distractions while driving. Program your GPS before your drive. Ensure everyone in the vehicle wears their seatbelt. Never drive impaired.

AAA's air travel tips

Check-in early online. Monitor your flight status using your air carrier's mobile app. Arrive 2-3 hours before scheduled departure. Pack medications and an extra set of clothes in your carry-on bag, just in case your flight is delayed or cancelled.

Book a flight that leaves early in the day. Flights in the afternoon and evening are more susceptible to delays and cancellations. Book a direct flight. Otherwise, build in extra time between connections, in case your first flight is delayed. Consider traveling on Thanksgiving Day. This could offer the best combination of availability and price.

"It's not too late to purchase travel insurance, which can be extremely valuable for air travelers," Haas said. "There are policies that can provide compensation for flight delays for as little as three hours. And if a flight is cancelled, passengers can receive compensation for covered out-of-pocket expenses."

AAA reminds drivers to 'Move Over for Me'

With more people sharing the roads, the danger is multiplied for those on the roadside. AAA reminds motorists to slow down and move over for first responders, tow trucks, and any motorist with a disabled vehicle on the side of the road.

"We want to make sure all holiday travelers, tow truck drivers and first responders make it home safely this Thanksgiving," said Nick Jarmusz, director of public affairs for AAA – The Auto Club Group. "All drivers can help by moving over for flashing lights, whether it's a tow truck or a disabled vehicle with its hazard lights on. Even if it adds a few minutes to your commute, that small gesture could save a life."

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MARSHFIELD Honoring Marshfield's 150th

Marshfield 150 for 150: Nancy and Clyde Wynia

NOMINATED BY EILEEN KELZ

It was love that brought Nancy and Clyde Wynia to Marshfield. Their story began when Nancy was in nurses training in a Salem, Massachusetts hospital, and Clyde, then a college student, was working in the same hospital as an orderly. Nancy was attracted to the bashful, very kind and handsome young college student, as was he to her. They fell in love.

Nancy's family didn't approve of Clyde as a proper match for their daughter. She had grown up leading a life of privilege, and Clyde was a farm boy from rural Cornell, Wisconsin. Despite her family's protests the couple married and later moved to Wisconsin.

Clyde studied at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy in 1958. Wanting to further his studies, he applied to the University of Wisconsin Law School at Madison, but was rejected because Gordon College credits were not recognized by the university.

As fate would have it, one evening a man knocked on their door telling Nancy that his car had broken down. Nancy went out to the barn to get Clyde, who took the man into town to find help to fix the car. Clyde refused an offer of money, so the man asked if there was anything he could do in return. It turned out the man was the recently elected president of the Wisconsin Bar Association, and within a day, Clyde was accepted into law school at Madison. Nancy considers it divine intervention. While Clyde was in law school, Nancy supported the family by working as a private duty nurse.

In 1961, after graduating and being admitted to the Wisconsin State Bar Association, the young family moved to Marshfield where Clyde established a partnership with attorney William Dehn, with whom he practiced law for 24 years. He then joined the Terwilliger, Waken, Piehler, Conway & Klingberg S.C. law firm. A few years before



retiring in 1997, Clyde moved to a private practice with attorney Alan Billings.

The Wynias enjoyed family life and purchased the former home of lumber baron Benjamin Franklin McMillan in the town of McMillan. They raised their three children, Don, Susan and Todd, in that "farmhouse." They also became a treatment foster home and were foster parents to another daughter, Lois.

Both Nancy and Clyde had an inclination toward the arts, participating in the Marshfield Art Fair for many years. Clyde started out in ceramics and Nancy, following the talent of her dad, a watercolor artist, started out painting. Like her mother, an accomplished knitter, Nancy became interested in knitting with handspun wool, so she learned how to spin her own yarn. When she couldn't find the right kind of buttons for her hand-crafted garments, she learned how to make her own buttons with the lampworked process at an annual Bead and Button Show in Milwaukee. Wanting further training she spent three

weeks at Corning Glassworks in New York and later studied advanced techniques in Murano, Italy and Ireland.

Meanwhile, Clyde began playing around with pieces of scrap metal found around the farm and found he was good at creating "swamp creatures." The whimsical creatures have become his signature. People began stopping around just to meet his creatures and the backyard of Wynia's farm soon became known as Jurustic Park. Within the park is the Hobbit House which houses Nancy's lampworking equipment and the beautiful hand-crafted jewelry that she has for sale.

