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# Stuff the Bus receives Green Bay Packers Foundation Grant

**FOR CITY TIMES**

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS**

– The Green Bay Packers Foundation distributed \$1.5 million in annual grants to hundreds of organizations throughout the state in Nov., including a \$3,000 grant to United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties Stuff the Bus initiative.

This year’s grant cycle fo-

cused on organizations that will direct funds toward the need areas of arts and culture, athletics, and education. The grants awarded by the Foundation are not recurring and must be used for the specific program or initiatives for which Stuff the Bus applied.

Stuff the Bus is an initiative of United Way of South

Wood & Adams Counties. This initiative helps local students, 4K through 12th grade, get a backpack full of free basic school supplies needed to start off the school year right and succeed. “With the increase in students who have needed help over the last couple of years, this grant makes

a huge difference. School supply costs continue to increase and providing the basics for almost 1,000 students means every dollar matters, so it is a huge relief to know we have some extra support for the 2025 Stuff the Bus.” Said Community Engagement Director Ben Eberlein.



CEO-Tari Jahns, Former Green Bay Packer-Dorsey Levens, and Community Engagement Director-Ben Eberlein at the Green Bay Packers Foundation annual grant distribution event.

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# Officer involved death investigation in Township of Grand Rapids

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is conducting an officer involved death investigation in the Township of Grand Rapids, Wood County, Wis. that occurred on the evening of Dec. 8, 2024.

At approximately 11:40 p.m., a Township of Grand Rapids police officer responded to a check welfare call at a residence in the 7500 block of Kellner Road in the Township of Grand Rapids, Wis. Upon arrival, the Township of

Grand Rapids police officer encountered an uncooperative female and law enforcement officers with the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department and Wood County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene to assist. The female was taken into custody and became unresponsive on the scene shortly after. The female was transported by ambulance to a local hospital and was pronounced deceased at the hospital. No firearms were discharged during this incident.

Involved law enforcement officers are on administrative duty, per

agencies' policies. Involved law enforcement officers were wearing body cameras during the incident.

DCI is leading this investigation and are assisted by a DCI Crime Response Specialist. All involved law enforcement are fully cooperating with DCI during this investigation.

DCI is continuing to review evidence and determine the facts of this incident and will turn over the investigative reports to the Wood County District Attorney's office when the investigation concludes.



Cruise for a Cause donated \$175,730 to Marshfield Clinic Research Institute to support cancer research. Pictured from left to right, Tiffany Halan, Director of Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation Operations; Linda Neve and Dan Neve, Cruise for a Cause founders; and Dr. Jennifer Meece, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Executive Director and Chief Research Officer.

## Cruise for a Cause donates \$175,700 to Marshfield Clinic Research Institute for breast cancer research

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Pitts-ville native Dan Neve and his family are all too familiar with breast and other cancer diagnoses.

In 2010 while his wife, Linda, was undergoing treatment for breast cancer, he decided to combine his passion for cars and desire to fight back against breast cancer. Cruise for a Cause was launched. Traveling the country in his Mustang Shelby GT 500 to car shows, auto races, and countless other events, Neve has raised more than a \$1.3 million for cancer research.

Dan himself underwent kidney cancer surgery in Feb. just three weeks prior to attending his first event in Tennessee.

Last week, Dan and Linda met with more than 100 researchers, physicians and scientists at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute and presented a \$175,730 check to fund cancer research within Marshfield Clinic Health System. He said that Cruise for a

Cause's mission statement of 'Delivering hope where we go' also relates to them.

"Delivering hope should be in each of your job descriptions, because I truly believe that is what you do," Dan Neve said. "You give others hope with the jobs that you all do. You gave Linda and I hope 14 years ago. You gave hope to Linda's two sisters who lost their fights with breast cancer and you give hope to her youngest sister who is undergoing chemo treatments as she begins her journey with breast cancer."

Cruise for a Cause's biggest event of the year is the annual Fall Ford Fest held the first weekend in Oct. and features a car show, car parade, auction, golf outing and other activities in Wisconsin Dells. The event draws thousands of Ford lovers and people who want to continue the fight against breast cancer.

"Cancer touches everybody, and we will continue to fight cancer one patient at a time, one family at

a time," said oncologist/hematologist Dr. Adedayo Onitilo, who is one of the leading cancer researchers in Wisconsin.

Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Executive Director and Chief Research Officer Dr. Jennifer Meece said critical cancer research takes place in Wisconsin communities that can benefit cancer patients across the world.

