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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 ■ VOLUME 40 ■ ISSUE 1 ■ 715.384.4440 ■ MARSHFIELD, WI

FREE

City takes ownership of Buffalo Building

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – The City of Marshfield has accepted the offer of a free building and the land it sits on.

With Alderman Mike Feirer absent, the Common Council voted 8-1 on Nov. 28 in favor of taking ownership of the office building and 1.7 acres of property located at 2504 S. Central Ave. The owner, Dan O'Connell and Wildwood Real Estate, LLC, was offering the facilities to the city free of charge. The building, which sits in Wildwood Plaza, is known informally as the Buffalo Building.

The city had been evaluating the possible acceptance of the donation for relocation of the police station.

"Significant efforts have been made to analyze this opportunity, including a study completed by a professional consulting firm (ADCI), presentation and discussion with the council and Fire & Police Commission on October 4, and most recently the tour of the property (Buffalo Building), along with the current station and public works garage," read a Nov. 22, 2023 memo to the Common Council from City Administrator Steve Barg.

The memo also indicated the property owner's desire to know by Dec. 1 whether the city was going to accept the parcel, which now comes off the tax rolls with a recent assessed value of \$1.8 million.

The council's decision to accept the property came at the end of a presentation by Police Chief Jody Geurink, who laid out a number of issues with the current police station at 110 W. First St.

Geurink said the current facility has many safety/security, maintenance and efficiency and space issues.

He noted the lobby is not secure, response times are hindered by the building's proximity to adjacent train tracks, blind corners exist at the building's exits, servers and phone lines cannot be secured, department vehicles are not secured and exposed to weather, and the former Baltus building and impound are offsite and less secure.

"We want to have an area where people can go when they're in trouble," Geurink told the council. "The unfortunate thing is, as time has progressed, we also need to have some safety and security, and control who comes into our area. The way that our current lobby is set up, there's not a lot of safety measures for our employees."

"We're approximately 120 feet from the tracks, which



The City of Marshfield has taken ownership of this commercial property at 2504 S. Central Ave., known as the Buffalo Building.
Mike Warren photo

puts us in the danger zone with pretty much any type of crash that would happen at the railroad tracks.

"We don't really have an ability to secure our vehicles. We still have weather issues where either heat or cold can cause issues with the electronic equipment in our vehicles. And they have been vandalized from time to time," Geurink added.

He also said roof replacement is a pending problem. "We did budget \$60,000 in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for replacement of the roof, which was actually supposed to be happening this year (2023). We did move that money to fund the feasibility study for the site. We did spring a couple of leaks this year and we were able to get them fixed, but the signs are all there that this is going to need to be addressed in the near future," Geurink noted.

He also said efficiency and space issues include lack of general and evidence storage, ADA compliance issues and no ability to expand beyond the current footprint, which means the department is landlocked, with no ability to expand upwards.

"We've just simply outgrown it," the chief said.

"Evidence storage has probably been our biggest hurdle in [terms of] the rules and the length of time that we have to keep evidence.

"All of the offices that we have for officers are doubled up," Geurink added. "We're filling up the areas that probably shouldn't be filled up."

"We can fix a lot of the safety issues with some money in our current building. We can fix the maintenance issues.

See OWNERSHIP page 7

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Wrong-way driver leaves one dead, two injured

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

TOWN OF AUBURNDALE -- An elderly woman driving the wrong way on a four-lane divided highway killed an oncoming motorist and injured his passenger and herself. The accident happened at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 26 on US Highway 10 near Day Road in the Township of Auburndale.

According to the Wood County Sheriff's Department, an eastbound car on Hwy. 10, being driven by Michael Baugh, age 25, of Arpin, was in the right lane behind a semi, when he moved into the left lane to pass the rig. Baugh's car collided head-on with a Rav4 traveling westbound in the eastbound lane. The driver and sole occupant of the Rav4, Elsie Punke, age 70, of Arpin, was transported to Marshfield Medical Center by Marshfield Ambulance in critical condition. Baugh was pronounced dead at the scene. His passenger, Alissah Hardesty, age 23, of Arpin, was transported to Marshfield Medical Center by Marshfield Ambulance with minor injuries. The crash is still under investigation and being reconstructed by the Wisconsin State Patrol.

