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LOCAL

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

City Times

Buyers' Guide

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024 ■ VOLUME 40 ■ ISSUE 52 ■ 715-256-4446 ■ WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

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MMC  
MULTI MEDIA CHANNELS  
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# MMC announces holiday break for printed editions

PATRICK WOOD  
PUBLISHER

WOOD COUNTY – MMC will not publish a printed edition of this paper be-

tween Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. This will allow our employees to enjoy quality time with their families during the holiday season. This publication will

resume publishing on its regular day after the new year begins. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you a joyous holiday season!

# Arrest made in suspicious death

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – On Dec. 12, 2024 the Adams County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Crimi-

nal Investigation arrested Cory A. Beck, age 38 of Friendship.

Cory has been arrested on the following charges; two counts of First Degree

Intentional Homicide, and two counts of Hiding a Corpse. Cory is currently incarcerated in the Adams County Jail awaiting court proceedings.

HOME GAME VS STEELE COUNTY BLADES

Friday, January 3 & Saturday, January 4 7:00 PM

SOUTH WOOD COUNTY REC CENTER 2711 16TH STREET • WISCONSIN RAPIDS

10

FRIDAY NIGHT SKATE WITH THE PLAYERS!

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THE LANTERN RESTAURANT & BAR

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Food Service: Wednesday - Friday 11a-2p & 4:30p-8p

FOR DINNER SERVICE 4:30-8PM  
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For More Information Visit  
www.foreindrglf.com

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

MMC  
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(some items not included)





Chris Pupols with his 15-month-old son Jack, currently in the ICU after sustaining critical injuries on a Dec. 2 crash.

# Rudolph toddler remains in ICU two weeks after crash

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – On Dec. 2, Kamie Pupols and her two children, Olivia (6) and Jack (15 months), were injured when a car slammed into their vehicle in Rudolph. While they all sustained multiple broken bones, 15-month-old Jack still resides in the ICU.

Jack was on the side of the vehicle that was directly impacted by the speeding pick up truck that hit the family’s car. Jack’s injuries include a cracked skull that led to

brain swelling, which affected many other bodily functions. Jack is unable to breathe on his own or move the left side of his body.

Kamie suffered multiple broken bones on the left side of her body and will be faced with months of therapy to regain the ability to walk.

Olivia suffered from a fractured skull and spent two nights in the ICU.

A GoFundMe has been set up by immediate family members to the Pupols

family to raise money for the two helicopters it took to transport Olivia and Jack to Marshfield Clinic, Kamie’s ambulance ride, medical treatment costs, and to renovate parts of the Pupols house in order to now make it disability accessible in order for Kamie to return home.

The Pupols family is looking to raise \$40,000 through their GoFundMe found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-kamie-and-jacks-road-to-recovery?cdn-cache=0>

# One deceased in Auburndale crash

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – On Dec. 13, 2024 at approximately 5:40 p.m. Wood County Sheriff’s Department responded to US Highway 10 at County Highway P, Township of Auburndale, for a two vehicle accident.

Initial investigation revealed a car with two occupants was headed north across US Highway 10. This vehicle failed to

stop for stop sign, and was struck by a SUV traveling westbound on US Highway 10.

Drivers of both vehicles were taken to Marshfield Medical Center for non-life threatening injuries. The passenger of the car, Kasey Ramthun (17) of Vesper, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the car was Trenton Lawry (17) of Wisconsin Rapids. The driver of

the SUV was Breanna Karl (26) of Milladore.

The incident is currently under investigation. Agencies that assisted the Wood County Sheriff’s Department were Wisconsin State Patrol, Auburndale Fire and Rescue, Wood County Highway Department, Dave’s Service Center, Tom-Lin and Son, Marshfield Fire and Rescue.

# Local students celebrate graduation from Minnesota State University, Mankato

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Minnesota State University, Mankato awarded 2,016 degrees to 1,696 students at the end of the fall 2024 semester. Wood County graduates include from Marsh-

field, WI, Jordan Dzikowich graduated with a BS in Psychology and Cum Laude honors. Also from Marshfield. Joseph Goettl graduated with a BS in Marketing and Cum Laude honors, in addition to his CERT in

Business Analytics.

From Wisconsin Rapids, Kendall Schmidt graduated with a BS in Psychology and Cum Laude honors. Also from Wisconsin Rapids, Matthew Swisher graduated with a BS.

