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# Marshfield Children's Hospital adds new staff member, Dolly the dog

BY KATIE SCHIMKE

MARSHFIELD—The newest member of the Marshfield Children's Hospital has four legs and the ability to achieve what may be difficult for some patients: creating a connection.

Dolly, known formally on her name card as Dolly Paw-ton, is a seventeen month old golden retriever who will be working with the Child Life and Expressive Therapies team. Dolly was trained in Georgia by Canine Assistants which is a non-profit that trains service dogs. Developed in 2012, Canine Assistants

strongly believe in a bond-based approach to training. Like any young job seeker, Dolly had to begin her career with an internship. Dolly interned at the Children's Hospital of Atlanta.

See DOLLY page 14

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# Marshfield Hillside Cemetery continues as an official location for the 2024 National Wreaths Across America Day

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD — National nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) announced that Hillside Cemetery in Marshfield has once again joined in the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, as an official location for 2024. This is the second year that the cemetery will participate in this national program to place wreaths on the graves of veterans, and there are opportunities for the public to participate and volunteer.

This year's ceremony will take place at Hillside Cemetery in Marshfield beginning at 10:00 am on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024. The public is encouraged to attend and place wreaths on the graves of veterans buried at the cemetery.

Last year, Hillside Cemetery placed over 500 wreaths, and this year that number has grown to a goal of 2,200 wreaths that will be placed on the headstones of all the local heroes laid to rest there.

Wreaths Across America started as a simple gesture of thanks for our veterans that has grown into a national, yearlong movement of dedicated volunteers and communities coming together to not only remember the nation's fallen and honor their service, but to teach the next generation about the value of freedom. This year, there will be more than 4,500 participating locations placing veterans' wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day - Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024 - with more than three million volunteers coming together.

"We are forever grateful for the thousands of supporters who dedicate their time, energy and resources to fulfilling our mission all year long," said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "These individuals and their communities know the value of remembering the fallen, honoring those who currently serve and teaching the next generation about the sacrifices made for our



freedom every day, and because of their continued support, Wreaths Across America continues to grow and touch new people each year."

National Wreaths Across America Day is a free community event open to all people.

### About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission - Remember, Honor, Teach - is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in Dec. at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.



## Wood County Land & Water Conservation tree, shrub and native wildflower sale

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY-The Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department is offering a variety of species for the spring 2025 Tree, Shrub and Native Wildflower Sale. Orders are due by Friday, Jan. 17, 2025. Notification will be sent in April stating dates/times orders will be ready for pick up.

The species offered include Douglas Fir, Hybrid Poplar, Hybrid Willow, Red Osier Dogwood, Sugar Maple, Highbush

See SALE page 3

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Wreaths Across America**

On Saturday, December 14th at 10am, the Marshfield Veterans Council with generous support from Roehl Transport invite you, your family and friends to our Wreath-laying Ceremony at Hillside Cemetery. Arlington National Cemetery has over 259,000 veterans' wreaths placed by more than 35,000 volunteers.

To date, we have about 1,800 wreaths (goal 2,200) to place on veterans' headstones throughout Hillside Cemetery.

This is an experience you will never forget, as we take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to honor our service members and their families.

To VOLUNTEER online [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/wi0091](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/wi0091) or please arrive at Hillside Cemetery by 10am for a brief Ceremony and instruction on Saturday, December 14th.

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# Planet Fitness brings all inclusive, judgment free gym to Marshfield

BY KATIE SCHIMKE

MARSHFIELD—When Planet Fitness opened in Marshfield on Nov. 16, regional manager Phil Garofano, says the community was lined up outside the doors waiting to come in. On the gym's first day what was a planned opening for 10:00 in the morning became 9:40 as new members waited outside, eager to sign up. Planet Fitness' new location saw 300 members sign up on Nov. 16. Now with less than a month of being open, they are up to over 1000 gym members.

With over 50 cardio machines and over 60 pieces of strength equipment, Planet Fitness ensures no lines or waiting times to get a workout in.

Though Planet Fitness may be a national chain of gyms, Phil Garofano says they operate like an extension of the community. Prior to opening, Planet Fitness donated equipment to the Marshfield Fire Department. Devoted to maintaining new equipment in their gyms, Planet Fitness' will donate their used equipment once it becomes six to eight years old. When a location in the twin cities was looking to donate their old equipment, Garofano and his manager Jessica Cronce were able to bring an updated gym to the Marshfield Fire Department. On Nov. 9 Phil and Jessica delivered cardio equipment and free weights to the fire department, helping the firefighters unload the equipment between the stations two fitness rooms.

"They were all so great. They were all so appreciative and excited about the opportunity, excited to get their hands on a few new pieces of equipment." Garofano said.

Manager, Jessica Cronce, knows the importance of community for Planet Fitness given her roots in the Marshfield community. Cronce and all employees hired at Planet Fitness are local to the community, therefore weaving together familiar faces at the front desk with the access to a gym that may be more typical of a larger city. With a staff of community members, Planet Fitness is able to know what the community wants and needs.

The Planet Fitness staff has been working to make the community aware of their new location by handing out Halloween candy to over 3000 kids, attending farmers markets, and participating in the upcoming holiday parade.

Planet Fitness is known for being a "judgment free zone". Garofano says everyone is welcome, but Planet Fitness is especially a safe place for those who have not found a gym they love or a space where they can exercise.

Two membership options are available, but Garofano says there are frequent deals that can cut down the prices even more. Currently, the two membership options include the classic membership and the black card membership.

The classic membership, for \$15 a month, gives a member access to all fitness equipment in their home gym.

The black card membership, for \$25 a month, gives a member access to all fitness equipment in any Planet Fitness location, and additional amenities such as massage chairs, hydro massage loungers, tanning, and other spa services. There is no commitment needed for either membership option.

Marshfield's location has one trainer (with another soon to be added to the staff) that is available for all members to offer orientation to machines and assist with workouts.



## | BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT |

On Nov. 22, 2024 Sara Gunderson welcomed a newborn daughter, named Aria, who was born in Stevens Point.

## SALE from page 2

Cranberry, White Spruce, Fast Growing Species Packet (5 species, 2 of each species including 2 Hybrid Poplar, 2 Hybrid Willow, 2 Norway Spruce, 2 Ninebark & 2 Silver Maple) and Bird & Butterfly Packet (five species, 2 of each species including 2 Butterfly Bush, 2 Lilac, 2 Trumpet Vine, 2 Rose of Sharon and 2 Hibiscus Moscheutos). Tree and shrub bundles contain 25 trees/shrubs while the packets contain 10 trees/bushes. Sizes range from 6-24 inches and prices range from \$22.00 - \$30.00 per/bundle or packet depending on the tree species. Native prairie wildflower seeds are also available and include Pollinator Mixes, Monarch Mixes, Erosion Control Mix, Land Restoration Mix, Grass Waterways Mix, Logging Road Mix and Pollinator Seed Bear (for a 200-400 square foot pollinator garden) as well as 6 varieties of Food Plot Mixes. Generic gel and tree shelters are also available at all times throughout the year (generic gel is a starch absorbent that retains water and gives it back to the plant during dry periods; tree shelters are 4-foot plastic, seamless, twin-walled tubes which protect newly planted seedlings from wildlife damage).