The Wood County Sheriff's Department was assisted by Marshfield Ambulance, Auburndale Fire Department and First Responders, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wood County Highway Department, Wood County Coroner's Office and Wood County Central Dispatch.

Drug, weapons dealers apprehended

FOR HUB CITY TIMES
CENTRAL WISCONSIN -- On Dec. 19, 2023 the Wood County Sheriff's Department, along with the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation, Clark County Sheriff's Department, Marshfield Police Department, Marathon County Sheriff's Department, Rome Police Department, Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force, and West Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force, executed search warrants in Clark County after a months-long investigation. Multiple firearms, including hand guns, AR-style rifles, shotguns, approximately 57 pounds of raw marijuana, 12 pounds of THC gummies, 8 pounds of THC wax, 382 grams of mushrooms (Psilocybin), along with prescription medication, were seized as a result of these search warrants. Investigators also seized a large quantity of United States currency during the search of these properties.

During the investigation law enforcement was able to purchase a Polymer 80 Glock (Ghost Gun) along with other firearms.

Jamie T. Sylvester, 31, and Damien G. Hiserman-Reany, 33, were both taken into custody at the time of these search warrants. Sylvester is currently being held at the Clark County Jail, and Hiserman-Reany was released from the Wood County Jail.

Sylvester and Hiserman-Reany were taken into custody for different criminal charges depending on each individual's involvement in the investigation. Some of the criminal charges include:

Distribution of THC; Distribution of Psilocybin;



Sylvester Hiserman-Reany

Furnishing a Firearm to a Felon; Possession with Intent to Deliver THC; Possession with Intent to Deliver Psilocybin; Maintaining a Drug Trafficking Place; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

"This was a joint investigation and the Wood County Sheriff's Department would like to thank all assisting agencies for their support," said Wood County Lt. Scott Goldberg. "Taking these individuals, their drugs, and firearms off the streets in central Wisconsin makes our community safer. If you choose to sell drugs or guns (illegally) in our communities know that we will eventually find you and know the consequences are not worth it."

Marshfield celebrates Christmas with record warmth

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD -- Along with everything that comes with the holiday season, Marshfieldians, their families and friends also enjoyed the warmest Christmas on record.

According to the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, the records began falling Christmas Eve, when the mercury hit 43 degrees, eclipsing the previous record of 42 degrees established in 1957.

Santa and his reindeer also experienced record temperatures on their overnight flight through the region. The previous record-high overnight low of 32 degrees set in 1940 was eclipsed with a 36-degree reading on Dec. 24.

As for Christmas Day, the prior record of 41 degrees in 1994 was shattered on a cloudy, 49-degree afternoon on Dec. 25, with a touch of fog and a few raindrops. That evening, as heavier rains moved in, the thermometer never dropped below 40 degrees, eclipsing the previous record-high low of 34 recorded in 1936.

The mercury climbed even higher the following day. The Dec. 26 temperature topped out at 50 degrees, nudging out the old mark of 48 degrees established in 1936. Overnight lows also set new records, never getting colder than 42. The previous record-high low was 34 degrees, also from 1936.



Sidewalks and walking trails, like this one on Marshfield's west side, remain busy, as unseasonably warm and dry weather dominate this winter season.



Santa gets a kiss from Mrs. Claus, as he & Rudolph get ready for their Dec. 24 journey. Rudolph, with his nose so bright, was needed on a foggy Christmas Eve, after a warm 42-degree afternoon in Marshfield, where Christmas decorations looked out of place this holiday season. Thom Gerretsen photos

Buyers' Guide

HUB CITY Times

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AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program offers assistance

FOR HUB CITY TIMES
MARSHFIELD -- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will be providing free in-person tax preparation to area residents, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and people who have low to moderate income.