# Gov. Evers, DNR announce 2025 Urban Forestry Program Grant Recipients

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the Urban Forestry (UF) Grant Program recipients for the 2025 grant year. In addition to helping fund projects consistent with state and national goals for increasing the urban forest canopy, reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere, and improving the quality of life and public health of communities, the UF Grant Program will help advance goals outlined in Gov. Evers’ Trillion Trees Pledge commitment, which includes planting 1 million trees in urban areas by the end of 2030.

Wood County grant recipients include \$25,000

awarded to the city of Marshfield for ash tree removal and replacement and Port Edwards which received \$24,781.71 to replant shade trees in the village and parks.

“Our state forests and green spaces are vital to lowering the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, providing outdoor recreational opportunities and protection from the summer heat, preserving local wildlife habitats, and ultimately uplifting our statewide economy,” said Gov. Evers. “We are confident that with help from our state and federal partners, these Urban Forestry grants will help bolster Wisconsin’s forestry industry and protect our state’s ecosystems so that we leave our future generations with

a better world than the one we inherited.”

Through the UF Grant Program, \$630,000, which includes \$70,000 in federal funding, will be awarded to 43 applicants, with awards ranging from \$1,824 to \$25,000 to support new, innovative projects to develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs. Two types of competitive grants were available for this application cycle, including regular and startup grants. Regular grants award up to \$25,000 to support new, innovative projects to develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs. Startup grants are simplified grants that award up to \$5,000 to communities that want to start or restart an urban forestry program.

# Celebrate the season by giving blood or platelets

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Dec. is a time to close out the year by making new memories. With just one week left in 2024, the American Red Cross asks donors to give blood or platelets now to help those in need enjoy the rest of the holiday season with loved ones. Donors with type O negative blood and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now so patients can continue to receive the care they count on in the coming weeks.

This is a busy time for many. In addition to travel, seasonal illness and the threat of winter weather

can also lead to lower appointment numbers and decreased donor turnout, making it tougher to keep the blood supply stable. Those who give regularly and those looking to give for the first time are encouraged to take one hour this Dec. to help save lives with a blood or platelet donation.

Those who come to give Dec. 16, 2024-Jan. 3, 2025, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

To extend a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood, platelets and plasma during the critical post-holiday time, those

who come to give Jan. 1-26, 2025, during National Blood Donor Month, will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans. Details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl](http://RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl).

**Wood County Donation Opportunities:**

Pittsville  
1/3/2025: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.,  
Lions Club Building, 5572 Fourth Ave  
Wisconsin Rapids  
1/2/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.,  
McMillan Library, 490 E. Grand Avenue

# Area graduates celebrate commencement from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

WOOD COUNTY – The following graduates are among 1,340 prospective candidates for degree attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement that was held on Dec. 15.

UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with over 22,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

From Hewitt, WI, Steph-

nie Rhodes graduates from Peck School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

From Pittsville, WI, Rebekah Downs graduates from College of Engineering and Applied Science with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

From Wisconsin Rapids, WI, Alaina Bechard graduates from Peck School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Arts.

Hannah Carlin graduates from Peck School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Dylan Engelbright graduates from College of Engineering and Applied Science with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

From Withee, WI, Nichole Hougard graduates from School of Information Studies with a Master of Library and Information Science.

# Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement campaign begins

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin State Patrol is joined by law enforcement agencies throughout the state stepping up patrols to stop impaired driving during the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. The national effort begins Dec. 13 and runs through New Year’s Day.

With the holiday season and celebrations in the works, drivers are urged to plan for a sober ride ahead of time. Impairment can cloud judgement, so designate a sober driver prior to celebrating. If you are the designated driver, take that responsibility seriously. If you’re hosting a gathering, consider how your guests will get home. Identify rideshare options before you get to the celebra-

tion. There is no reason to drive impaired.

During the last holiday season (Dec. 15, 2023-Jan. 1, 2024), there were 393 crashes involving impaired drivers in Wisconsin. Those incidents killed 12 people and injured 197 others.

“Getting behind the wheel while impaired is a dangerous decision with consequences that can harm yourself and others,” Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. “Law enforcement officers will be out with a greater presence this holiday season to keep the roads safe for everyone, but drivers need to take the first step and make responsible choices.”

The Wisconsin State Patrol works to assist local law

enforcement agencies with obtaining specialty training to detect impairment and get dangerous drivers off the road. Over 7,500 officers in Wisconsin are trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and the state has among the most Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) in the nation, with nearly 400 officers who have completed DRE training.