"The latest treatment options for cancer, research studies and clinical trials are being worked on by our physicians and scientists in Marshfield, Weston, Minocqua Eau Claire and other communities," Meece said. "The fight against cancer is taking place in our backyard and Marshfield Clinic Research Institute is a key component."

"Dan and Linda Neve have an unparalleled passion for fundraising and providing hope to all affected by cancer," said Tiffany Halan, Director of Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation Operations. "We are incredibly grateful to them and their generous supporters for their local support of cancer research."

Learn more about Cruise for a Cause and its many events and fundraisers across the country at <https://cruise4acause.org/>.

## Suspect arrested in Neillsville stabbing

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Officers from the Neillsville Police Department responded to a stabbing at a home in the 20 block of Grand Avenue in Neillsville at 2:37 p.m. on Dec

7, 2024. The victim of the stabbing, done with a kitchen knife, spoke with officers and was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Police identified Cedric Riggins as the suspect in the stabbing. Riggins

was taken into custody at around 4:30 p.m. the same day without incident. Riggins was booked into the Clark County Jail on charges of substantial battery and disorderly conduct.

## Police Calls

On Dec. 12 a caller in Arpin reported their daughter missing and last seen the night prior around 11:00 p.m. The caller described finding foot prints headed toward their neighbor and then the road and informed dispatch that their daughter did not have a phone.

On Dec. 12 at 4:00 in the morning a caller from Wisconsin Rapids reported that while the car was driving, their friend attempted to jump out of the moving vehicle, kicked the steering wheel, and bit the callers arm.

On Dec. 10 at 8:50 a Saratoga caller told dispatch that it appeared that their camper

showed signs of a break in.

On Dec. 10 a caller in Saratoga reported a suspicious looking vehicle that was parked in the road, waited for another vehicle to pull up, where the drivers conducted some kind of exchange. The caller informed dispatch that this has been occurring at this location for weeks.

On Dec. 10 around 8:00 in the evening, a caller reported a house fire in Saratoga. The flames were reported to be coming from the second floor as residents of the home were vacating.

On Dec. 9 at 9:00 in the morning a Pittsville caller reported his

jacket had been stolen from his car or his home.

On Dec. 9 extra patrol was requested to the Dollar General parking lot due to a male who loitered in the parking lot, making employees feel uncomfortable when coming in or out of the store.

On Dec. 9 an Auburndale caller complained of manure being spread in a field that ended up on the road and was not cleaned up.

On Dec 9 at 10:20 in the morning a caller reported they had a gun pulled on them in Wisconsin Rapids. The caller was also punched in the face by the same individual.

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<b>Bacon</b> Applewood Smoked - Frozen 7.5 lbs.....ONLY <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> a lb	<b>Cream Cheese</b> 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz.....ONLY <b>99¢</b>	<b>Pan Spray</b> All Purpose 17 oz.....ONLY <b>99¢</b>
<b>Hot Dogs</b> Frozen 16 oz.....ONLY <b>99¢</b>	<b>Shredded Cheese</b> Three Cheese Blend 5 lbs.....ONLY <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Bologna</b> Thick Sliced 16 oz.....ONLY <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b>
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<b>Pulled Pork</b> Seasoned, Fully Cooked Frozen 19 oz.....ONLY <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Chicken Tenderloins</b> Skinless - Boneless Frozen 9 lbs.....ONLY <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> a lb	<b>French Fries</b> Waffle Cut - Frozen 22 oz.....ONLY <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>
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### Caring for you at PARK PLACE ADULT DAY SERVICES

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Park Place Adult Day Services is looking to hire a casual Client Care Assistant (CCA). Patient, kind, caring, individuals, please apply! Each position can be rewarding when given the opportunity to work with a vulnerable group of adults who may have physical and/or cognitive dysfunction, or perhaps a diagnosis of Dementia.

The CCA would be able to assist individuals with their activities of daily living, help those who are a part of the Bathing Program that Park Place offers to the community who request this service, engage those participants attending in mind stimulating activities like art, music, pet, cooking and reading, all to maintain a special dignity in a warm, caring, safe, and positive environment. Work hours would be variable, but a CCA could expect to work at least one to two 6 hour days per pay period and be given additional hours as needed.

Park Place Adult Day Services is open Monday through Friday, no holidays or weekends. Call 715-422-2795 or 715-422-2796 and ask for Director Karen to request a tour, an interview and an application!

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A local high school student participates in the Precision Machining event at the 2024 Regional SkillsUSA® Competition on Mid-State Technical College's Wisconsin Rapids Campus. This year's event will be held Friday, Jan. 17, at Mid-State's Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship (AMETA™) Center.