For 2023, single people with income over \$13,850 (\$15,700 if over age 65) and married filing jointly families with income over \$27,700 (\$29,200-\$31,700 if over 65) must file federal and state income tax returns. Those with incomes under \$24,680 who live and own or rent a home in Wisconsin may also be eligible to file for Wisconsin Homestead Credit even if they do not have to file a federal

See PROGRAM page 5

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ATTENTION

Residents of the Townships of CAMERON, LINCOLN, MARSHFIELD, MCMILLAN, RICHFIELD AND ROCK

Recycling and Garbage Collection Services for these Townships will be handled by Waste Management in 2024. You have been provided with two carts: one for Recycling and one for Garbage. Please place items in the correct cart. When placing carts at roadside, be sure the opening side of the cover is facing the roadside. There is an arrow on the cover to help you in placement. The cart should be placed roadside or as close as practicable to collection vehicle routes. NOTE: The lids on all carts must close completely. If you have any questions concerning Garbage Collection or Recycle Collection, call WASTE MANAGEMENT at: 888.960.0008

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NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES: The following electronics are BANNED from landfill or incinerator disposal: Computers, computer monitors, mice, keyboards, speakers, printers, televisions, VCR, DVR, DVD players, fax machines, cell phones. WASTE MANAGEMENT is one of many sites that will take these items for a fee and recycle them. Contact WASTE MANAGEMENT should you want this service from them.

PLASTIC BAGS/FILM/WRAP: Plastic bags, film and wrap should NOT be placed in your Recycling Cart that WASTE MANAGEMENT picks up. Clean and dry plastic bags and film can be dropped off in Marshfield at: Pick N Save, Festival Foods, Wal-Mart, or Target. Look for the recycling containers at these stores

TIRES: The annual Tire Collection will be April 27, 2024 (last Sat in April) from 8:00am to 2:00 pm. Drop off site will be at Pankratz Trucking. No Rims. No commercial. There is absolutely NO early drop off. NOTICE OF CHANGE FOR 2024: NO LARGE TRUCK or TRACTOR TIRES will be accepted at this collection event. Dropping off tires at any time other than scheduled collection is considered littering. This tire recycling service is only provided for Residents of the townships of: Cameron, Marshfield, McMillan, Lincoln, Richfield, and Rock. Residents must present their RED Identification Cards and/or confirm residency by presenting their driver's license. Only 8 auto/truck tires will be allowed for drop off at no fee. Tires in excess of the 8 tires allowed will be charged a fee of \$7.00 for each tire under 10:00 x 22.5. Fees are payable at time of drop off. (If Township residents do not have a RED ID Card or have questions, please contact the Township Officials listed below.)

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Town of Lincoln	Kathleen Altmann-Drinka.....715-384-2574	David Rogers.....715-650-0655
Town of Marshfield	Janet Meyer715-384-5638	Allen Breu715-387-4222
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FOR HUB CITY TIMES
WOOD COUNTY -- Ninety percent of adults say it is important to speak with loved ones about end-of-life wishes, but fewer than 30 percent actually

do so. Many people wish to arrange their affairs to live well in their later years and ensure that their end-of-life plans follow their wishes. Still, it is something that many

people find challenging for a variety of reasons. This is why UW-Madison Division of Extension created the Planning AHEAD curriculum, a free virtual seven-session series which will take place in January and February.

The series walks through the planning process with the help of checklists, examples and links to resources. It is for those who may have been putting off and have no clue where to start and for those who think they are pretty well organized. In each one-

See SERIES page 4

No Tears Were Shed for the Celebration of the Life of Richard KloeHN only hugs and memories.

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Rita (Richard's wife) & Brad (Richard's son)

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Journey Across Time:
Exploring the Morality and Possibilities of Time Travel

Dear Reader,

In the ever-expanding realm of human curiosity, the notion of time travel has captivated minds for centuries. The desire to revisit moments with loved ones who've departed or to catch a glimpse of the unfolding future ignites the imagination. However, delving into the prospect of time travel reveals a tapestry woven with moral, ethical, and economic complexities.



The allure of reconnecting with those who've left us is undeniably powerful. Imagine the chance to spend an afternoon with departed friends and family, catching up on the chapters of life that unfolded after their departure. It's a sentiment many share, and it speaks to the profound impact relationships have on the human experience.

Yet, as we ponder the prospect of navigating the corridors of time, ethical questions arise. Would we disrupt the natural order of events? Could altering the past inadvertently reshape the present and future? The delicate balance between nostalgia and the potential repercussions of tampering with time demands careful consideration.

Looking forward poses its own set of challenges. The unknown future, a realm of infinite possibilities, sparks both excitement and trepidation. Peering into what lies ahead holds the potential to shape our decisions in the present, but it also raises questions about free will and the consequences of knowing too much.