Impaired driving has many consequences for a driver in addition to the potential for a crash. OWI convictions can cost around \$10,000, including fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates and vehicle services. A driver can also lose their license and vehicle because of an OWI conviction.



Dear Friends and Family, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love and support you have shown my family and me during this incredibly difficult time. Your generous donations have provided us with comfort and relief after the loss of my husband, Ken Schunke. Your kindness has touched our hearts and reminded us that we are not alone in this journey. Thank you for being there for us, for your compassion, and for honoring his memory in such a meaningful way. We are truly grateful to have all of you in our lives. With all my love and appreciation,

Nicole Schunke



# Aspirus Health Therapist offers tips for a healthier holiday

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – For many, the holiday season brings a sense of joy and celebration. However, for others, the pressure to meet unrealistic expectations can lead to significant stress and anxiety. Janet Wimmer, a clinical therapist with Aspirus Health, shares expert advice on how to manage these challenges and prioritize mental wellness during this busy time of year.

“One of the biggest challenges is the unrealistic picture of the holidays that’s often portrayed in advertisements and media,” says Wimmer. “We see perfect, magical get-togethers, but our expectations don’t always align, which can lead to anxiety, frustration, and increased stress.”

Wimmer encourages individuals to adjust their mindset by focusing on what they can truly enjoy, rather than striving for a “perfect” holiday. She also advises managing financial pressures by planning ahead and sticking to a budget.



Janet Wimmer, clinical therapist with Aspirus Health.

“Make a budget, plan ahead, and only spend what you can afford. Consider homemade gifts or heartfelt cards as meaningful alternatives to expensive presents,” she suggests.

Beyond finances, setting boundaries and managing time is essential for maintaining mental well-being during the holidays.

“Don’t be afraid to say no to invitations or certain responsibilities,” Wimmer advises. “Choose the activities and traditions that you truly enjoy and protect your

time and energy.” She cautions against letting the pressure to overdo things disrupt sleep, work, or relationships.

For those experiencing grief, the holidays can feel particularly heavy, especially if it’s the first holiday after the loss of a loved one.

“Grief is especially significant around the holidays,” Wimmer notes. “Reach out for support through bereavement groups or connect with friends and family. Don’t be afraid to mention your lost loved one and share memories—those moments can provide comfort.”

Lastly, Wimmer emphasizes the importance of self-care during the holiday season. “Slow down, breathe deeply, and take breaks when you need them,” she recommends. “Prioritizing your mental health will help you navigate the season with greater peace and joy.”

By adjusting expectations, setting boundaries, and focusing on self-care, individuals can experience a more peaceful and fulfilling holiday season.

# Welcome the New Year with comedy

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Start the year out with some laughter on Friday, Jan. 31, and see Jeff Allen: Are We There Yet? at 7:30 pm at the Performing Arts Center of Wisconsin Rapids, 1801 16th Street South.

Allen’s comedy drives home the humor in everyday family life and is a hit with all ages. His honesty offers a unique glimpse into his crazy world. He has appeared on Dry

Bar Comedy, Comedy Central, VH1, and America’s Got Talent, to name a few.

The Arts Council of South Wood County is presenting this show in conjunction with a fundraiser for Opportunity Development Center’s “Opportunity for Hope” recovery service. According to Sally Kissner, Executive Director of The Arts Council, “Since Allen is a recovered addict, we saw this as a way to impact our local community in recognition of his continued sobriety and donate \$3 from each ticket sold to



Arts Council

this worthy cause.”

Anyone wishing to donate more than the \$3 per ticket may do so through The Arts Council’s website, under Donations, then select the dropdown menu that specifies “Opportunity for Hope.”

Tickets are \$47 for adults and \$10 for students and are available at [www.SavorTheArts.com](http://www.SavorTheArts.com) 24/7. For personal assistance, stop by 1040 8th Street South, Suite 101, Wisconsin Rapids, or call 715-424-2787, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 – 2:30. There are no tick-

eting fees; only sales tax is added. Pull together a group of family or friends and save 15% on 10 or more tickets purchased in one transaction—just call The Arts Council or stop in.

Show sponsors include WSAW Channel 7, Stifel | The Koss Wealth Management Team, Williams Plumbing & Heating, and Point & Plover Publication.