For a description of tree species and wildflower mixes or for a fillable order form, please go to: <https://www.woodcountywi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/TreeSale.aspx>. Some species sell out, so please order early. If you have questions, call 715-421-8475 or e-mail [barb.peeters@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:barb.peeters@woodcountywi.gov) or [landcons@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:landcons@woodcountywi.gov).

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## INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN



The purpose of this position is to provide technical support for the Water Works and Lighting Commission's and the City of Wisconsin Rapids computer information systems and SCADA environment. The work is performed under the direction of the Information Systems Administrator. This is an exempt (non-union) position.

The minimum training and experience required to perform the essential job functions are an Associate's Degree in Computer Science or related field, two years system administration and networking experience, or any combination of education and experience that provides equivalent knowledge, skills and abilities.

Working knowledge of Microsoft operating systems and software as well as virtual environments. Must have ability to troubleshoot networking and workstation problems. Desired skills would include knowledge of SCADA systems, cloud environments, and cyber security.

WW&LC offers a full benefit package including competitive wage, health and dental insurance, paid holidays, vacation, and participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System. Selected candidate must successfully pass a physical including drug screen and a reference and background investigation.

An application packet is available at the Water Works and Lighting Commission office at 221 16th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin or online at [www.wrwvlc.com](http://www.wrwvlc.com). All questions should be directed to Matt Stormoen at 715.422.9053.

A completed application, resume, and a cover letter must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be received by 12:00 Noon on January 10, 2025. This position will remain open until the position is filled.

# OBITUARIES

## EDWARD G. WAGNER

Edward G. Wagner, 77, of Marshfield, passed away on Nov. 24, 2024. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.

## THEODORE "TED" MUELLER

Theodore "Ted" Mueller, 81, of Spencer, passed away on Nov. 24, 2024. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.



## WILLIAM BRUEGGEN

William "Bill" Brueggen, age 66, passed away on November 23, 2024, in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at 11:00 am at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Hewitt, Wisconsin, with Father Angi officiating. Visitation will take place at the church from 9:30 am until the time of the service. Burial will follow at the parish cemetery.

Bill was born on April 4, 1958, to Kenneth and Cleo (Schiferl) Brueggen. He attended Marshfield schools and graduated from Marshfield Senior High in 1976. Following graduation, Bill served in the U.S. Army. After his honorable discharge, he spent many years living in the Southern United States before returning to Marshfield in 2002.

Bill was a man of diverse interests and hobbies. He enjoyed history, old country music, word searches, and spicy food—famously carrying his own bottle of hot sauce wherever he went. He was particularly known for his impressive collection of rodeo belt buckles and was always most comfortable in his signature blue jeans. In his honor, those attending his funeral are encouraged to dress casually or wear their favorite blue jeans.

Bill is survived by his parents, Kenneth and Cleo, and his siblings Joe (Lisa) Brueggen, Marie (Randy) Walsh, Geno (Linda) Brueggen, Dale (Alice) Brueggen, Kate (Tim) Jackan, and Dan (Wendi) Brueggen. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Leo and Lucille Schiferl and William and Kate Brueggen, as well as his step-grandma Jane Schiferl.

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to Geno and Linda Brueggen for their loving care and support, especially during Bill's final weeks.

# Kids invited to decorate holiday cards for nursing home residents

## FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--This holiday season, children are invited to MMCCU (302 W Upham) to pick up a card decorating kit. Kids are also welcome to use supplies they have at home instead of the card kit, if desired. Finished cards will be distributed to local nursing home residents. Parents can pick up a card stock kit by stopping in or going through the drive-thru (during open hours).

"The kids have had a lot of fun doing this the past couple of years, and the nursing home residents have responded well," said Stephanie Rasmussen, MMCCU. "It's a great way for kids to have fun and also to bring joy to local nursing home residents."

All kids who decorate 3 or more cards will be entered into a drawing for a MACCI gift certificate (with 5 kids winning). Youth who are members of the MMCCU Kids Rewards Club are encouraged to decorate 3 cards to earn an extra spin on the prize wheel.

"Our Kids Rewards Club is a great way to teach kids about finances in a fun way," said Rasmussen. "Along with teaching kids about finances, we also like to do fun activities like this to help teach kids the joy of giving back!"

To learn more about the Kids Rewards Club, visit [www.mmccu.com/kids](http://www.mmccu.com/kids). Decorated holiday cards are due back to MMCCU by Dec. 11 at noon. Staff will then deliver the cards to local nursing home residents later in the week. All kids are welcome to participate (do not need to be an MMCCU member).



Rasmussen boys with their decorated cards for local nursing home residents.

# Police Calls

On Nov. 25 a caller left a voicemail stating their husband did not return home from hunting, dispatch was unable to reach the caller when calling back.

On Nov. 26 at 11:00 in the morning a male was reported to be outside and yelling while banging on stuff. The caller reported it looked like he had a pipe.

On Nov. 26 a caller reported that 4 horses were not being fed and what they were given to eat had gone moldy.

On Nov 26 at 1:00 in the afternoon a caller from Nekoosa called dispatch to report they were being called names.

On Nov. 26 at 2:30 in the afternoon a caller from Auburndale advised dispatch they found a shopping bag filled with anti theft devices.

On Nov. 25 at 2:00 in the afternoon a caller from Rudolph received an email from an unknown address that contained

a threat. The threat was accompanied by blackmail that told the caller to send money to bitcoin.

On Nov. 25 a caller reported a white Jeep not yielding to bicycles and almost causing injury. The caller suspected the driver may be a stalker.

On Nov. 24 a caller in Arpin reported upon returning to their home that their lock boxes had been opened and they did not feel safe. The caller reported that their ex has been having people watch their house.

On Nov. 22 a caller in Wisconsin Rapids reported a syringe found on their property. They reported they will check their cameras and find a suspect.

On Nov. 22 around 10:30 at night a caller in Pittsville reported their daughter had stolen pills and left their residence.

# Sex offender released near Wood County

## FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--On April 30, 2007, William M. Varga was convicted in Portage County for sexual assault of a 14 year old. On April 17, 2009, he was again convicted in Portage County for sexual assault of a 13 year old.

William M. Varga has served his sentence imposed on him and was released from prison back to Portage County on May 7, 2019. On March 9, 2021 William was revoked due to a manufacture/deliver Amphetamine charge.

William M. Varga will be releasing to



Stevens Point, WI on Dec. 3 of 2024. He will be placed on supervision with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) and monitored by Probation agents with the Division of Community Corrections, in Portage County. William M. Vargas also subject to lifetime GPS monitoring. William M. Varga has additional conditions to not have any unsupervised contact with minors; no contact with the victims; not to consume drugs. Varga is to comply with the standard sex offender rules; cooperate with electronic monitoring.

Varga is to have face-to-face contact with law enforcement and comply with all requirements and is a lifetime registrant of the Wisconsin sex offender registry. Varga's current address and any change of address will be updated and available online by accessing the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry at <https://appsdoc.wi.gov/public>.