While the concept of time travel may seem confined to the realms of science fiction, theories and speculations from brilliant minds like Einstein hint at the tantalizing possibility. However, the practicality of such journeys remains elusive, reminding us that for now, reliving the past remains an unattainable dream, one that can only be realized in a memory and not in reality.

As we grapple with these hypotheticals, it's essential to consider not just the question of "can we," but also the "should we." If time travel becomes a reality, navigating its implications will require a thoughtful approach. Who decides the rules? How do we safeguard against unintended consequences?

In the face of these complexities, one truth remains: The past, present, and future are intricately interconnected. As we dream of conversations with historical giants and glimpses into the years that lie ahead, the ethical responsibility accompanying such endeavors cannot be ignored.

So, while we may not have unlocked the secrets of time travel – yet – the mere contemplation of its possibilities invites us to reflect on our past, make mindful choices in the present, and approach the future with a sense of wonder and responsibility.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

SERIES

from page 2

hour virtual session, Extension Educators guide participants through examining health care wishes, financial responsibilities, legal requirements

and documentation, distribution of personal property, end-of-life decisions, dealing with grief, and the emotional ramifications of all of the above. The program is designed for any adult who wants to either begin or double check that their affairs are in order to make



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things easier for family members after they are gone. It is also helpful for those who have, or are in the process of, losing a loved one and are dealing with the transition.

This course features a free planning workbook to help organize the tasks and documents associated with end-of-life decisions. No matter where people are in the process, this series is designed to help everyone become organized and make sure their wishes are shared. For more information, visit aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/planning-ahead.

The series takes place from 1 to 2 p.m. on Mondays, Jan. 15, 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26 via ZOOM; a link will be sent after registration. Register at <https://bit.ly/PLANNINGAHEADJAN2024> or call the Wood County Extension office at 715-421-8440. The program is open to anyone in Wisconsin.

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MCPL Spencer Branch to hold
monthly cribbage events

SPENCER – If you want to learn how to play cribbage, or if you're already a fan of the game, you're invited to the Marathon County Public Library Spencer Branch (105 S. Park St., Spencer) for their monthly cribbage event. The next session of Cribbage at the Library will be held on Jan. 9 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Decks of cards and cribbage boards will be available for patrons to use, or players are welcome to bring their own. From novice to expert, everyone



is welcome. Future sessions are planned for Feb. 13, March 12, and April 9. This event is free and open to the public with no registration required. For more information, call 715-659-3996 or visit <https://mcpl.us/events/?eid=12389>.

Hulke receives Sen. Gramm
Fellowship at Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION, TX -- Jenna Hulke is a doctoral candidate studying biology under the guidance of Dr. Charles Criscione. She is a graduate of Marshfield High School and UW-Stevens Point.

Before attending Texas A&M, Jenna worked as a field ecologist in India studying the use of vector control to limit the spread of parasitic diseases in India. She then gained field experience as a project manager for the University of California, Santa Barbara. She lived in Kenya for two years, where she examined the influence of watering holes on the transmission of parasites in cattle and wildlife. Her current research focuses on the evolution of complex life cycles of helminth parasites. Specifically, her research is addressing why many parasites require three hosts to complete their life cycles while others only need two. During her



time at Texas A&M, she has published two papers as first author and three as a co-author and has presented her research at four national conferences. She is passionate about mentoring, and has supervised seven undergraduate researchers. Jenna has been recognized for her excellence in research and teaching by the Texas A&M Biology department by being the recipient of the Lawrence S. Dillion Distinguished Graduate Student Award.

Fellowships are annually awarded to outstanding doctoral students whose excellence in both research and teaching exemplifies the meaning of scholarship and mentorship in the highest sense. This year, awardees each receive a personalized certificate and a \$5,000 fellowship to support their continuing studies. They were honored at an invite-only ceremony held Nov. 7.