# Mid-State brings workforce and adult education services to rural communities

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Mid-State Technical College announces its Tailored Solutions for Adults and Employers Roadshow, an event series designed to bring personalized workforce and adult education services directly to rural communities.

The series of events begins in Jan. and wraps up in June with stops in Granton, Auburndale and Pittsville. At each stop, Mid-State workforce and adult education experts will be on-site to provide customized guidance.

Sierra Van Rixel, workforce and professional development consultant, will work closely with employers through one-on-one workforce consulta-

tions. Sierra can help businesses tackle key workforce challenges, offering strategies for employee development, training opportunities and business growth solutions.

Zach Edwards, adult outreach coordinator and pathway navigator, will also be available to guide adults through personalized career consultations, helping to explore education options, career changes or advancement opportunities. Zach provides tailored advice on getting started at Mid-State, finding the right programs and building a path to career success.

Tailored Solutions for Adults and Employers Roadshow dates:

Wednesday, Jan. 8, from

8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Granton Community Library

Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Auburndale Village Shelter

Wednesday, March 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Paulie’s Diner in Pittsville

Wednesday, April 2, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Granton Community Library

Wednesday, May 7, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Paulie’s Diner in Pittsville

Wednesday, June 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Auburndale Village Shelter

To learn more about the Tailored Solutions for Adults and Employers Roadshow and opportunities on the Marshfield Campus, visit [mstc.edu/right-here](http://mstc.edu/right-here).

## Come join us for lunch!

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

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Mondays - Fridays at 11:30 am

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Mondays and Wednesdays at noon

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Suggested contribution is \$6.00 a meal

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Mon. Jan. 13th, 6PM- ONLINE ONLY - Mon. Jan. 20th, 6PM- ONLINE ONLY

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16 oz

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6 lbs

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a lb

Pizza

Pepperoni - Frozen

18.2 oz

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Burn'd Pork Ends

Fully Cooked-Pit Smoked, Frozen

5 lbs

ONLY \$2.89

a lb

Bacon

Sliced Maple - Frozen

16 oz

ONLY \$2.99

Bratwurst

Original Fully Cooked - Frozen

19 oz

ONLY \$1.99

Hashbrowns

Oval Patties - Frozen

45 oz

ONLY \$2.99

Pork Crumbles

Fully Cooked, Frozen

5 lbs

ONLY 99¢

a lb

American Cheese

Processed - Sliced

5 lbs

ONLY \$8.99

Cheddar Cheese

Shredded

5 lbs

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Monterey Jack Cheddar

Shredded Cheese

25 lbs

ONLY \$1.49

a lb

Cream Cheese

1/3 Less Fat

8 oz

ONLY 99¢

Cheddar Cheese

5 lbs

ONLY \$2.49

a lb

Pepper Jack Cheese

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5 lbs

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5 lbs

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Breaded - Frozen

32 oz

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Mini

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Mayo

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- 12/27 – Jon Peck & The Bad Dogs 7pm
- 12/29 – 11:30am-Close - Noon Packers
- NYE 12/31 – Mic Drop Karaoke 9pm - ??
- January 1, 2025 - 2pm - Close



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# Nursing graduates recognized in Mid-State's fall 2024 pinning ceremony

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Mid-State Technical College recognized the achievements of its 37 Nursing program completers in a pinning ceremony Dec. 17 on the Wisconsin Rapids Campus. Graduates were joined by their family and friends in the celebration.

The nursing pinning ceremony is a celebratory endcap to a nursing student's academic journey and a bridge between nursing school and a nursing career. It honors and celebrates nursing students and their path to becoming a nurse. It is also a day of celebration for the nursing faculty who have helped the students reach their goals.

Dec. 2024 Nursing graduate, Chiaki Friemoth of Neillsville, considers the nursing pinning ceremony to be a pivotal moment in the nursing journey. "It recognizes our hard work, per-



The Fall 2024 Nursing Class

severance, sacrifices and everything in between to get to where we are today," she said. After graduation, Friemoth will begin Marshfield Clinic's Emergency Department (ED) Critical Care Nurse Residency Pro-

gram in Marshfield.

"I found out about Mid-State's Nursing program's stellar reputation before I started, so I was glad I made the right decision," Friemoth added. "It is a great foundation when working towards being an RN, then you have the option to do a BSN after if you choose to. I really liked that our instructors have first-hand experiences that they share with us and incorporate in their lectures."