The Wynias have left a legacy in the Marshfield community. They have generously donated pieces of Clyde's swamp creatures to the City of Marshfield and to every school in the district. They attract over 17,000 visitors to the park each year. Many come to hear Clyde's irreverent and colorful stories about each of the creatures in his herd.

In addition to the contributions they make, Clyde has contributed his talents to the Savings and Loan board, the hospital board and Kiwanis Club. Nancy continues doing the art she loves painting, knitting and doing her lamp-worked beading. She is modest and feels her biggest contribution has been as "chief cook and bottle washer" to her family. As a nurse she donates her time to her church as a parish nurse doing wellness checks for church members. She has also participated in two medical missions to help the people of Cartagena, Columbia.

The couple proved Nancy's family to be wrong and have been happily married for 66 years. They still actively keep Jurustic Park a happy place for visitors and remain their creative selves.

Nancy and Clyde consider themselves blessed to have the life they have and enjoy sharing their creations with the Marshfield community.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Leave turkeys off the table

'n the United States alone, 46,000,000 turkeys are killed for Thanksgiving. These 46,000,000 innocent animal lives were taken for no reason.

Of the 245,000,000 turkeys killed in the U.S. in 2022, nearly all were raised in crowded, toxic fume-filled sheds, and their talons and beaks were violently clipped to prevent stress-induced aggression. At only sixteen weeks, their throats are cut by industry workers before lowering them into boiling water to remove their feathers.

Human health also pays a hefty price at Thanksgiving. Turkey meat is full of saturated fats and cholesterol, and that elevates risk of heart disease and cancer. Intense prolonged cooking is required to stop the rotting process while also destroying deadly pathogens.

This Thanksgiving, let's give thanks for our good fortune, health, and happiness with a cruelty-free dinner of plant-based holiday roasts, vegetables, fruits, and more. Try a simple search for "vegan plant-based Thanksgiving" for countless simple, delicious, and nutritious recipes. This year, let's all consider a nonviolent, cruelty-free Thanksgiving and leave turkey of the table.

> Sincerely, Zack Zimmerman, Marshfield

Assembly passes two Rozar bills MADISON - The Wisconsin State

Assembly on Nov. 14 passed two bills authored by Representative Donna Rozar (R-Marshfield).

Assembly Bill 431 would allow hearing instrument specialists to remove ear wax as part of their scope of practice. Current law does not allow hearing instrument specialists to remove ear wax, a process known as cerumen management. Hearing instrument specialists who choose to practice cerumen management will be required to complete training and obtain a certification from the Hearing and Speech Board.

Assembly Bill 242 clarifies the county of residence for certain long-term care patients. This clarification is needed to prevent unnecessary disputes between counties, and will provide continuity to the Department of

"I am proud to have brought these two common-sense bills before the Assembly," said Rozar. "Assembly Bill 431 is all about affordability and accessibility. It will reduce costs and save patients time when being fitted for hearing aids. Assembly Bill 242 will clarify the county of residence for certain long-term care patients."

Both Assembly Bill 431 and Assembly Bill 242 received bi-partisan support in their respective committees and on the Assembly floor. Having already passed in the State Senate, the bills now await consideration by Governor Evers. Nov. 30 is the next date when bills are scheduled to be sent to the governor.



Rep. Donna Rozar, on the floor of the state Assembly in Madison, Rozar represents the 69th Assembly District, which includes municipalities in portions of Clark, Jackson, Marathon, and Wood counties.

Greg Anderson photo











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ROTARY

from page 1

continue to put on a really good display and I think this one will stand out with some of the changes we've made, so we're pretty excited about it."

Nystrom and his cochair, daughter Danielle Nystrom, will join other organizers and volunteers in throwing the switch to officially launch this year's display, during a treelighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. on opening day, Friday, Nov. 24.

"The project's gone very well," Nystrom added. "Probably one of our best building seasons ever, in terms of getting done a little bit ahead of schedule. We're just very thankful for all the volunteers, especially the business groups that came out. We've had a number of businesses come out during the work week and they helped us greatly in getting to where we wanted to be by this time of year, so we're very grateful for that. I'm really excited to turn the lights on on the day after Thanksgiving.'