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Honoring Marshfield's 150th

NOMINATED BY JANE KENNEDY

Barb Gillespie was born in Milwaukee and raised in Brookfield. When Barb was in second grade, she noticed that another student was having difficulties with schoolwork. She loved playing school and reviewed the lessons with this little boy after school each day. Her teacher noticed that this child was making definite progress and thanked her for her work. Right then, she decided to become a teacher and never looked back. She worked at Easter Seals camps during her high school and college years, in Holler Park, Milwaukee, and Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells, helping to provide a camp experience to orthopedically-challenged children and adults. These experiences formed her future personal and professional life. She met Terry, another staff member at Camp Wawbeek, and married him in 1972. Barb majored in Behavioral Disabilities at UW-Madison with special training in Orton Gillingham methods for teaching children with dyslexia. She graduated in 1972 with teaching certifications to work with children with cognitive disabilities, emotional disabilities and learning disabilities. Districts across the country were

seeking specialists in LD, which had just emerged as a new field in education, so administrators were recruiting on college campuses. Barb was offered jobs in many communities. Terry had attended UWSP and therefore knew that Marshfield would be a nice community in which to live. Barb accepted the job offer at Grant School and became the first LD teacher in Marshfield. Her caseload was determined by the Neuropsychology Department at Marshfield Clinic. Drs. Phil Zerfus and Fred Theye, Neuropsychologists, had been identifying students with special learning needs, but needed people to then work with the children to meet those challenges. They began referring to Barb. Eventually, multi-disciplinary teams were formed in the school district to identify students with learning disabilities and additional staff were added throughout the local school system. Barb taught at Grant School, the middle school, and the high school, and then settled at Washington School where she remained for 30 years (33 years total). While teaching full-time and raising two children, she earned a master's degree from UWSP and completed additional coursework/training to



instruct children on the autism spectrum. She retired in 2005 and stayed in education as Christian Education Coordinator at her church. In 2009, she was called back to job share a position in the school district for three years as an instructional interventionist, helping students who had learning challenges but did not qualify for special education services. Like any great teacher, Barb continues to educate through all her activities and in her daily life. Environmental concerns comprised an important part of Barb's work in the community. She started an annual church rummage sale, open to the whole community, in 2006, to reduce contents in the landfill and to help people find affordable, reusable

items. This has been a success for 17 years. Barb initiated the Green Team at her church in 2007, to model and educate the congregation and community in sustainable living practices. Community members became involved in learning about and supporting Citizens' Climate Lobby. After attending the Midwest Renewable Energy Expo, she planned a community-wide event at Wildwood Station for 350. org on 10/10/10 to educate community members on reducing carbon usage and to promote the global climate movement. Vendors from all over central Wisconsin participated. She brought in Michael Dowd in 2017, TEDx lecturer and American author and advocate of ecotheology, for an educational event which drew participants from central Wisconsin. Barb and sustainable friends established a native prairie in 2021 on church property along the bike path on Adler Road to increase pollinator habitat and model for the community how to reduce lawn mowing and return to natural, drought-resistant plants that benefit numerous forms of life. Working in 2008 with community members and the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition at Marshfield Clinic, Barb

established a Community Garden Program that involved installing 80 square foot garden beds at several local churches. The Marshfield Area Community Foundation serves as the fiscal agent. Furthermore, Barb presented a program on establishing a community garden at the Garden Expo in Madison. When Afghan refugees were housed at Fort McCoy, Barb joined several other community members in nearly a year of training through a refugee resettlement office in Wausau. She then helped to form three teams of volunteers in Marshfield willing to accept refugee families. She organized and led one amazing team of over 30 volunteers which welcomed a large family from Tanzania to our community. Her team assisted this non-English speaking family with housing and furnishings, finances, cultural adjustment, medical care, educational opportunities, learning English, enrolling the older children in age-appropriate schools, and transportation. She says, "It was the most intensive and challenging experience of my life." The family has since resettled in a Wisconsin community with other Swahili-speaking neighbors. Her

group continues to help families immigrating to Marshfield through "Know Your Rights" workshops, clothing drives, and whatever needs are shared. Although she is retired from teaching, Barb Gillespie has enjoyed continuing to work with students through private tutoring over the years. In person and remotely, she considers teaching emerging readers to decode the mysteries of reading and spelling a highly satisfying pastime. Other local organizations which she supports include FOMPL (Friends of Marshfield Public Library), Immigration Action Team at her church, P.E.O. Chapter CY which supports women's educational scholarships and loans, and Everyone Needs a Community. Common threads throughout Barb Gillespie's life are her devotion to teaching, to helping people in need, and to protecting the earth; she is truly an inspiration.