## Mid-State to host Regional SkillsUSA Competition at AMETA Center

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Mid-State Technical College will host high school and middle school students from across the state to compete in the Regional SkillsUSA® Competition on Friday, Jan. 17. This year's competition will be held at Mid-State's Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship (AM-ETA™) Center.

Participants will utilize the AMETA Center's classrooms and labs when com-

peting in 14 different career and technical education events. Events include Job Interview, Prepared Speech, Welding Sculpture, Precision Machining and more.

"This is the third year Mid-State has hosted the regional competition and the first time it's being held at the AMETA Center," said Ryan Kawski, dean of the School of Applied Technology. "We are excited for local middle and high school students to witness the AMETA Center's cut-

ting-edge technology, and we look forward to continuing the tradition of offering career and technical education opportunities in our community."

The AMETA Center is a facility training the next generation of Wisconsin's workforce. It is home to ten academic programs and five apprenticeships. Located in the Stevens Point Industrial Park, the AM-ETA Center is uniquely situated among central Wisconsin's top manufacturing leaders.

## Coats for Kids donates over 1,000 items to community

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Wisconsin Rapids Kiwanis Club has concluded the 2024 Coats for Kids program. With the help of many, they were able to provide over 1,000 items to youth in the local and surrounding areas.

The Wisconsin Rapids Kiwanis Club want to thank the community as a whole from individual monetary donations to brand-new and gently used items. They also want to extend a thank you to the donation collection sites: Wood County Sheriff's Department at the

Wood County Courthouse, Members' Advantage, Key Savings Bank, The Lowell Center, and Immanuel Lutheran School. Lastly, the Kiwanis Club thanks Kathi Havitz with Chat-r-Box Catering, Jere Winters with Kellner Club, Manke Auto Body, and Elite Trivia.

## Birth Announcement

On Dec. 6, 2024, Tabitha Krukowski and Joseph Alfuth welcomed their new baby boy, Jaxson Alfuth. Jaxson was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

## Alzheimers support group offering monthly meeting

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Alzheimer's caregiver support group meets monthly, offering a time for participants to share their experiences, ask questions and take time for themselves.

Join other caregivers from 9:30am to 11am the second Wednesday of the month at the Brehm Conference Room in Centralia Center, 220 Third Ave. S., Wisconsin Rapids. There is no charge to attend. The meeting is confidential

and open to anyone who is a caregiver for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or other type of dementia.

The group is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. Go to alz.org or call 800-272-3900 for more information or to register.

## Gov. Evers seeks applicants for Wood County Circuit Court

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WOOD COUNTY – Gov. Tony Evers announced that he is seeking applicants for the Wood County Circuit Court – Branch 1. The appointment will fill a vacancy created by Judge Gregory J. Potter's retirement. The new judge will

complete a term ending July 31, 2025.

To apply, please email a completed application form and supporting materials to GOVJudicialAppointments@wisconsin.gov. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 27, 2024. The ap-

plication can be found on the "Apply to Serve" page on Gov. Evers' website at: www.evers.wi.gov.

Applicants with questions about the judicial selection process may contact the Governor's Office of Legal Counsel at (608) 266-1212.

## Be festive and frugal as you deck the halls this year

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WOOD COUNTY — As you deck the halls, don't overload your outlets... or your energy bill. These simple tips will help you enjoy a festive, frugal and fire-free holiday season.

Make a list and check it twice. Use the holiday lighting cost calculator on Wisconsin Public Service's (WPS) website to compare your options this season and get an idea of what to expect on your energy bill.

Hanging 25,000 twinkle lights? Switch to LEDs. They use less energy com-

pared to old incandescent lights and can last up to 20 years.

Timing is everything. Put your holiday lights and powered outdoor decorations on a timer. That way, there's no risk you'll forget to turn them off when you go to bed.

Reflect on your options. Rather than adding more lights to your tree, brighten existing lighting with tinsel, mirrored ornaments and other reflective items.

Simplify and save. Consider using festive floodlights on the outside of

your home rather than multiple strands of string lights. Halogen and LED bulbs will use less energy.

Stay off the naughty list. Make sure to inspect your strands of lights and throw away any that are damaged. Also, don't overload your outlets or string too many lights together — follow the manufacturer's guidelines on how many strings you can connect and how to connect them safely.

For more energy efficiency tips, go to the WPS website.

### 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.wrwwlc.com](http://www.wrwwlc.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.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

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Recognize an individual, group or organization that's been working to prevent the spread of invasive species here in Wisconsin.

Photo by Wisconsin DNR.

# Invasive Species Council announces nominations open for 21st Annual Invasive Species Action Awards

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council is accepting nominations for the 21st annual Invasive Species Action Awards now through Feb. 16, 2025.