Date of Birth: 11-10-1982  
Male/White  
Height: 5'6"  
Weight: 145  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Hazel

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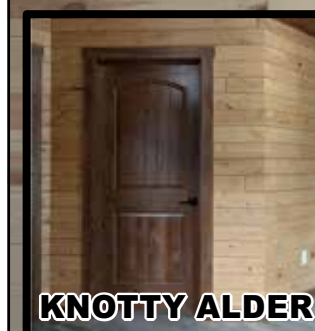
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# Ring in the holidays

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--Nashville recording artist, Becky Schlegel, is on the road with the High 48s touring their Christmas show throughout the mid-west. A seasoned bluegrass band, the High 48s have been making music together since 2006. A band with one foot in tradition and the other in the world of music today, they will be joined by Becky Schegel's incredible voice as it floats, whispers, then soars above music of the highest quality.

This extravaganza will take the stage at the Pittsville school auditorium on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3:00pm. It's a short drive over the river and through the woods to Pittsville to enjoy a show for the whole family and set a great tone for your Christmas season.

Show tickets will be available at the door, or can be purchased in advance at the downtown Pittsville office of Wisconsin Farm Business/Ortner Accounting \$20. Special



senior rate \$15, students still only \$3. Take a break from hectic holiday demands of the season and imbibe in twinkling

sublime renditions of melodies that are the true reason for the season.

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

### Becoming Instruments of God's Peace

Dear Reader,  
As we go through life, there's one undeniable truth we all share: we are all going to die. This sobering reality has been with us since the dawn of humanity, yet we often fail to confront it until we're forced to. But what if, instead of avoiding this truth, we embraced it as a powerful motivator? What if we used it to drive us toward something greater than ourselves?

Imagine if, knowing that our time here is limited, we dedicated our lives to becoming instruments of God's peace. Imagine if we became peacemakers in a world that so desperately needs peace. The concept isn't new—it's been the call of countless prophets, leaders, and thinkers throughout history. But now, perhaps more than ever, it's a call we need to answer.

Why don't we? Why don't we choose to be God's peacemakers, to show kindness and love that extends beyond our own material needs and desires? Perhaps it's fear, or perhaps it's because we're so often caught up in the mundane routines of life. We focus on accumulating wealth, power, and possessions, thinking that these things will bring us happiness. But deep down, we know that they won't. True fulfillment comes from something far more profound.

What if God's plan all along has been for us to figure out that we're here to spread peace and love? What if our



highest calling is to reach out to others, to transcend our own selfish needs, and to show acts of kindness and compassion? It's a simple idea, yet it's incredibly powerful.

Think about the impact we could have if each of us made the conscious decision to be a peacemaker. If we chose to resolve conflicts rather than create them, to build bridges rather than walls, to spread love rather than hate. The ripple effect of our actions could transform not just our immediate circles, but the world at large.

As instruments of God's peace, we have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy. We can make a difference in a world that often seems lost in chaos and division. And in doing so, we can find a sense of purpose that goes far beyond our individual lives.

So, let us ask ourselves: why not? Why not become peacemakers? Why not live our lives in a way that reflects the love and kindness that God has shown us? Why not strive to leave the world a better place than we found it?

In the end, we all will face the same fate. But until that day comes, let's commit to living our lives as instruments of peace. Let's reach beyond our material needs, show love to those around us, and embrace the calling that has been with us all along. We may just find that in doing so, we fulfill the very purpose of our existence.

**PATRICK J. WOOD** - Publisher  
Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.

## Sex offender residing in Neillsville

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--Randy P. Scott had previously been convicted of child enticement and possession of child pornography. Mr. Scott's targeted victims are minor females. Mr. Scott had on-line conversations with someone he believed to be a 14 year old female. He arranged to meet for the purpose of having sexual intercourse. He was also in possession of child sexual abuse material with images of pre-pubescent female victim's. Mr. Scott is currently homeless and is



residing at the Clark County Fairgrounds located at 1121 E Division St Neillsville WI 54456. When Mr. Scott does obtain a residence the public will be notified of that information.

Mr. Scott will be supervised by agents

specializing in intensive supervision. He is to have no unsupervised contact with minors, no taverns/bars/liquor stores and not to consume any alcohol or drugs. He is to comply with the standard sex offender rules, cooperate with electronic monitoring, and is required face to face contact with law

enforcement, in addition, to comply with all requirements and life time registrant of the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry. If you have any questions please contact Captain Kerry Kirn at 715-743-5358.

This sex offender has served the sentence imposed on him by the courts. He is not wanted

by law enforcement at this time. This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, it is belief that an informed public is a safer public.

Name: Randy P. Scott

Age: 58  
Sex: Male  
Race: White  
Height: 5'09"  
Weight: 200  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Hazel

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SALE **\$279.99**  
\$25 mail-in rebate

**COLT**  
King Cobra 357mag 2" ss  
SALE **\$899.99**  
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- Radishes (1 lb.).....\$1.99
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While supply lasts. Specials good thru December 9th, 2024

This Week's Specials • This Week's Specials • This Week's Specials

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- Johnsonville Original Brat Patties 24 oz. (Case of 9, \$39.20) ..... **\$4<sup>75</sup>**
- Ball Park Beef Hot Dogs 45 oz. .... **\$7<sup>35</sup>**
- Lloyds BBQ Baby Back Ribs 2.5 lbs. .... **\$13<sup>65</sup>**
- Monster Energy Drink 6 pack. (24 pack, \$34.00) ..... **\$8<sup>95</sup>**

- Jimmy Dean Original Pork Sausage Patties 12 oz. (Case of 12, \$21.45) ..... **\$1<sup>95</sup>**
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## One adult arrested in series of burglaries

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--On Nov. 14, 2024, the Clark County Sheriff's Office arrested a suspect in the rash of burglaries that occurred over the summer of 2024 in the South Eastern part of Clark County and the Willard/Rock Dam area.

The suspect was identified as Zachary Wolf, 21 years old, of Chili. Mr. Wolf was arrested by detectives and transported to the Clark County Jail. Wolf is charged with numerous crimes to include burglary while armed, burglary, theft, criminal damage to property and bail jumping. He remains in Clark County jail on a \$50,000.00 cash bond.

Some property has been found in the Clark County Forest near the Wildrock Campground. Clark County Sheriff's Office are asking hunters during gun deer season to be on the lookout while in the woods for any stolen property or items that do not belong there.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is also asking for the public's help in identifying



any additional perpetrators and recovering additional stolen property. Anyone with information can contact the sheriff's office at 715-743-3157. Citizens can also anonymously contact Crime Stoppers of Clark County at 1-877-341-2416. Tips can also be provided online at [www.p3tips.com](http://www.p3tips.com) to Crime Stoppers of Clark County. If tips are received through Crime Stoppers and the tip leads to an arrest, there is a potential for a monetary reward to the individual calling in that particular tip. Mr. Wolf has a presumption of innocence.