A special event that is back from last year is "Silent Sunday," scheduled for Nov. 26.

"We'll turn off all the music. It'll be very quiet in there," Nystrom told us. "And we're gonna do that for those folks that need a more quiet environment to enjoy. We sampled that last year. We had tremendous feedback on that, so we're gonna bring that out on the first Sunday. There have been some groups that have expressed a lot of appreciation for that. It's a very nice event. It's very tranquil, very peaceful."

Nystrom also said they are bringing back the old favorites, like horsedrawn wagon rides every Saturday, live music three or four nights a week, and visits with Santa each weekend.

Rotary Wonderland serves as a way to collect food and



The train greets visitors near the entrance of the Rotary Winter Wonderland display, and is among the fan favorites each year.

MMC staff photo

in a 90-mile radius around Marshfield. Over 800,000 cans of food have been donated since the project began in 2006.

'The purpose of the project really is to help feed the hungry of our central Wisconsin community," Nystrom told us. "At the end of the year, after we pay for expenses, we shoot every dollar we've taken in out to the food pantries. They all get a check at the end of the season.

"The impact has really grown more regional," added Nystrom. "I think initially when we started 18 years ago, we thought we were just going to cater to the Marshfield groups, but as we became more widely known and as people started to travel to see us, we understood that we're getting support from Wausau, Stevens Point and even northern Wisconsin, and we have relationships with pantries in all those markets."

Nystrom said surveys

traffic is from outside of Marshfield."

Average annual attendance has been estimated at 80,000 visitors. So just how many lights are there?

"It's impossible to know for sure," Nystrom said. "We estimate around oneand-a-half million just based on what we've bought over the years."

Nystrom also said the display is a communitywide effort.

"We draw from over 250 businesses and organizations and more than 1,000 volunteers each year. This project brings out the best in our community, and we could not be more grateful for everyone who has helped. Danielle and I are co-chairs again this year. Most of our leadership team has been involved in the project for all 18 years," Nystrom added. "We would welcome anyone who is interested in helping us with any aspect of the project, as we

additional volunteer opportunities are available this year for individuals and families to help collect food at the gates on Dec. 24 and 25, and they need a very strong volunteer turnout in January to start taking down the project as well.

"We have to put a thousand volunteers together every single year to do this and somehow we

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do," Nystrom said. "I feel we're very lucky to live in a community where people are willing to rally around something like this and to make it happen. I do think the nature of the project is one that you want to come back and do. Speaking from personal experience, I've been doing this 18 years and I've never had a bad day down there," he added. "It

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just brings a lot of joy to be down there working next to people who work together on something that serves the community."



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The reflection of "The Peacock" can be seen in the hood of a car at the 2017 Rotary Winter Wonderland display, which also features a drive-thru option. **Brittany Tarras photo**



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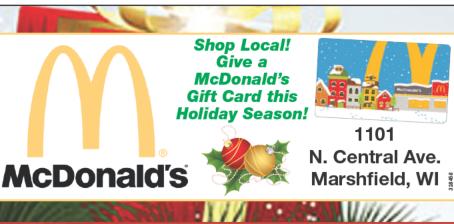
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HOLIDAY KIDS FUN IN THE PARKS | 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Kids, pick up a Peppermint Parks Passport at any of the following parks and get them stamped at each. Once you've stamped all three, bring your completed passport to the Main Street Marshfield office between 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and we'll have a little treat for you!

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Small businesses dressed in their holiday best are ready for shoppers! Visit any of the businesses and pick up a Shop Small Passport. Visit any of the participating businesses to stamp it. Each stamped location counts toward an entry in a variety of prize drawings. Participating businesses are listed on the Shop Small Passports, available here as an attachment the week of the event. Turn in your passport to the Main Street Marshfield office on Small Business Saturday between 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. to qualify for the drawings.