Award recipients are Wisconsin residents and

organizations that have made significant contributions to preventing, controlling or eradicating invasive species that harm Wisconsin's native wildlife, wetlands, forests, prairies, lakes and rivers. Nominees can be individuals, groups or organizations that have demonstrated exemplary efforts

to address issues surrounding terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council, an advisory council to the DNR, presents Invasive Species Action Awards for both volunteer and professional categories. A panel of judges selected by the council will review the nomination

materials and select the award winners. All nominators and winners will be notified in April, followed by an award recognition ceremony in June to celebrate Invasive Species Action Month.

To submit a nomination, download and fill out the form available on the Wisconsin Invasive Species

Council's webpage. The deadline for submissions is midnight on Feb. 16, 2025. Invasive species are nonnative plants and animals that cause ecological or economic harm, and some can affect human health. Once an invasive species is established in an area, it can be challenging

to control. Wisconsinites are encouraged to protect native plants and wildlife from invasive species by avoiding moving them or the materials that might harbor them to new places. To learn more about preventing the spread, visit the DNR's Invasive Species Prevention webpage.

# Celebrate 125 years of the Wisconsin State Park System in 2025

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is previewing a year-long celebration of the quasiquintennial anniversary of the Wisconsin State Park System in 2025. The public is invited to participate in the 125th anniversary celebration of the Wisconsin State Park System by spending time on public lands, attending commemorative events throughout the year and learning about the park system's history.

“More than 20 million people visit Wisconsin's state parks and forests every year to enjoy the great outdoors,” said Steve Schmelzer, DNR Parks and Recreation Management director. “Wisconsin is a recreation destination, and we are excited to provide a special experience to our visitors this year.”

Over the last 125 years, the state park system has shown commitment to natural resource stewardship and providing high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities to the people of Wisconsin. A broad spectrum of property types, including state parks, forests, recreation areas and trails, provide scenic, accessible and affordable spaces for visitors to recreate and enjoy the outdoors.



Photo by Wisconsin DNR.

In 1899, the Wisconsin state legislature approved an act providing funds to acquire land for what is today Interstate Park. The state park was established in 1900, with land acquisition beginning in September of that year. The establishment of Interstate Park also marks the founding of the Wisconsin State Park System, which has since grown to include state parks, forests, trails and recreation areas comprised of over 307,000 acres of public land.

“This anniversary celebration is not only a chance to acknowledge the contributions the Wisconsin State Park System has made to natural resource stewardship and outdoor recreation tourism over the last 125 years. It's also an opportunity to look to the future and highlight the investments that we are making to expand access to public lands and maintain a state park system that serves the health and wellbeing of the people of Wisconsin long-term,” said Diane Brusoe, DNR Fish, Wildlife and Parks division

administrator. Since 1900, Wisconsin has established 50 state parks, 44 state trails, 15 state forests, 9 state recreation areas and 8 river and resource areas. Today, the DNR continues to invest in programs and initiatives that ensure this statewide system of outdoor recreation properties remains an accessible connection to Wisconsin's natural resources for visitors.

Over the next 125 years, the Wisconsin State Park System will prioritize investments in programs that: Provide relevant and innovative enhancements that benefit the customer experience, planting of native species and integration of web-based technologies such as the online pass sales platform. Maintain and improve public access and recreational facilities on DNR-managed lands throughout the state. Expand access to public lands and outdoor recreation through universal and adaptive recreation equipment and amenities, community-based partner-

ships like the Check Out Wisconsin State Parks At Your Library program and a focus on beginner-friendly skill-building programming from industry experts. The DNR will commemorate the 125th anniversary with celebrations and special events led by state park system staff and partners. Visitors are encouraged to visit the DNR Events calendar to find details on events happening throughout the year. Contributions by Friends Groups, volunteers and community partners are vital to the success of event offerings. Learn more about how to get involved on the DNR's Volunteer Opportunities webpage.