PROGRAM from page 2

or Wisconsin income tax return. This free program is funded by AARP Foundation and the Internal Revenue Service and supported locally by Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department, Marshfield Area United Way, and 211 of South Wood & Adams Counties. Local volunteers, who are trained and IRS-certified, will prepare and then electronically file Federal, Wisconsin and Homestead Credit tax returns. Taxpayers need to bring proof of their Social Security numbers for all people on their tax return, a picture ID, copies of 2022 tax returns, and all 2023 income and deductions. Income forms include W2 wage forms, 1099K, 1099NEC, 1099MISC, 1099C (Cancellation of debt), interest and dividend statements, brokerage statements, 1099R retirement income forms, unemployment compensation, gambling winnings, and disability benefits. Also bring medical, dental, vision and long-term care insurance premiums paid in 2023, your property tax bill or Rent Certificate for 2023, 1095A marketplace insurance form, health savings account distributions and contributions, childcare expenses, tuition expenses (1098T), and any other income or deductions or credits. If you want direct deposit of a refund or direct payment of an amount due, also bring your bank routing number and account number. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers

cannot do complex tax returns. These include Married Filing Separately, bankruptcy or divorce in 2023, farm income, business or rental depreciation, virtual currencies, most K1 schedules and other complex returns. Appointments will be scheduled in Marshfield every Monday from noon

until 5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting Feb. 12 and ending April 10. After Jan. 15, you can schedule an appointment in Marshfield by calling 2-1-1 or 1-877-947-2211. Expect the appointment to take about 90 minutes. Walk-in appointments will not be accepted.

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Packers' Rally Towel a fan's memorial to Mom

2010 Lambeau giveaway helped raise breast cancer awareness

BY THOM GERRETSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

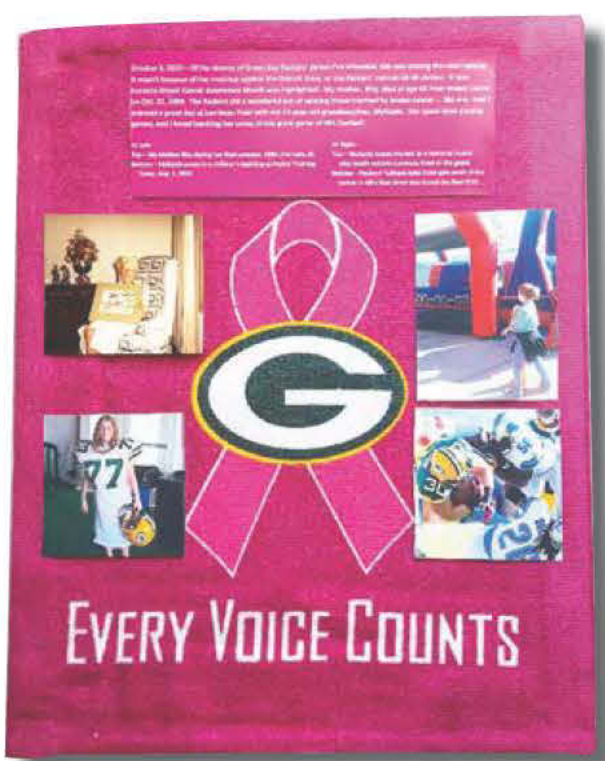
MARSHFIELD -- Memo to Packer Nation: As you grumble about what you're not seeing in the victory column this season, don't forget all the heart-touching things this team has given you. And I am not referring to Green Bay's past dominance on the field.

During the Packers' most recent Super Bowl championship run in 2010, the organization handed me the inspiration for one of my most prized possessions – a framed, do-it-yourself memorial to my mother.

It's a small, dark pink rally towel, similar to the bright white-and-gold towels given to fans at Lambeau Field during a season's home opener, playoff games, etc. Pink is the color that symbolizes breast cancer awareness. The towel reads, "Every Voice Counts" – encouraging fans to spread their voices beyond the stadium and urge women to be screened for breast cancer with a goal of saving lives through early detection.