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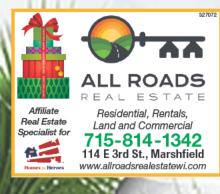
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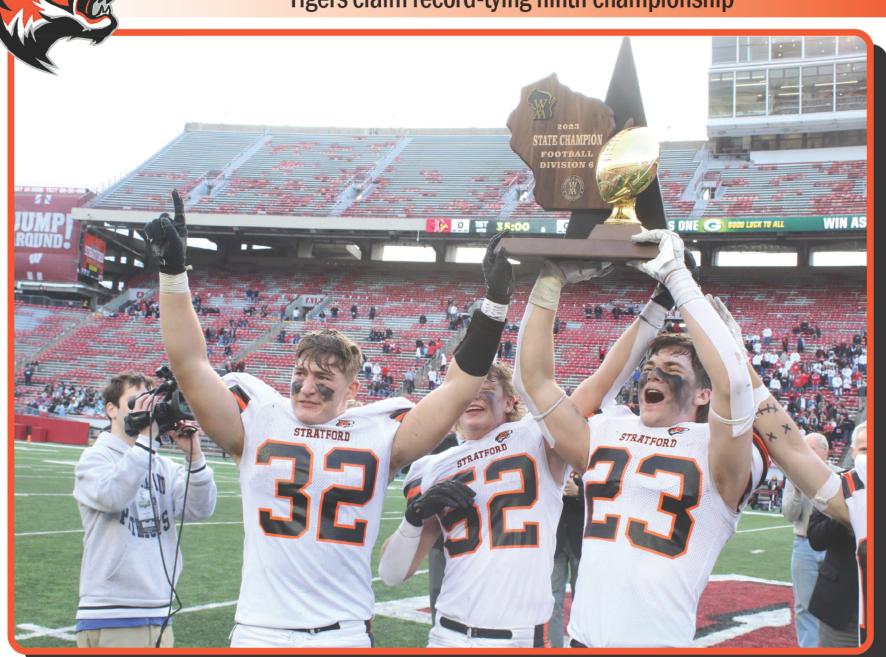


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Foreign exchange student boots Stratford to title

Tigers claim record-tying ninth championship



Koehler Kilty (32), Matt Folz (52) and Gavin Leonhardt (23) hoist Stratford's championship trophy, after the Tigers defeated Darlington in the WIAA Div. 6 title contest Nov. 16 at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison.

Greg Seubert photo

BY MIKE WARREN EDITOR

MADISON – "Just like practice."

That's what senior Laurenz Plattner had written on his right arm Nov. 16, for the Stratford High School football team's Div. 6 state championship game at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison. The saying made perfect sense. After all, practice is all the German foreign exchange student had done all season. He had not attempted a field goal all year. Then came the final 23 seconds of Stratford's championship showdown with Darlington. The stuff of

After Stratford had chewed up most of the fourth quarter on a 21-play drive that began at their own 3-yard line, the Tigers had the ball at the Darlington 7-yard line facing a 4th-and-2 situation. With just 23 seconds left in regulation and the game tied at 7, the Tigers tried something they had not attempted all season – a field goal.

Enter Laurenz Plattner. Although, you might not have known who he was if you're not a regular at Stratford games. The senior kicker from Germany didn't even have his last name on the back of his jersey. Now, the no-name kicker from across the pond had a chance to win the game for the Tigers. Enter Breylin Goebel. The Darlington senior got just enough of a fingertip on Plattner's 24-yard field

goal attempt to knock it down, giving the Redbirds the ball at their own 20-yard line.

After gaining eight yards on first down, a false start penalty moved the Redbirds back to their own 23-yard line. Following an incomplete pass, Darlington handed off to their trusty senior halfback Reagan Jackson on 3rd-and-7. After running for nine yards, Stratford's Cole Tichy forced the ball out and Alec Chapel scooped up the loose ball and returned it seven yards to Darlington's 25.

With just six seconds left in regulation, the Tigers took a shot. Quarterback Jack Tubbs hit Chapel for 22 yards down to the Darlington 3-yard line. However, a defensive holding penalty on the Redbirds put the ball at the 15-yard line instead, and with no time remaining on the clock. The Tigers were awarded one untimed down. Bring on the field goal unit.

The Tigers' German kicker trotted onto the field for just the second time all season, just moments after having his only other attempt blocked. That was from 24 yards out 23 seconds ago. This would be a 32-yard attempt.

Just like practice. The stuff of legend.