Wisconsin State Park System visitors are invited to try something new in 2025. Equipment rentals allow customers to participate in outdoor recreation activities that require extra gear, such as kayaking, canoeing or bicycling, without needing to buy equipment. This is an excellent option for beginners

**State Parks**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

## Come join us for lunch!

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin serves lunch at

**Centralia Center in Wisconsin Rapids**  
Mondays - Fridays at 11:30 am

**Nekoosa Community Center**  
Mondays and Wednesdays at noon

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Community Calendar

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To submit calendar events, please email information to [entertainment@mmclocal.com](mailto:entertainment@mmclocal.com)

**BAR BEATS**  
Thursday January 9-The Swing Doctors · Bullseye Golf Club, Wisconsin Rapids. 16-piece jazz/swing. 7 pm. 715-423-2230

**ON STAGE**  
Pete Revelle & 4 on the Floor · Thurs. 12/19, Central Wisconsin Cultural Center, 2651 8 th St, S, Wisconsin Rapids. Jazz. Starts at 2 pm. Free admission. [culturalcenterarts.com](http://culturalcenterarts.com)

**EVENTS/SPECTATOR SPORTS**  
Learn to Curl · Wednesdays 12/4-12/18, Tri-City Curling Club, 131 Hurley St, Wisconsin Rapids. Learn the stone delivery, sweeping; scoring. Wear loose clothes; clean shoes. Starts at 6 pm. \$40 adults, \$15 for ages 21; under. 715-421-5607

Ruby's Pantry Mobile Food Distribution · Sat. 12/21, hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church at Pitsch Early Learning Center, 501 17th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Food bundles available from 8 am-9:15 am. \$25 per bundle. <https://www.rubyspantry.org/>

**ARTS/EXHIBITS**  
The Alexander House · Opens Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1131, Wisconsin River Drive, Port Edwards. Art gallery and historical museum with a focus on lumbering and papermaking exhibits. Opens 1 pm-4 pm. <http://alexanderhouseonline.org/>

Central Wisconsin Cultural Center · Opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 2651 8th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Open from 10 am-5 pm. Free admission. <http://www.culturalcenterarts.com/index.html>

South Wood County Historical Museum · Exhibits closed until 4/1, 540 3rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. Office will be open Tues.-Thurs. from 10 am-3 pm. <http://www.swch-museum.com/>

**LIFELINES**  
Blood Drive · Wed. 12/18, McMillan Library, 490 E. Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10 am. [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
  
Blood Drive · Thurs. 1/2, McMillan Library, 490 E. Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10 am. [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

A New Year with New Beginnings

Dear Reader,

As the calendar turns to another New Year, we find ourselves at a familiar crossroads, a time for renewal and reflection. It's a time when we take stock of our lives, weighing the good against the bad, and consider the impact we've had on the world around us. The New Year offers a chance to set new goals and make resolutions in the hopes of becoming the best versions of ourselves.

Yet, as many of us know, the resolve we feel on January 1st can be fleeting. How often do we revisit our resolutions a year later, only to find they've been forgotten, buried under the weight of daily routines and unexpected challenges? Despite our best intentions, life has a way of diverting our focus, and those grand plans can slip away unnoticed.

But perhaps that's okay. The beauty of the New Year lies not just in our ambitions but in the grace we grant ourselves when we fall short. It's a time to acknowledge our humanity, to understand that growth is not always linear, and that the journey itself—full of missteps and lessons—is what truly matters.

So as we step into this New Year, let's embrace the opportunity to dream, to set intentions, and to strive for better. But let's also be kind to ourselves when we stumble, and remember that each new day brings with it the possibility of renewal.

Wishing you a joyous New Year, full of hope, reflection, and the endless potential of new beginnings.



PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.

Business DIRECTORY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS BUSINESS DIRECTORY, PLEASE CALL 715-256-4446

**STATE PARKS**  
FROM PAGE 4

or those looking to develop their skills.


The public is encouraged to participate in the 125th anniversary celebration by purchasing their 2025 Wisconsin state park and forest vehicle admission pass early in the year. Both daily and 12-month vehicle admission and trail passes are available for purchase online. Customers who order their 12-month vehicle admission pass online will have it shipped directly to their preferred address. In 2025, the 12-month state park and forest vehicle admission passes will be valid until the date marked on the pass rather than expiring at the end of the year.

Over the last several years, interest in camping in state campgrounds has remained high. More than 6,000 Wisconsin State Park System campsites offer a range of camping experiences, including standard, group, backpack and water access sites; accessible campsites and cabins for persons with disabilities; indoor group camps and equestrian campgrounds.

All Wisconsin State Park System campsites require a reservation. The DNR recommends customers make reservations for the 2025 season early, as reservations are subject to availability. The reservation site's "notify me" feature can alert customers when a site meeting their selected criteria becomes available.

Obituaries

Margaret "Jean" Podvin



Margaret "Jean" Podvin Family and friends lost a uniquely gifted mother, spouse, and confidant with Jean Podvin's death from dementia caused by Alzheimer's on December 11, 2024, with family and friends tending to her in her final days.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at Ritchay Funeral Home in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Visitation will be held from 9:00 AM until the time of service at 11:00 AM. Private family graveside services will be held at Restlawn Memorial Park at a later date.