My mother, Rita Gerretsen, can never tell you the importance of this. She was reading a book in a bathtub at her home in Fox Lake, IL in the summer of 1984 when she found a lump under one of her arms. It was diagnosed as breast cancer. Three months of treatments at UW Health's University Hospital in Madison couldn't save her. Mom was 60 years old when she died Oct. 31, 1984.

Since then, numerous advances have been made in detecting and treating breast cancer. Though the odds of Mom making it to 100 remain less than 1 percent, I will always



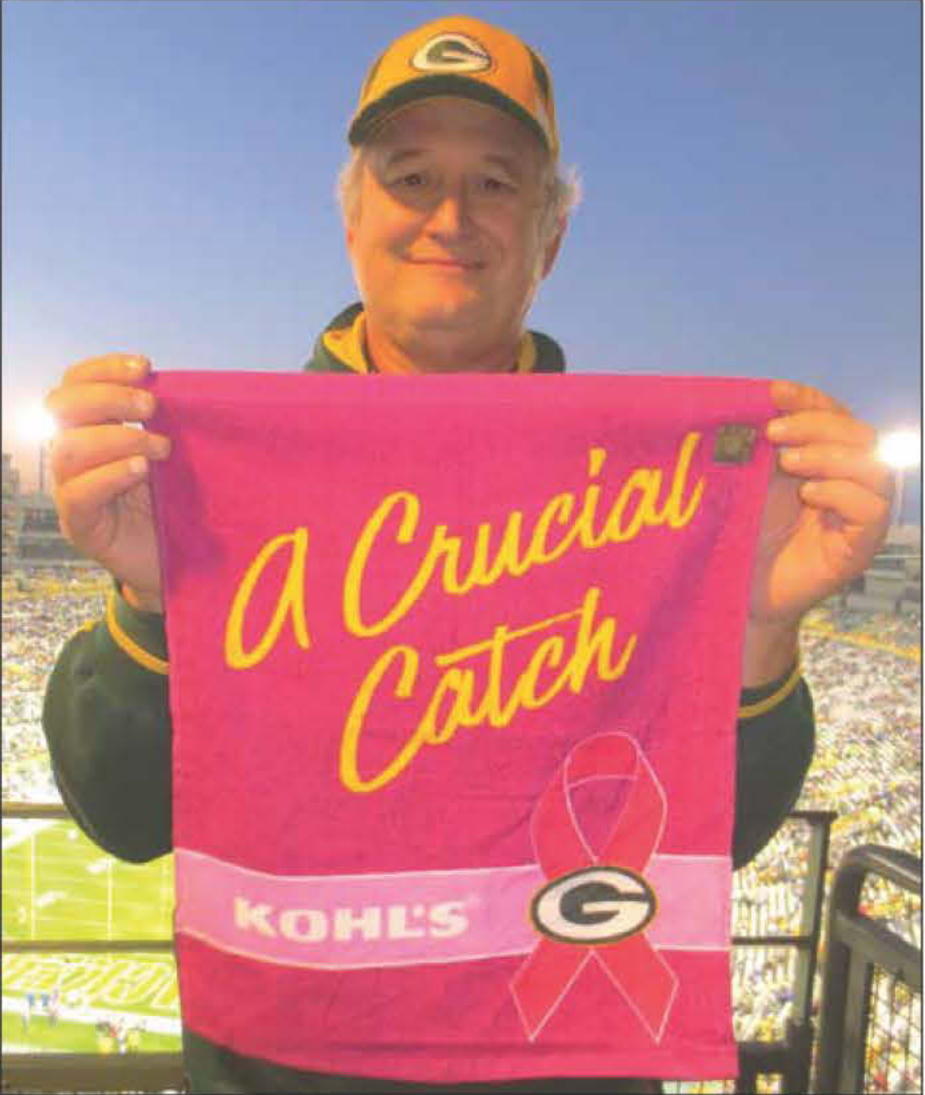
The Packers' game giveaway from Oct. 3, 2010 that contributing writer Thom Gerretsen turned into a memorial for his mother. Photos on the towel, clockwise from upper left: Rita Gerretsen at home in her final summer of 1984; MyKayla Gerretsen, then 10, throws a football at a National Guard play area outside Lambeau Field; Packers' fullback John Kuhn chews up yards during Green Bay's 73-yard game-ending drive that day; and MyKayla poses at a "wear a uniform" children's activity at Packers' Training Camp, Aug. 1, 2010.