Plattner's field goal sailed between the uprights as it faded a little to the left, but with plenty of distance. A roughing the kicker penalty on the play was ignored and the Tigers began to celebrate. With no time on the clock, they had just defeated Darlington 10-7, to win their second consecutive Div. 6 state championship.

The celebration was a familiar one for Stratford. After all, they had done this eight times before. And now with a ninth championship in the books, the Tigers had tied St. Mary's Springs Academy of Fond du Lac for the most championships in WIAA history.

On a day when yards and points were hard to come by, the two teams combined for 297 yards and 17 points.

After the two squads ate up the first quarter and part of the second on three unsuccessful drives, Darlington went on an 11-play drive from the Stratford 47-yard line to grab a 7-0 lead with 5:01 left in the first half.

In the third quarter, the Tigers capitalized on a Darlington fumble three plays into the second half. Stratford covered 29 yards in five plays, scoring on a 9-yard run by Koehler Kilty. Plattner's PAT was good to tie the game with 8:05 left in the third quarter.

Three straight three-and-outs by both teams led to

Stratford's dramatic finish.

Kilty led the Tigers with 85 yards and one score on 25 carries. Jack Tubbs ran the ball 12 times for 45 yards. Gavin Leonhardt added 22 yards on five carries.

Chapel led the Tiger defense with seven tackles. Leonhardt had six. Matt Folz and Landon Zawislan each

The Tigers end their season 13-1. Their only loss was to Div. 7 champion Edgar, a 40-6 defeat Aug. 25.

On their way to the state title, Stratford defeated Weyauwega-Fremont in a Level 1 playoff game, then beat last season's runner-up, Mondovi, in Level 2. After winning at Auburndale over the Eagles in Level 3, the Tigers beat another familiar opponent. In Level 4, Stratford beat a Grantsburg squad they had defeated on their way to last season's championship.

The Tigers are the only program in state history to win six straight titles, all coming in Div. 6 from 2003-08. They also won the Div. 5 crown in 1986. They recorded runner-up finishes in Division 5 in 2018 and 2019. This season, Stratford won the title in the Large Division of the Central Wisconsin Conference. And now, in their 11th state championship game, the Tigers have won a ninth gold ball.





Stratford's Koehler Kilty (32) brings down Darlington's Maddox Goebel (21), who gained 7 yards on 4 carries, in their Div. 6 championship showdown Nov. 16. The Tigers held the Redbirds to 102 yards, all on the ground.

Greg Seubert photo







Stratford Tigers

(12-1)



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Mid-State now has Marshfield Clinic location

BY MIKE WARREN EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – Patients and other visitors to Marshfield Clinic Health System's flagship campus will notice a new tenant just off the main lobby.

The Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry hosted a Nov. 14 ribbon-cutting ceremony for Mid-State Technical College's new branch office inside Marshfield Clinic's main building.

"This is really what we're about," said Mid-State President Dr. Shelly Mondeik. "It's about being out in the community and trying to make some things happen. We always talk about if you get a lot of like-minded people together that big things can really happen, and I think that's really what both of our organizations are really about. The support that our college has been getting from the Marshfield community has really been second to none," Mondeik added. "So, as we have these ideas, and as we sit down with organizations, they are open to really listening to what we have to say and really trying to match what they have or what their need is and then trying to match it to the resources that we have, and we know that ultimately that's when really good things happen."

"We employ, in this campus alone, 54-hundred people, which is a massive number of people. We need help. We need help, particularly now, when recruitment and filling all of those jobs has become such a challenge," said Marshfield Clinic Health System President Robert Chaloner. "Having this partnership now with the college is just an amazing opportunity for us to train. And I learned