Jean was born on March 2, 1943 in Erie, Pennsylvania, daughter of C.L. "Jim" and Ruth (Garrison) Syberkrop. She married David Daniel Dykema on January 5, 1963, and together they settled in Vesper, Wisconsin, with their two daughters, Gretchen Rickey and Jill Brown. David died in 1991. Jean then married Francis J. Podvin on February 5, 1993 and became a second mother to Fran's son, John Podvin.

After graduating from Lyons Township High School, La-Grange, Illinois, in 1961, Jean graduated from Patricia Stevens Executive Secretary School, Chicago, Illinois, in 1962 and embarked on a long career as a bookkeeper – first, for Rural Disposal Service, a garbage collection business started in 1971 with her first husband, which ended with his death; second, as a financial director, then executive director of Woodland Girl Scout Council from 1973 to 2002; third, with service on the Board of Directors and later executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Wisconsin Rapids; fourth, as financial director for Podvin Law Firm; and fifth, as bookkeeper for a host of friends and their businesses over the years.

After Jean's marriage to Fran in Maui, Hawaii, she began to travel with Fran and later with her many friends, with trips to Europe, Asia, South America, the Caribbean islands, and 30 years of repeat winter visits to Maui.

Along her journey through life, Jean was compassionate to friends, a great cook and hostess to family and friends, an astute observer of human nature with the ability to detect goodness and warmth in all she met. Among Jean's most memorable attributes was her love of animals of all kinds. She had dogs, cats, horses, cows, rabbits, and squirrels which she loved and took care of. She had a reputation as a dog whisperer because when she met one it took minutes for them to fall in love with her.

Jean will be missed by her two daughters, Gretchen, Baraboo, Wisconsin, and Jill (Dan), Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, and her almost son, John (Stefani), Dallas, Texas. Jean doted on and will be missed by her grandchildren, Haley (Don) Oelke and Jacob Rickey, and John's children, Jack Podvin and Caroline Podvin. In addition, Jean's great-grandchildren, Lillian, Ruby, and August, were always in her heart.

During Jean's fight against dementia, Sandy Glaman entered her life, telling her she no longer needed to drive because she would see to it that Jean got to all of her appointments. That promise resulted in a friendship between Jean and Sandy that grew and remained for the last year and a half. Sandy was a constant presence in Jean's life, taking her to her gym for as long as Jean was able and constantly spending time at Arborview Memory Center, making sure Jean was well cared for. Nobody could ever imagine such a caring, loving angel to enter into their life.

The writer Thomas Stanley once described a successful life: someone who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has the respect of intelligent people, and the love of little children; who has filled a niche and accomplished a task; who has left the world better than he or she found it; who has never lacked appreciation for the earth's beauty, or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others, and given the best he or she had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benediction. By any measure, Jean had a successful life.

The family would like to thank Dr. Claire Natividad and the staff at Arborview Memory Center and Heartland Hospice for their kindness and care to Jean.

Services will be at Ritchay Funeral Home on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 11:00 am, with visitation from 9:00 am to the time of service. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a memorial in Jean's honor to either Best Friends Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Road, Kanab UT 84741, or the Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area Foundation Endowment A, PO Box 1175, Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495-1175.

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# Legal

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**STATE OF WISCONSIN - CIRCUIT COURT – ADAMS COUNTY CREATIVE FINANCE, INC.** 815 Business Park Road PO Box 454 Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965, Plaintiff, v.

**JEREMY ALLEN HAYES** 1022 Long Bow Court Nekoosa, WI 54457 Defendant. Case No. 24CV130 **SUMMONS** THE STATE OF WISCONSIN To each person named above as a Defendant:

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above Creative Finance, Inc., by its attorney, Christopher M. Kern, filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within Forty (40) days the 3rd day of December, 2024, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is: Clerk of Circuit Court, Adams County Courthouse, 401 Adams Street Suite 6, Friendship, Wisconsin 53934, and to Plaintiff's attorney, Christopher M. Kern, 815 Business Park Road, PO Box 454, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, 53965. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within forty (40) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. Dated this 3rd day of December, 2024. **General Counsel for Plaintiff** Signed By: Christopher M. Kern Christopher M. Kern State Bar Number: 1093883 Creative Finance, Inc. 815 Business Park Road P.O. Box 454 Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965 Phone: (608) 254-6855 Fax: (608) 253-5005 legal@creativefinanceinc.com Publish December 11, 18 and 25, 2024 WNAXLXP



Senior swimmer José De La Cruz Chi.

# DC Everest takes first against LHS boys swim

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – DC Everst came out with a victory over Lincoln High School’s boys swim team with a score of 101-65.