## Wood County announces participation in Naloxone Direct Program

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--Wood County Health Department is participating in the Naloxone Direct Program (previously known as the Narcan® Direct Program) through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This program supports the free distribution of nasal naloxone spray to community residents and partner agencies working with populations who are at risk of opioid overdose. Since 2019, the Wood County Health Department has distributed over 2,700 doses of 4 milligrams Narcan® nasal spray, trained 579 individuals in Overdose Prevention and Narcan® Administration, and partnered with over 30 local agencies to use and distribute Narcan®. Narcan nasal spray, along with medical treatment, can reverse the life altering effects of an opioid overdose. Narcan nasal spray can restore an individual's breathing within



2-3 minutes, and in some cases even when breathing has stopped.

To request training or free naloxone, contact Ashley Normington at 715-421-8923.

## Launch of public health vending machines

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--As part of its commitment to enhancing community health and accessibility through innovative solutions, Wood County announces the launch of its first public health vending machines, providing free, high-quality health and safety supplies to anyone in need. Each vending machine offers important local resources and is stocked with a wide range of health-related items such as CPR kits, personal hygiene kits, Narcan, fentanyl and xylazine test kits, first aid kits, gunlocks, hand wipes, and sharps containers.

"We are excited to



introduce these public health vending machines to our community. This initiative reflects

our commitment to improving public health in communities most impacted by overdoses and overdose deaths," said Sue Smith, Wood County Health Department Director and Health Officer. "Having these machines in convenient locations removes barriers to accessing lifesaving resources and information."

Lauramae Keuffer, Assistant Outreach Director with St. Vincent de Paul, shared, "It takes aligned efforts and all of us working together. St Vincent de Paul provides resources to people in our community who need help and appreciate this

See **MACHINES** page 13

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SHOP. EAT. ENJOY.  
**LOCAL**  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

# Support Local this Holiday



**2024 TOYS FOR TOTS TOY DISTRIBUTION**  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 6-TUESDAY, DEC. 10, 2024**  
 The Marshfield area has an active Marine Toys For Tots Program. Through this program, if you live in the North Wood County area and you need assistance with toys for your children this Christmas Season, there is help for you.

**WE WILL BE AT THE MARSHFIELD FAIR EXPO BUILDING**  
**513 E 17TH STREET, MARSHFIELD, WI:**  
 Friday, December 6, 2024 – 8am-6pm, Saturday, December 7, 2024 – 9am-11:30am,  
 Monday, December 9, 2024 – 10am-7pm, Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 9am-2pm  
 Upon arrival at the toy distribution site: \*You will have to complete a short application form. We do not do any pre-registration. \*No children allowed. \*Please bring an ID, have your Children's Birth dates ready, and something showing your current address.



## Rotary Winter Wonderland

**Nov. 29 – Dec. 31, 2024**  
**Wildwood Park & Zoo • 600 N. Central Ave.**  
 The Winter Wonderland holiday light display is back! Over a million lights, placed by volunteers, create a magical atmosphere. Choose from a walk-through display or a drive-through display. Admission is free, but organizers accept cash donations for 30 years. For more information, visit: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**  
**715-319-3009**

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**For every \$100 spent locally...**  
 Locally owned business = \$68 stays in the local economy!  
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 Business outside of our local area = \$0 stays in the local economy!

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- It's green! Reduce gas consumption, pollution and vehicle maintenance.
- It's convenient! It saves you time and money.
- It increases our tax base; supporting our schools, police and fire departments, parks, streets and more!
- Everything's here! And the more we buy locally, the more variety of products and services available.
- Buying locally increases wages and job opportunities.
- Local businesses support our youth and other community organizations.

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 Adults \$15 Children \$10  
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 Enjoy breakfast, photos with Santa (bring your camera!), cookie decorating, ornament making & a gift from Santa!  
 Call 715.387.2700 for reservations!

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# Local Businesses Holiday Season!



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FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
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## Winter Wonderland



2024 • Daily 5-9 p.m.  
108 W. 17th St., Marshfield  
The display opens for its 19th season.  
Visitors create an ever-changing light display.  
A drive-through experience.  
Organizers collect food and  
for 10 local food pantries.  
www.winterwonderland.org

### DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY PARADE & TREE LIGHTING

THURSDAY, DEC. 5 • 6:30PM

Grab a warm beverage from a local business, bring along some quilts + lawn chairs, and join us along South Central Avenue between 2nd Street and 9th Street for the Downtown Holiday Parade! Following the parade at 7:30 PM, enjoy the plaza tree lighting. Sing 'O Christmas Tree' with family and friends, warm up by the bonfires, and enjoy complimentary cocoa and s'mores beside St. Nick, Mrs. Claus, the Snow Queen, and real reindeer from the North Pole.



## Christmas Tree Guide

### KRAMER'S CHRISTMAS TREES

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### R AND S TREE FARMS

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www.rstreefarms.com

### LANG'S FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

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www.langchristmastrees.com

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

# GRANTON AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS



## SmartLab

Fourth-grade students in the SmartLab engage in hands-on learning using circuitry and building kits. As an extension to their science unit on electricity students worked with Snap Circuits, Squishy Circuits, Circuit Mazes to design and create parallel and series circuits. These activities allow them to explore concepts like electricity, engineering, and problem-solving through creative, collaborative projects. By designing and building their own functional models, students were able to develop critical thinking skills while gaining a deeper understanding of STEM principles in an interactive and enjoyable way.



The Granton FFA put on a Thanksgiving skit to teach the fourth graders what the first Thanksgiving Meal was all about.



## Veteran's Day



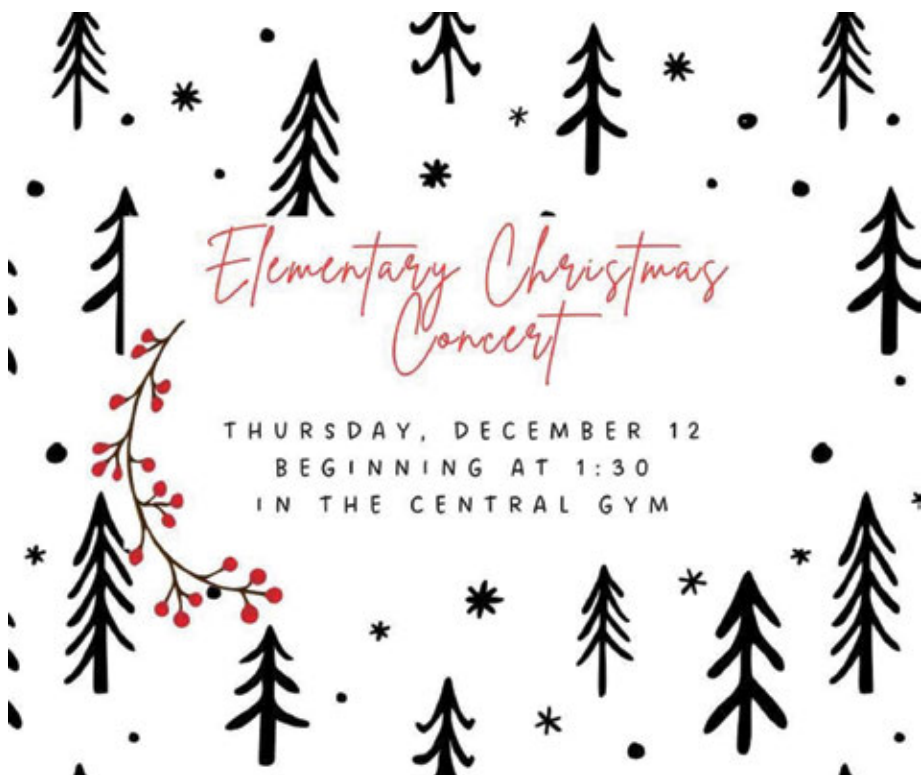
Granton Elementary students were able to vote utilizing some of the techniques utilized in a real election. The candidates; Oreo vs. Chips Ahoy!