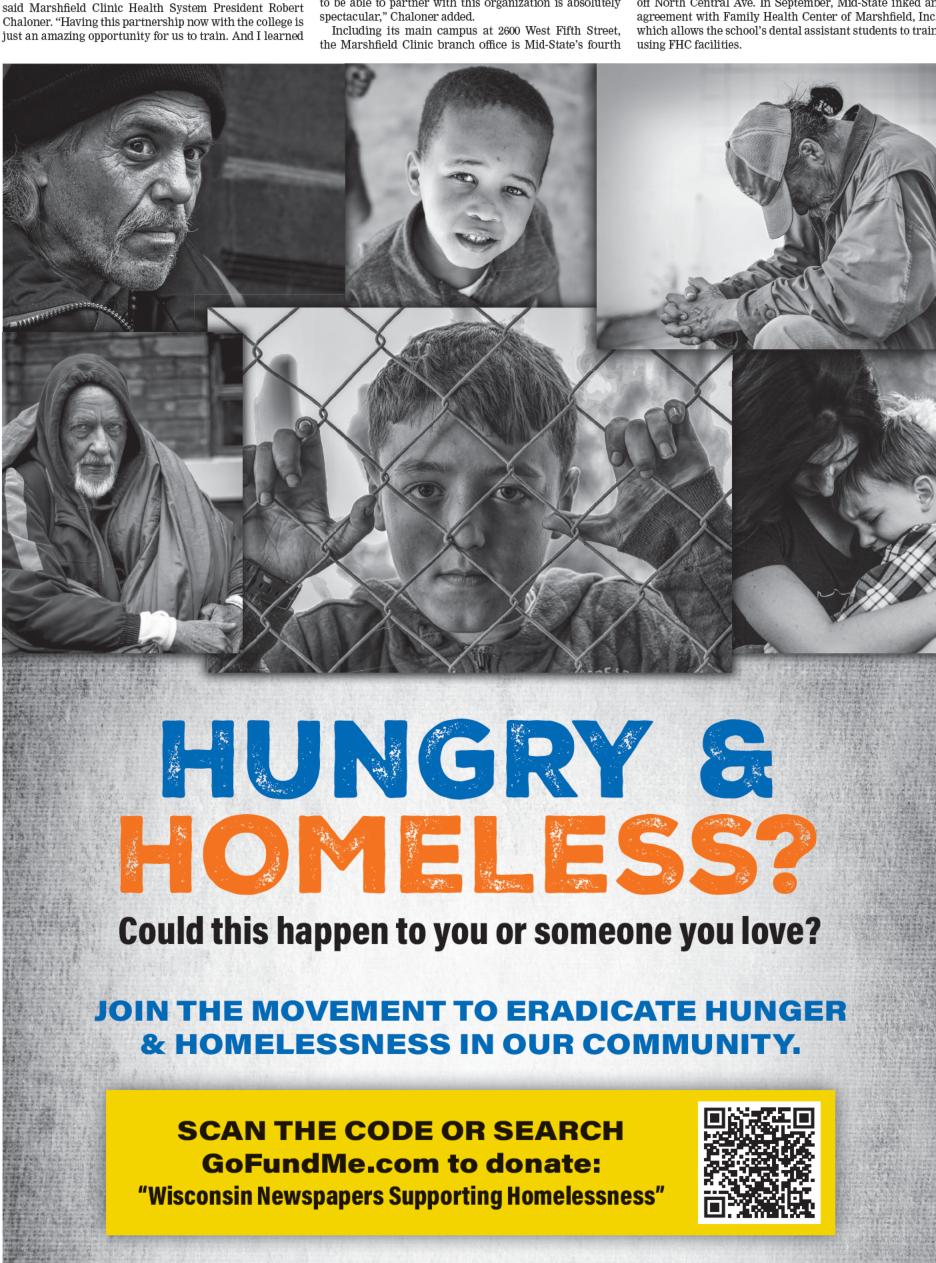


Marshfield Mayor Lois TeStrake (center) raises the hands of Mid-State Technical College President Dr. Shelly Mondeik and Marshfield Clinic Health System President Robert Chaloner, during a Nov. 14 ribbon-cutting celebration for Mid-State's new office space just off the main lobby of the clinic's main campus in Marshfield.

Mike Warren photo

about all of the programs that are being offered – people in very brief technical kinds of programs all the way up to people that are eventually going to go on to get nursing and other advanced degrees, and to have this resource here and to be able to partner with this organization is absolutely spectacular," Chaloner added.

location in Marshfield and its second new partnership in the health care community. The college held a June 21 ribbon-cutting celebration for Mid-State on Central, its new satellite location in the Festival Foods plaza just off North Central Ave. In September, Mid-State inked an agreement with Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. which allows the school's dental assistant students to train using FHC facilities.



All monies donated will go directly back to Wisconsin

families in need from the local areas of donation.