Head coach David Wittenberg said, “As head coach of the Lincoln High boys swim team, I want to congratulate DC Everest

on their impressive performance in our meet, earning a 101-65 victory. While this outcome is not what we hoped for, I’m incredibly proud of our team’s effort, sportsmanship, and the progress we made throughout the competition.”

Despite the final score, Lincoln High School

achieved several personal records (PRs).

A special highlight was the thrilling come-from-behind victory in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:47.55. Swimmers José De La Cruz Chi, David Lee, Milan Montero, and anchor Brycen Henslin showed the grit and determination.

# The WRSC sets club records at Tomahawk Invitational

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club traveled to Tomahawk on Dec. 7 to swim at the Tomahawk Invite. A total of eight teams from the Central Wisconsin Swim Conference attended. “The Krakens had a mix of new swimmers along with many of our veterans. We are blessed to have a wonderful group of senior athletes that will take the time to get the beginners where they need to be for each race.” said Head Coach Dave Kontz. “It is this connection that makes Rapids one of the best clubs in the CWSC.”

The Krakens started the morning with Milo Jennings placing first in the 50yd Backstroke, second in the 25yd Backstroke and a pair of third places in the 25yd and 50yd Freestyle; Anna Gumz finished fourth in the 25yd Freestyle, sixth place in the 25yd Backstroke, and eighth place in the 100yd Backstroke.

Travis McMahon captured first place, a Personal Record (PR), and set a new club record in the 50yd Freestyle. Travis also had a pair of seconds and set new club records in the 50yd Breaststroke and 200yd Freestyle; Jenessa Rucinski was seventh in the 50yd Butterfly and had a PR in the 50yd Freestyle.

Nigel Schultz is back after qualifying for the state meet last year. Nigel scored a second and set a new club record in the 100yd Individual Medley. Nigel finished second in the 100yd Freestyle and placed third in the 50yd Breaststroke; Rhiannon Zabawa set a PR in the 50yd Freestyle and 50yd Backstroke.

WRSC new swimmers finished as followed: Noah Grosskopf, swam to a sixth place in the 50yd Backstroke and seventh PR in the 50yd Freestyle; Mason Ironside won in the 50yd Backstroke and a third in the 50yd Freestyle; Gavin Bernette with seventh place in the 50yd Backstroke and eighth in



Travis McMahon

the 50yd Freestyle; Emma Kay had a PR in the 50yd freestyle.

The morning session ended with the boys finishing in first place and a new club record in the 200yd Freestyle Relay. Swimming for the Krakens were Nigel Schultz, Mason Ironside, Gavin Bernette, and Travis McMahon.

The afternoon session started off with the senior boys placing first in the 200yd Medley Relay with Joey Doebereiner, AJ Plummer, Tretton Delaney, and Jameson Bernette. The senior girls finished in fourth place in the 200yd Medley Relay with Willow Devine, Vivian Zacher, Addison Borek, and Kasia Jestadt. The middle school girls finished in third place in the 200yd Medley Relay with Mackenzie Miloch, Claira Jennings, Mya Marquard, and Kyndel Borek.

The Freestyle events started with Vivian Zacher and Addison Borek finishing in first and second, respectively in the 50yd Freestyle. Vivian went on to finish fourth in the 100yd Freestyle and fifth in the 50yd Breaststroke. Addison scored a first place in the 50yd Butterfly and second in the 50yd Breaststroke.

In the senior men’s 50yd Freestyle, AJ Plummer and Tretton Delaney finished in first and second, respec-

tively. AJ went on to win the 100yd Individual Medley and place second in the 100yd Butterfly. Tretton finished the day by winning both the 100yd and 500yd Freestyle.

In other male events, Joey Doebereiner wins the senior 50yd Backstroke (PR), third in the 100yd Freestyle (PR) and fourth in the 50yd Freestyle (PR); Chris Carlson placed fourth in the 50yd Backstroke, sixth in the 100yd Backstroke, and eighth in the 100yd Freestyle; and finally Jameson Bernette wins his division in the 100yd Freestyle and second in the 100yd Individual Medley.

In other female events, Claira Jennings place third in the 100yd Breaststroke, and tenth in the 100yd Individual Medley; Kasia Jestadt finished in fourth in the 100yd Individual Medley and seventh in the 100yd Freestyle; Miloch Mackenzie had a pair of seventh places in the 100yd Individual Medley and 50yd Backstroke; Payton Kraklow received a PR in the 50yd Freestyle and Kyndel Borek received a PR in the 50yd Breaststroke.