The 6th Grade Civics Class is learning about the U.S. Constitution and the Branches of Government. They performed a mocked trial, which is part of the Judicial System.



**Granton Area School District Open Positions:**  
 HS English • MS English • General/  
 Choral Music • Instrumental Music



A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

# NEILLSVILLE AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS



## Neillsville Middle School Trivia Titans and Radio Stars

MR. JESSE BERNHAGEN  
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Neillsville Middle School has been a hive of excitement and learning. November saw our hallways buzzing with intellectual energy as homerooms battled it out in a daily trivia contest. After weeks of intense competition, Mrs. Luchterhand's 6th grade classroom emerged victorious, showcasing their impressive knowledge and team spirit.

But the academic prowess doesn't stop there. Our students are set to become local celebrities, with their voices gracing the airwaves of WCCN radio. Tune in after Thanksgiving to hear our middle schoolers reading holiday-themed stories, bringing warmth and cheer to listeners across the community.

### Sporting Success and Theatrical Treats

On the courts, our middle school boys' basketball team is off to a stellar start. The young athletes are not just winning games, but are also rapidly developing their skills and understanding of the sport. It's heartening to see their progress and teamwork improve with each passing game.

Looking ahead, our 6th graders are eagerly anticipating a field trip to the Eau Claire Children's Theatre. This excursion promises to be a delightful blend of entertainment and education, exposing our students to the magic of live performance and the power of storytelling.

### Commitment to Health and Safety

October saw our school awash in red as we celebrated Red Ribbon Week. This annual event reinforces our commitment to promoting a drug-free lifestyle among our students. Through a series of engaging activities and discussions, we encourage our middle schoolers to make positive choices and support one another in leading healthy lives.

The success of Red Ribbon Week underscores our ongoing commitment to nurturing not just the minds, but also the overall well-being of our students. As we move deeper into the school year, we look forward to many more opportunities for growth, learning, and community engagement. Stay tuned for more exciting updates from Neillsville Middle School, where every day brings new adventures in education!



### Red Ribbon Week

Our students participated in Red Ribbon Week, promoting drug awareness and prevention. It was wonderful to see everyone come together for this important cause.

### Student Council's Green Thumb



Our amazing Student Council has been busy tending to our hydroponic garden. They're not just learning about sustainable agriculture - they're also supplying our school kitchen with fresh lettuce! Talk about farm-to-table!

### Fall Field Trips

Our students have been out and about this fall:

- Exploring local parks
- Learning fire safety at the fire department
- Picking apples at nearby orchards
- Visiting The Highground Veterans Memorial

These experiences have truly enriched our curriculum and broadened our students' horizons.

### Fastbridge Winter Screener



Throughout December, we'll be conducting our Fastbridge winter screener. This valuable tool helps our teachers adjust their instruction to best meet each student's needs.

### Closing Thoughts

As we move into the winter months, I'm continually impressed by the dedication of our students, staff, and families. Your support makes our school community truly special.



## Upcoming Events

### Winter Concerts

Mark your calendars for these festive performances:

- **5K - 5th grades:**  
December 12th at 6 p.m.  
in the Fieldhouse
- **4K:**  
December 13th at 10 a.m.  
in the Auditorium

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# | CLASSIFIEDS |

Announcements 7005 Estate Sales 7208 Estate Sales 7208 Wanted to Buy 7268 Dogs 7272 Trucks 7546

### Hub City Times Classified Ad Deadline

To place a classified ad call our office at 715-384-4440 or online at [classifiedsmmc.com](http://classifiedsmmc.com) before 10am on Friday. Your ad will run in the paper the following week. Cost starts at \$10/week for 5 lines (appx 25 words). Prepayment is required.

### Activities and Meetings 7020

#### HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES ROCKING W STABLES.

Dec 16-Jan 1 Beautiful trails Great Family Fun. Can handle all size groups & private parties! Info 715-617-6779 or [www.rockingwstables-kartway.com](http://www.rockingwstables-kartway.com) (12/16)

### Craft Sales 7204

#### WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW.

Sat Dec. 21 at the Fabulous Appleton Expo (Downtown Appleton 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. [www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com) or 715-302-0932 (12/2)

#### WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW.

Sat Dec. 7th at the Fabulous Central Wis. Expo in Rothschild. 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. [www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com) or 715-302-0932 (12/2)

### Estate Sales 7208

#### JR's Estate Services

Dec. 7 Sat. 9:00-3:00  
Dec. 8 Sun. 10:00-2:00  
925 West 5th Street, Nekoosa, WI 54457

This unique estate sale located a few blocks from Piggly Wiggly in Nekoosa features a variety of interesting items-especially vintage. They say good things come in small packages. Well, this estate sale, from a family who lived in this home for 76 years proves it: a small house FULL of good things! Some VINTAGE items include: paper ephemera (especially from 1940's WWII era), beer cans, tobaccoiana, glassware and ceramics, toys, games, doll items, record albums, collectibles, books, magazines, costume jewelry, flatware sets, furniture, decor, sewing patterns and license plates. Other items include kitchenware Inc. Pyrex, Fire King, Anchor Hocking, Tupperware, barware, clocks, small furniture, lamps, small appliances, lawn tools, organ music, linens, many sewing and crafting supplies, holiday decor, and much more. Come join us for our final sale of 2024!  
**Special Notes:** Numbers will be handed out starting 30 minutes prior to the sale on Saturday only. Numbers determine order of entry when sale opens. All items are sold AS IS with no guarantees. Sales tax will be applied to all purchases per Wisconsin State Statute. **For updates and photos follow our Facebook and Instagram page - JR's Estate Services.**

### Estate Sales 7208

#### LARGE ESTATE SALE Marvin & Eunice Meyer

9102 Holz Lane, Nekoosa  
Thursday, Dec. 5th 9am - 4pm  
Friday, Dec. 6th 9am - 4pm  
Saturday, Dec. 7th 9am - 4pm  
Numbers at 8am on Thursday  
**No Early Sales**