37.2
MILLION
Americans live below

the poverty level

580,000
Americans are homeless
on a typical night

Source: hhweek.org/hunger-and-homelessness/

MILLION

Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger

1 IN 6
children in the
U.S. live in poverty



2023 SEASON DATES

Gun • November 18-26

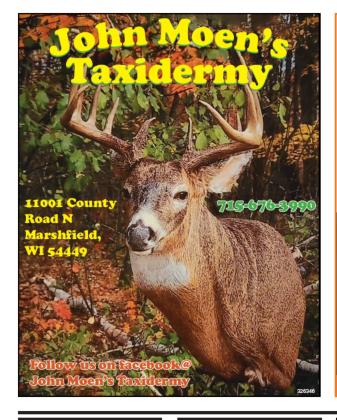
Muzzleloader November 27-December 6 **Statewide Antlerless-only** December 7-10

- 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.

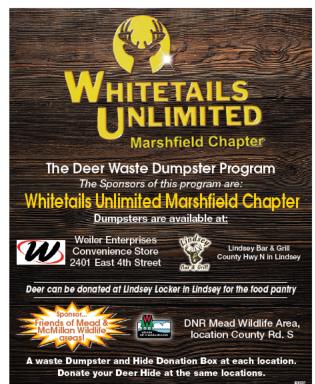
SAFETY SHOULD BE EVERY HUNTER'S TOP TARGET EACH FALL:

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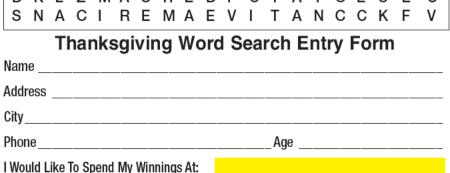
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Responsibilities 1. Clerk Dutles:

- Assist the Village Clerk in maintaining official records,
- documents, and resolutions. Respond to inquiries from residents, officials, and other
- stakeholders.
- Assist in elections
- 2. Treasurer Dutles: Support the Village Treasurer in managing financial transactions and records.
 - Assist in financial reporting Process payments, invoices, and maintain accurate

accounting records. 3. Administrative Support:

- · Provide administrative support to various village departments
- Coordinate with other municipal offices and external
- Assist in the implementation of policies and procedures.
- 4. Customer Service: Serve as a point of contact for residents seeking information
- or services Address inquiries in a professional and courteous manner.
- 5. Fills the role as Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

when needed Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent; additional education in public administration, finance, or a related field is a plus.

 Previous experience in municipal government, administrative
- support, accounting, or a similar role is preferred.

 Strong organizational and multitasking abilities.
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 Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and basic accounting
- software, Workhorse Accounting Software knowledge a plus
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How to Apply: Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and three professional references to clerk@vll.spencer.wl.us. Please include "Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Application" in the subject line. Or, deliver to Village of Spencer, 105 S Park St, PO Box 360. Open until filled.

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Door decorating contest announced

Proceeds to help Ronald McDonald House family

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- You are invited to participate in a brand new event for this

The Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department has set up a door-decorating contest. All proceeds will go to support a family at the Ronald McDonald House whose very young child is fighting hard.

Get your company or family signed up soon to decorate a door, as there are only 15 doors available. Register a team captain online or at the Marshfield Parks and Recreation office inside the 2nd Street Community Center.

The Holiday Door-Decorating contest will be held Sunday, Dec. 10 from noon to 4 p.m. at the 2nd Street Community

Center. A dozen single doors are available for \$25 apiece, while three double doors are available for \$35 each. Proceeds will benefit a chosen Ronald McDonald House family in Marshfield.

Decorations will be provided, but feel free to bring your own as well.

Pictures will be posted on Facebook for voting. There are prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Prizes will range from Pizza Ranch gift cards to Vandehev Waters passes. and more. If you have questions before signing up, feel free to email Amanda Bruce at Amanda.Bruce@ci.marshfield. wi.us. Current sponsors include Land O' Lakes in Spencer, Vandehey Waters Outdoor Aquatic Center and Pizza Ranch. Additional sponsorships are available.

Security Health Plan employee receives Patriotic Employer award

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD - Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc., supports and respects its employees who actively serve in the military. The Wisconsin Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense program, announced its recognition of Security Health Plan Nurse Manager Laurie Rock on Nov. 9.