The afternoon session ended with the senior men placing first in the 200yd Freestyle Relay with Joey Doebereiner, AJ Plummer,



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**Wishing Everyone a  
Happy Holiday Season!**

*Gloria & Kelli*

Our Offices will be Closed  
**December 23, 2024 –  
 December 27, 2024**

There will be no issue of the  
 Wisconsin Rapids City Times  
 on January 1, 2025

We'll be back on January 2, 2025






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# “The Wealth InFormation Lady”: Social Security: Often Misunderstood



## The Wealth InFormation Lady

BY LOUANN SCHULFER, AWMA®, AIF®  
ACCREDITED WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT ADVISOR SM  
ACCREDITED INVESTMENT  
FIDUCIARY®, PUBLISHED AUTHOR

The Social Security program is complex and often misunderstood. If you work and receive a paycheck, you understand that you are paying into the system because you see the deduction from your wages. Those tax payments are then used to pay other people who are receiving benefits. In 2023,

employees pay 6.2% of the first \$160,200 of their wages. The amount of income that is taxed has increased each year. For example, that number is up from 2022, when it was \$147,000. In 2021, workers were taxed on the first \$142,800 of wages, which was up from 2020 at \$137,700. Em-

ployers must pay a matching amount, an additional 6.2%, for a total of 12.4% on the wage base. For those of us who are self-employed, we pay the whole 12.4%. For example, if you make \$160,200 or more in 2023, you will pay \$9,932 in social security taxes and your employer (who is you if you are self-employed) also pays another \$9,932. That's a total of \$19,864. Throughout the decades the social security tax paid on earned income has also risen substantially, with the total percentage of tax paid by the employer and employee increasing by over 500% since 1951:

1951	2.25%
1960	4.50%
1970	6.3%
1980	7.05%
1990	12.4%, where it has remained since
The maximum retirement benefits for new recipients in 2023 are as follows:	
\$2,572 / mo (\$30,864/year) at age 62	
\$3,808 / mo (\$45,696/year) at age 67	
\$4,555 / mo (\$54,660/year) at age 70 ii	
A couple both receiving max benefit at age 67 would collect \$91,392 this year, while a couple both earning the max benefit at 70 would take home \$109,320 in social security income. The aver-	

age benefit paid to retired workers in 2023 is \$1,688.69 per month.  
Go to [ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov) to find your statement. It clearly shows what you and your employers have paid into the system. It also shows an estimate of what you'll receive when you begin claiming your benefit. Simple math will tell you your "break even", the point when you'll get more out of the system than you've paid in. This often surprises people and is one of the aspects of social security that is often misunderstood.  
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i. Social Security Tax Rates ([ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov)) [www.ssa.gov/OACT/ProgData/oasdiRates.html](https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/ProgData/oasdiRates.html)  
ii. Maximum-taxable benefit examples ([ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov))  
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## WRSC

FROM PAGE 6

Tretton Delaney, and Jameison Bernette. The senior women finished in first place in their 200yd Freestyle Relay with Willow Devine, Vivian Zacher, Addison Borek, and Kasia Jestadt. Finally, the middle school girls set a new club record in the 200yd Freestyle Relay and finished in second place with Mackenzie Miloch, Clairra Jennings, Mya Marquard, and Kyndel Borek.

The Krakens rounded out 2024 with a swim meet in Phillips on Dec. 14. The Central Wisconsin Swim Conference starts 2025 with meets in Merrill on Jan. 11, Minocqua on Jan. 18, and the first WRCS home meet

on Jan. 25.

The Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club (WRSC) is a non-profit organization open to the public. The Club is part of the Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Department. WRSC is designed exclusively for educational, competitive, and recreational purposes. The Krakens are geared for children ages 5-18. Practices are at the Lincoln High School Community pool on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. For more information on how to join the Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club, call the Wisconsin Rapids Parks and Recreation Department at (715) 421-8240 or visit the Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club Facebook page.



Delta Dental of Wisconsin recently traveled to the The Family Center in Wisconsin Rapids to donate pajamas, books, and toothbrushes. Brush, Book, Bed is an American Academy of Pediatrics program with a message for parents and guardians: each night, help your child(ren) brush their teeth, read a favorite book, and get to bed at a regular time. The program is intended for kids six months to six years old and aims to improve oral health at home by linking oral health information with messages about early literacy and sleep, and establishing a regular nighttime routine that includes two minutes of brushing (two times a day – not just at night.) DDWI collects pajamas and books for newborns up to 14 years old.

TheRiverChurchInc.com

Join Us For A 1 Hour

CHRISTMAS

EVE SERVICE

Tuesday Dec. 24th @ 6 PM

THE RIVER CHURCH

4811 Plover Road  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494