This sale is loaded with goodies both old & older. That's right, it's like stepping back into the 1960's and before. Sale is in house, garage & pole building. Lots of antiques & collectibles. Nearly everything in the house is in near mint-to-mint condition. Curved glass china cabinet, Hoosier style kitchen cupboard, 2-door glass front oak cabinet, large barn board cabinet w/sliding glass doors, MCM Formica top table w/2 leaves & 8 chairs, MCM 3-pc. bedroom set, Lane waterfall cedar chest, MCM coffee table & 2 end tables by Lane, crocks including 20-gallon Red Wing (Nice) - jugs - water cooler & butter churn, 100+ salt & pepper shakers, Big Sioux Biscuits crate for eggs, rods & reels, tackle (some vintage) & 30+ Rapala in original box, 2-man saws, buck saw, ice saw, milk cans, vintage post cards, oak wall telephone, Sears & Roebuck mushroom canisters & accessories, costume & better jewelry, Beam decanters, Blatz beer bottle waiter, 75+ vintage canning jars with zinc or glass tops, signed & framed Terry Redlin print, green depression/uranium glass. Avon bottles, sterling silver flatware service for 12, set of china, set of Currier & Ives dishes, MCM wall hangings & table lamps, melted plastic popcorn holiday wall hangings, recliner, lift chair, small curio, 5 pc. queen size bedroom set, many Nekoosa Mill Items, large quantity of kitchen & household items, lots of interesting smalls, some Xmas including Dept. 56 houses, lawn & garden tools, Craftsman tool box on wheels, lots of quality hand tools like S-K, Starrett, & Craftsman, 2 buck mounts, books, albums & 78's, 2 Victrola's (as-is), women's clothing mostly L - XL + women's shoes mostly size 8 - 9, & so much more. **Please bring help to move large & heavy items.**  
**DO SOME HOLIDAY SHOPPING HERE!**  
**NOTE:** This is probably the last sale we will conduct. After 38 years it's probably time to officially retire. We want to thank all of our 1,000's of customers over the years, especially the ones that come to sale after sale & year after year. We also, want to thank all of our clients who entrusted us with selling their family's personal property over the past 38 years. Again, thank you all, and last but not least to all of our great friends and family who have made these sales so much easier & enjoyable to do. We couldn't do these sales without them. **WHAT A TEAM!**  
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### Dogs 7272

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#### CAVAPOO PUPS. Vaccinated dew \$250 715-223-0782 (12/2)

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#### WHOODLE PUPS

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# Ronald McDonald House announces Reindeer at Ronalds event

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Marshfield announced a new family-friendly event that will be fun for all ages. Real reindeer will be visiting RMHC of Marshfield on Friday, Dec. 6. Along with the beloved members of the Christmas Eve flight crew, Santa will be making an appearance and photo opportunities will be available. Visitors can also walk through the House to enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, festive tunes, and holiday crafts to help decorate and bring cheer to families staying there this holiday season. The event is



open to the public located at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Marshfield (803 W North St, Marshfield). Parking available in Lot F off W. North St.

For more information, contact RMHC of Marshfield at 715-387-5899 or john@rmhcofmarshfield.org.

# Green Bay Packers looking for high schools in need of new helmets

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--The Green Bay Packers are inviting Wisconsin high school football coaches and athletic directors to apply to receive \$7,500 worth of brand-new helmets for their football teams, courtesy of the Packers, Ticketmaster and Xenith.

Ten winning schools will be awarded this spring with helmet packages that will be custom-made to fit each school's colors to supplement or replace their existing equipment inventory.

The donations are made possible through the support of Ticketmaster and their efforts to provide high school athletes with the equipment and support they need to pursue their dreams. The helmet donation program is part of the Packers' football outreach efforts, which promote and serve youth and high school football programs around Wisconsin. The gift is also part of a donation match by Xenith as part of their Community Give Back Program and their Buy a Helmet Give a Helmet Program.

Last year, more than 100 coaches and athletic directors submitted applications for the donated helmets, with many of the schools demonstrating great need for donated equipment to serve the number of students in their

athletic programs and to conduct their football programs safely. As football helmets are essential to participating in football, many youth and high school football programs must devote their small budgets to purchasing helmets or focus their fundraising efforts on raising enough for helmets, instead of other necessary equipment or training tools.

"We're proud to partner with Ticketmaster and Xenith to help provide brand new helmets to these schools and to help give high school teams the support and resources they need," said Ryan Fencl, Packers football outreach manager. "Ensuring that schools have all the equipment they need so their students can take the field safely is critical, and we know these helmets will aid in the continued, successful development of these schools' football programs."

Packers Give Back is the team's all-encompassing community outreach initiative that includes the Green Bay Packers Foundation, appearances made by players, alumni, coaches and staff, football outreach, cash and in-kind donations, Make-A-Wish visits and community events. The annual overall charitable impact of Packers Give Back exceeds \$11 million.

# 2024 preliminary gun deer license sales and harvest totals

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced preliminary deer harvest and license sale totals for the opening weekend of the 2024 gun deer season.

Preliminary figures indicate the number of gun deer hunters in Wisconsin slightly increased compared to 2023. As of 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, sales for gun deer privileges (which include gun, archery, crossbow, conservation patron and sports licenses) reached 778,111, up 0.48% from the same time last year.

Final license sales figures will be available in Jan., at which time DNR staff will perform a thorough analysis and interpretation.

In total, hunters registered 89,203 deer statewide during the opening weekend of the 2024 gun deer hunt, compared to 90,831 registered for the same period in 2023. This is a 1.8% decrease from a year ago and 4.7% below the 5-year average.

Hunters registered a total of 49,038 antlered deer on opening weekend, compared to 51,261 in 2023, a 4.3% decrease. The antlerless harvest was 40,165, which is up 1.5% from last year.

Conditions for opening weekend this year were mostly cloudy and dry, with some light precipitation in places on Saturday morning. Mornings were cool and quiet. Temperatures rose to near or above 40 each day, which made for comfortable conditions for hunters.

Reports from the field varied widely from good deer activity to little or no daytime deer movement. Some reports of breeding activity were still coming in, but



Antlered deer harvested during the 2024 season saw a decrease compared to the results from 2023. **Brian Woolman**

overall, deer sightings and harvest were down as expected, given the late opening date relative to the peak of the breeding season.

At the time of this publication, the DNR has no firearm-involved hunting incidents to report during the opening weekend of the 2024 gun deer season. During the opening weekend of the 2023 season, the DNR reported two firearm-involved hunting incidents.

# Tiffany announces winner of the 2024 Congressional App Challenge

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) announced the winner of the 2024 Congressional App Challenge (CAC) for Wisconsin's Seventh District. The CAC is a great way for middle and high school students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to compete against students across the United States.

"I want to thank all the students who participated in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge and extend congratulations to this year's winner. Each submission we received highlighted the exceptional young talent in Wisconsin's Seventh District," said Congressman Tiffany.

"This year's winner, WasteWise, was designed to help us reduce world hunger by analyzing food loss and waste data."

The first place winner, WasteWise Food Loss and Waste Predictor, was created by Neel Gonugunta of Marshfield School District.

Neel Gonugunta will be eligible to have their app on display at the U.S. Capitol and be featured on the House of Representatives website. Neel will also be invited to the #HouseofCode Capitol Hill Reception in the spring. For more information on the CAC visit Congressman Tiffany's website.

## MACHINES

from page 6

opportunity to be a host of one of these machines."