The ESGR mission is to help develop and promote a culture in which all employers support and value the military service of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. Security Health Plan utilization review specialist and Sergeant Major in the Wisconsin Army National Guard Terri Vollrath nominated Rock for the Patriotic Employer award. This award recognizes the high level of support that Rock, a Security employee since 1999, has provided during Vollrath's service in the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

"Laurie goes above and beyond the standard expectation of a supportive boss," Vollrath said, "While I was deployed on COVID-19 orders, she regularly reached out to me and set a standard of appreciation within my team. The support from Laurie and Security Health Plan continues to enable me to serve in uniform."

Over half of the United States Armed Forces is comprised of members of the Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen soldiers with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support.

"Security Health Plan is proud to support our employees who nobly work a second career in the Guard or Reserve," said Security Health Plan Chief Executive Officer Krista Hoglund. "I am grateful to Terri for her service and am proud of Laurie for being a beacon at Security."

UNPACKING History





The Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame generously opened their vault to share pieces of Packer history with the Hub City Times to be highlighted for our readers. For more information on the hall of fame, visit www. packershofandtours. com. If you would like to donate Green Bay Packer memorabilia to the Packer Hall of Fame, contact Katie at (920) 965-6986 or katief@ gbphof.com.

On Aug. 16, 1997, the traveled Packers Toronto, Ont., to play in the American Bowl at the SkyDome in front of 53,896 fans, beating the Buffalo Bills 35-3. It was the first time the Packers played outside of the U.S. These items are part of the temporary exhibit, Traveling Abroad, on display now at the Hall of Fame.

Tori Wittenbrock photo

Lotto drawings include \$350,000 and \$50,000 winners

Lucky tickets sold in Sparta and Marshfield

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MADISON -- Two big lotto prizes were won in Wisconsin for the SuperCash! and Powerball drawings on Saturday, Nov.

winning \$350,000 Α SuperCash! ticket was sold at Black River Convenience Store in Sparta, while a \$50,000 Powerball winning ticket was purchased at Kwik Trip at 1600 W. McMillan St. in Marshfield.

The winning numbers for the SuperCash! win were 13, 14, 17, 19, 22 and 23. The winning Powerball ticket matched four of five numbers (1, 12, 14, 24 and 57) plus the Powerball (7).

For the Black River Convenience Store, it's been a lucky month so far. In addition to the recent SuperCash! winner, the retailer sold a \$10,000 winning scratch ticket that was claimed on Nov. 6. The Marshfield Kwik

Trip is also no stranger to selling big, winning tickets. On Sept. 7, a player claimed a \$2 million winning scratch ticket purchased from the newest Marshfield Kwik Trip location.

Players have 180 days from the draw date to claim their winnings. Information on how to claim a prize is available at wilottery. com/winners/claim-prize. Players can also check their tickets using the Wisconsin Lottery mobile available at the App Store or Google Play.

Wisconsin Lottery retailers who sell tickets over \$599 receive a 2 percent Retailer Performance Winning Ticket Incentive, up to \$100,000.

SuperCash! Wisconsin-only lotto game, hosting daily drawings

seven days a week. Tickets must be purchased before 9 p.m. to be included in that day's drawing. SuperCash! offers two plays for \$1 and has a doubler feature at no cost. The odds of winning the \$350,000 SuperCash! top prize are 1:1,631,312.

Powerball drawings are Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 9:59 p.m. Tickets must be purchased before 9 p.m. to be included in that day's drawing. Powerball tickets are \$2 per play. The odds of winning a \$50,000 Powerball prize are 1:913,130.

About the Wisconsin lottery

The Wisconsin Lottery communities enriches statewide by giving back 93 percent of its revenue to winners, retailers, and Wisconsin homeowners. Since 1988, the Wisconsin Lottery has generated more than \$18 billion in total revenue, over \$10.2 billion in prizes paid, and more than \$5.4 billion in funding for property tax credits eligible Wisconsin homeowners.

For more about the Wisconsin Lottery, visit wilottery.com. the Wisconsin Lottery on Facebook, Instagram (@ wilottery), Twitter wilottery), and YouTube.









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2nd Annual

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If we use them, you will receive a photo credit in the magazine! (And you can brag to your family & friends)

WE ARE magazine will focus on area history, businesses and events that make these communities a great place to live, work, and visit!