wonder how much longer she would have lived from the more modern medical breakthroughs that came too late to give her a chance. Regardless of the advances, though, many women still need to be told about their risk: Screenings continue to be urged, a common theme during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

2010 was the second year of the NFL's "Crucial Catch" campaign, urging early detection for multiple forms of cancer. It's a partnership in which the NFL has given more than \$27 million to the American Cancer Society from "Crucial Catch"

Thom Gerretsen photo merchandise sales, items from NFL auctions and other fundraising. Among other things, the funds support community health centers that provide access to low-or-no-cost cancer screenings in all of the league's 32 team market areas.

The pink towels were given to the 70,729 fans attending the Oct. 3, 2010 game at Lambeau Field against the Detroit Lions. My oldest granddaughter, MyKayla Gerretsen, was 30 days shy of her 11th birthday when she joined me for a 28-26 Packers' victory. Among other things, players wore pink shoes and gloves. Game



Thom Gerretsen honors his mother Rita by posing with the "A Crucial Catch" towel given to fans at Lambeau Field Oct. 9, 2016. Rita Gerretsen, 60, died from breast cancer Oct. 31, 1984.

officials wore pink caps. And since I covered up the sponsor's name on my towel with a memorial note, I should say that Kohl's Department Stores sponsored the towels and the day's activities as part of the chain's own campaign.

At halftime, performers from the Oneida Nation gave the fans a healing dance. Healing for those who are recovering. Healing for those who've lost precious relatives and friends to breast cancer.

Though it was almost 26 years after my mother's death, the dance moved me. MyKayla knew I was moved, too, though I couldn't share all my feelings with a young girl who was less than one year after starting her second decade on this earth.

MyKayla did see a lot of football that day. Aaron Rodgers tossed three touchdown passes. Pro Football Hall of Famer Charles Woodson scored the Pack's final TD with a 48-yard interception return.

Submitted photo And when Green Bay started its final drive with 6:32 left and a two-point lead, my granddaughter thought the Packers would need another score to win. "Not necessarily," I explained. I said it's possible the Pack could run out the clock with a long drive.

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Nelson-Jameson Foundation invests in nation's largest research dairy

FOR HUB CITY TIMES
MARSHFIELD -- The Nelson-Jameson Foundation has announced its role supporting the development of the nation's largest research dairy, the University of Idaho's Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (CAFE) through a \$50,000 contribution. Idaho CAFE is being created to support the growth of local Idaho agriculture and the national dairy industry. Future research at the site will develop creative solutions to advance the sustainability of dairy, food processing, livestock, and crop protection.

"We are so pleased to be part of the important



Nelson-Jameson Foundation is supporting the development of America's largest research dairy at the University of Idaho's Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (CAFE). Here, the milking parlor is being built. Submitted photo

work that CAFE is doing to support local agricultural practices and lead the dairy industry into the future," says Mat Bartkowiak, Vice President of Corporate Responsibility & Development at Nelson-Jameson. "Food systems are facing myriad challenges, and the CAFE Project is solving these challenges with forward-thinking, innovative approaches to food and dairy production and distribution."

CAFE brings together a cross-section of multidisciplinary scientists to study the animal and plant agriculture using a systems approach. Construction for phase one, at \$22.5 million, is currently underway. When completed, the facility will be at the cutting edge of the industry and scheduled to be operational by late 2024. Researchers will examine the viability of dairy production in light of evolving economic conditions, cultural preferences, and environmental pressures and also study potential revenue diversification for dairy farmers. Operating as a demonstration dairy farm, it will have the capacity to house 2,000 cows when fully completed – a scale representative of dairying in the West.

"The beauty of Idaho CAFE is the linkages between the research dairy, agricultural production and our partners in industry," said Michael P. Parrella, Dean of the University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. "Nelson-Jameson's commitment to the project underlines industry's need for sustainability research that will ensure the health and productivity of the industry for generations. We could not accomplish this effort without the support of generous partners like Nelson-Jameson."

In keeping with the University of Idaho's mission of research-driven innovation, students at the University of Idaho will have access to educational opportunities and research programs in connection with CAFE.

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