For more information about the public health vending machines or other health initiatives, please visit the Wood County Health Department website or contact Sydney Resler at 715-421-8911 or sydney.resler@woodcountywi.gov.

The six vending machines have been strategically placed at key locations within Wood County communities that have been most impacted by overdoses and overdose deaths. These locations include:

### WISCONSIN RAPIDS

- Aftermath Tattoo  
3620 8th Street South
- Mid-State Technical College  
500 32nd Street North (door E-1)
- Wood County River Block  
111 W Jackson Street (1st floor)

### MARSHFIELD

- Mid-State Technical College  
2600 West 5th Street (door J)
- Family Health Center  
630 S Central Ave (6th floor)
- St. Vincent de Paul  
169 N Central Ave (pantry entrance)

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# DOLLY

from page 1

Following the completion of her internship, Marshfield Children's Hospital team of Child Life specialists McKenzie Tischauser, Lindsey Welch and Heidi Giese traveled to Atlanta to complete on site training with Dolly. Tischauser is Dolly's primary handler, though when Dolly clocks out for the day she will spend her nights at home with all three handlers periodically to form strong bonds.

Though Dolly is a dog, she must follow the rules like all employees. Dolly is required to take breaks during the day and only allowed to work 40 hours a week.

Bringing Dolly to Marshfield has been a long process. "It's been seven years in the making, but we're just so excited she's here," Tischauser said.

The wait may have been longer if the Christmas in July charity, run by Greg Cemke, known as Santa Greg, had not stepped in. Greg survived a near fatal ATV accident that was deemed a medical miracle by his doctors.

"The doctors said I should have been leaving the

hospital—not walking, not in a wheelchair—but in a body bag. They told me medically speaking, they couldn't tell me why I was still here. God above told me firmly I was here to do something I haven't done yet, and this is it." Cemke said. The Christmas in July charity recently celebrated ten years. The charity's primary goal is to fund items that cannot fit or stay in a budget.

Santa Greg has been working on bringing Dolly to Marshfield for two years now, "They've been waiting for seven years but I'm just so excited she's here now. She's amazing," Cemke said.

Dolly is a specially educated facility dog who will assist her handler in helping pediatric patients cope while at medical appointments, procedures, or hospital stays. Different from a therapy dog, Dolly is an extension of her handler.

"We will assess patient needs and treatment goals as we build her patient load. This program is different than pet therapy where we won't be making rounds to patients or staff to 'say hi' or cheer them up with a stop for quick pets," said McKenzie Tischauser.

Dolly will be able to calm patients down when chancing

their medical port, enduring a stressful procedure, and can even get on the MRI table to show anxious patients how simple the test can be.

Dolly is the first of her kind in the area, and the second in the state. "Dolly is the first facility dog in central Wisconsin and the second facility dog in the state. She'll be making a real difference here in Marshfield," Greg Cemke said.

Though Dolly takes her job seriously, she still has plenty of time to play and run around. Dolly has a special fenced in grass area beside the Children's Hospital full of toys and several staff members eager to help her relax and run around.

Dolly is able to switch her moods quickly from work to play, as one of her handlers Heidi Giese said, "When Dolly's leash is on, she is working." Then when her leash comes off, Dolly chases her ball in her play area and runs to all the staff members to get pet.

Dolly has only recently started her first full time job, arriving to Marshfield on Nov. 25. However, Dolly is already exelling and her handlers are excited to see the change she helps create in patients.



Dolly with her handlers, certified Child Life specialists (left to right) Tischauser, Lindsey Welch and Heidi Giese. They went through an educational program and on-site training in Atlanta, Georgia from Canine Assistants.



McKenzie Tischauser, Dolly's primary handler, with Dolly in her fenced in play area beside the Children's Hospital.



Santa Greg celebrating Dolly's introduction to Marshfield with a ribbon cutting, alongside Dolly's three handlers.

Katie Schimke photos



Santa Greg and Heidi Giese with Dolly on her first official day of work at Marshfield Children's Hospital.



Dolly with handler, Heidi Giese, enjoying some pets after a day of work.

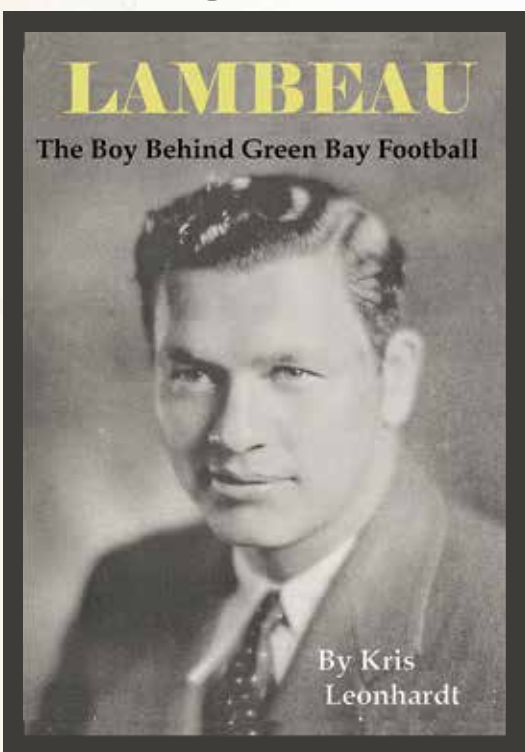


Dolly enjoying a cake with handler Lindsey Welch during her welcome party.



Staff members enjoying their time with Dolly.

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Like the Packers, Lambeau's story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

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## UNPACKING History

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



A 1940s wing-type leather helmet. **Tori Wittenbrock photo**

# Complimentary football leads to career night for Jacobs

**BY TORI WITTENBROCK  
SPORTS EDITOR**

After securing a 3-10 win over the San Francisco 49ers, Green Bay Packers Running Back Josh Jacobs said that his success was due largely to the team's execution of complimentary football.

Jacobs had a career night rushing for 106 yards and 3 touchdowns.

The defense forced several turnovers in the game with Xavier McKinney's interception, Lukas Van Ness's strip sack forcing a fumble and Keisean Nixon forcing a fumble.

The Packers went 5 for 5 in the redzone, and Jacobs said the offense would not have been as productive without such an aggressive defense.

"It felt great. I came in here with the mindset that I want to make plays and I want to set the tone and have them play off it," said Jacobs.

"At the end of the day, we don't care how we get a win or who we go against. We get a win and

it's a divisional game, we'll definitely take it."

Jacobs said that his mindset going into this game was to show up for his team and get his job done so that others could follow.

"I just tried to go in there and put my stamp on the game, and I was able to go in there and do that today. It just feels good when you clinch a win like that," said Jacobs.

According to Jacobs, everyone on the team stepped up to fill their role on the field this week and to improve their shortcomings from weeks prior.

"I think we went in with a great scheme. I think its been a big point of emphasis in this building of trying to find an area to be better in and to grow in. It's been good to work hard all week, and it's paying off," said Jacobs.

However, Jacobs said that the success of the offense would not have

**See JACOBS  
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Green Bay Packers Running Back Josh Jacobs secured a career high three touchdowns after rushing for 106 yards.

**Tori Wittenbrock photo**

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# Harvest your holiday tree this season

**BY KATIE SCHIMKE**

WOOD COUNTY--Every family who celebrates Christmas is familiar with the annual tradition of untangling lights and dusting off ornaments. The decorations that don the tree are often times put together as a holiday activity for families. However, the act of choosing and harvesting the tree that will soon wear its' decorations can be as strong of a family tradition, too. Wood County has local tree farms with "cut your own" trees available.

The most popular variety of Christmas tree is the Balsam fir. Balsam firs, known for their beautiful fragrance and dark green needles, are among the most sought-after species as a holiday tree. Various types of pines also find their way home with customers at Wood County's tree farms.

To cut your own tree this year, visit R & S Tree Farms in Neillsville or Vines Christmas Tree Farm LLC in Granton.

R & S Tree Farms located at N4368 County Highway G, Neillsville, WI 54456 offers a selection of Balsam and Fraser fir trees to cut and harvest yourself. Pre-cut trees are also available, as well as a variety of holiday activities to celebrate such as wagon rides, hot chocolate, and cookies. R & S Tree Farms is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm through Christmas.

Vines Christmas Tree Farm LLC located at W3579 Ridge Road, Granton, WI 54436 offers a variety of trees available

to cut yourself (as well as pre-cut available). Types of trees include Balsam, Fraser, Canaan Fir, White Pine, and painted trees in colors of blue, purple, and white (painted trees are all Fraser Firs). At Vines Christmas Trees LLC you can head into the field yourself or catch a wagon ride to find the perfect Christmas tree. Saws are available to use if you forget to bring your own. Vines Christmas Tree Farm LLC is open seven days a week from 9:00 am to dusk, however weekdays are self service only.

Cutting down trees to celebrate the holiday season has been a long tradition stretching back to Germany, but in America decorating cut trees first began in the 1820's in Pennsylvania's German community. In areas that were more heavily populated by German immigrants, Christmas trees were more popular and eventually spread to the surrounding communities.

According to Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin is one of the top producers for Christmas trees today with nearly 24,000 acres of Christmas trees grown in the Badger State. Cutting one's own Christmas tree used to be a more popular tradition in the 20th century, when individuals would go into forrests off the road and cut down any tree they saw. Today, while you can't just go into any forrest and cut down a tree, there are plenty of farms like R & S Tree Farms and Vines Christmas Tree Farm LLC that have trees to cut yourself.

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# The Friends of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge hosting holiday open house

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WOOD COUNTY--The Friends of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge are hosting a free Holiday Open House on Friday, Dec. 6 from 9:00-2:45.

Inside the visitor center there will be crafts for adults and children. Santa will be on the scene from 10:00 - 2:00, ready to share holiday cheer and to have his photo taken with young and old alike.

Visitors can enjoy watching birds and other critters from the fireplace room while sipping hot beverages and sampling baked goods and other treats. Or come inside for a warm beverage after hiking one of the refuge trails.

Everything in the Karner Korner Nature Store is on sale for 20% off. There are many, many new items for all ages. Volunteers will wrap gifts, purchased at the sale, for free. Friends are also hosting a bake sale that day.

An array of nature art is already on display in the Visitor Center's front lobby and available through silent auction bidding. On Dec. 6 there will also be several holiday themed silent auction baskets.

Carol Kramer is the "artist of the month" for Dec. Her nature related quilted hangings don the walls in the fireplace room and are available for purchase.

There are several ways to give a "gift-that-keeps-giving" through the Friends Group. The Adopt-a-crane program has three donation levels and rewards to honor the donation. Each level receives a framable certificate, and one year's membership in the Friends of Necedah NWR. \$100 donors also receive a plush baby crane, referred to as a colt. \$200 givers receive a parent crane and colt. \$300 donors receive a family of two adults and one colt.

See REFUGE page 16

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been possible without the defense showing up.

"The o-line — I give them all the credit. I tell them all the time, 'You make my job easy,' said Jacobs. "We lean on each other, so they get all the credit for this game today."

Though the game was not perfect, Jacobs said that he was proud of his team for their ability to go out and get the job done with few penalties.

"It felt good to be able to play a complete game as a team. The defense was getting turnovers and getting points out of it. A lot of times we hurt ourselves in certain situations. It felt good to get everyone locked in. It's something we are proud of that we definitely need to keep doing," said Jacobs.

Center Josh Meyers said that he was proud to be a part of the win and to feed off of Jacob's energy all night.

"I thought we did a nice job handling their movement and I thought we communicated really well today, across the board. We were communicating with the tight ends, running backs and everybody. I just thought it was a good effort," said Meyers.

"I think that the first thing is keeping pace with the rest of the division. It gives us a little energy on a short week coming off a win, so that's always good," said Meyers.

Meyers also said that he enjoyed blocking for Jacobs against the Niners and is looking forward to working with him throughout the season.

"Gritty. Super fun to block for. I'm sure, fun to watch. He

just runs the ball so hard. He's a pro. He's been a pleasure to work with and a pleasure to block for."

Safety Xavier McKinney concurred with Jacobs' and Meyer's assessment of the team's execution of complimentary football.

"It felt good. It was a good win. I thought we played well in all phases. There are some things to clean up but it was a good win," said McKinney.

"That's what I came here to do. I was brought in to make big time plays when we really need it, so credit to everybody doing their job and me being able to go out there and make a play."

McKinney said that his interception was a product of him fulfilling his role for the team and being mindful of how the Niners seemed to be playing.

"They were dropping a lot of passes, so I kind of played for the tip. I saw what was in front of me and I kind of figured that one was going straight through their hands because that seemed to be the theme through the whole game. I just played for the tip and luckily it bounced right to me and I was able to make the play," said McKinney.

In addition, McKinney said that he was proud of how his team played on both sides of the ball to set each other up for success.

"It was good and it works out in our favor every time. When we do that it really shows. When we execute at all levels and everybody is doing their job and our playmakers are making plays, we're a hard team to beat. We've got to continue to keep trying to do that," said McKinney.

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If you visited the Visitor Center lately, you've probably seen the beautiful tree painted on the wall leading to the patio. The "Giving Tree" was done by Jay Jocham, a nationally known artist and proud member of the Friends. That "Giving Tree" symbolizes the gateway to the refuge and the many adventures that await you. Many folks have given the tree life by placing leaves on it with their personal messages. The messages commemorate their visit, honor a friend or relative who passed, celebrate a special person, or provide a conservation message.

There are three levels of giving for the leaves as well: Gold - \$500.00 or more; Silver - \$250.00; and Copper - \$100.00. Each Leaf is personalized with your message and the year of your donation.

Gift memberships to the Friends are also an option. Memberships for senior citizens costs \$15; individual memberships are \$25 and family memberships cost \$40. Members receive a minimum of six on-line newsletters, invitations to special "Friends-only" events and 10% off all purchases at the Karner Korner Nature Store.

Every penny earned from sales goes to educational events, support for wildlife, scholarships or other refuge projects. Memberships and Giving Tree leaves can be ordered on the Friends website for people unable to attend the Dec. 6 event. friendsofnwr.org

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