"I am incredibly proud of our Nursing graduates," said Deb Johnson-Schuh, dean of the School of Nursing. "The pinning ceremony marks not just the culmination of hard work, but the beginning of a life-long commitment to caring for others. The journey to becoming a nurse is driven by passion and a deep desire to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families."

"Our community needs more nurses—those who are not only prepared with the knowledge and expertise but who also embody the heart and empathy required to provide exceptional care," added Johnson-Schuh. "I have no doubt

this group of graduates will rise to meet this critical need and make an enduring impact in healthcare."

For Mid-State's pinning ceremony, each graduating student selects a registered nurse who is a family member, friend or faculty member to join them on stage to place the nursing pin on the graduate during the ceremony, welcoming them into the profession of nursing.

Kayla Schladweiler, Warrens, a Dec. Nursing graduate, has been accepted to the RN Transition to Practice Residency Program at the Tomah VA Medical Center. "I first heard about Mid-State through some coworkers who highly recommended going to Mid-State," said Schladweiler, who completed the Nursing program alongside her cousin, Brooke Myher. "My favorite memories from nursing school are the study dates Brooke and I had before tests, the carpooling to classes with all the laughs and jam sessions we shared and the friends that have been made along the way."

"I chose nursing because I love how big of

an impact you can make in someone's life in this profession," said Nursing graduate Brooke Myher, Norwalk, who has accepted a job at Tomah Health in acute care where she was previously a CNA and a

nurse intern. "It is stressful, but it is so rewarding. I love healthcare as a whole and I really enjoy learning about what makes a person who they are and how I can be there to help them in times of need."

Following are Mid-State's fall 2024 Nursing graduates recognized in the Dec. 17 nursing pinning ceremony.

- Allison Bertrand – Stevens Point  
Allie Blanchard – Schofield  
Lucy Bootz – Verona  
Ashly Canapa – Wisconsin Rapids  
Caitlin Casey – Wisconsin Rapids  
Nicole Chapley – Wisconsin Rapids  
Samantha Cowart – Stevens Point  
Molly Desrochers – New London  
Jasmin Duranceau – Birnamwood  
Chiaki Friemoth – Neillsville  
Abigail Fuller – Rudolph  
Kristine Gatlin – Marshfield  
Fiona Gonzalez Pilsner – Stevens Point  
Samantha Hanley – Wisconsin Rapids  
Samantha Hoch – Stevens Point  
Mia Iwinski – Wisconsin Rapids  
Mataya Kado – Stevens Point  
Ashley Koch – Wisconsin Rapids  
Julia Lang – Plover  
Shantel Masonick – Nekoosa  
Taylor Modrzewski – Stevens Point  
Logan Multerer – Stratford  
Brooke Myher – Norwalk  
Sara Novitzke – Marshfield  
Serenity Perkins – Neenah  
Sierra Petrusky – Plainfield  
Abby Ruedinger – Larsen  
Maria Salinas – Waupaca  
Kylee Scheunemann – Spencer  
Kayla Schladweiler – Warrens  
Celina Stillman – Port Edwards  
Kelsey Strong – Stevens Point  
Chloe Theisen – Wisconsin Rapids  
Alivia Veres – Stevens Point  
Abigail Wangen – Stevens Point  
Jonathan Weishaar – Westfield  
Joelle Zuelsdorff – Medford

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

**ONGOING**  
Celebrate Recovery • Every Tuesday, hosted by Love Inc. at St Lawrence Church basement, 530 10 th St N, Wisconsin Rapids. Come share adult

fellowship through hurts, hang-ups and habits guided by the Beatitudes in a 12 step format. Non denominational. Starts at 6:30 pm. 715-424-5683 for questions

**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-4pm. <http://alexanderhouseonline.org/> Central Wisconsin Cultural Center • Opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 2651 8 th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Open from 10 am-5pm. Free admission. <http://www.culturalcenterarts.com/index.html> South Wood County

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

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



# It's the last holiday travel season before REAL ID starts in 2025

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--Next year, airline travelers will face new identification requirements to board their flights. When enforcement of the REAL ID Act begins May 7, 2025, the regular Wisconsin driver license or ID will no longer be accepted identification for domestic air travel or to enter a federal building or military base. Travelers will need to present a REAL ID-compliant driver license or state ID card or another acceptable form of identification (such as a passport).

Wisconsin's driver licenses and ID cards have been REAL ID compliant since Jan. 14, 2013. With renewals required every eight years, all Wisconsin residents have had the option to convert to a REAL ID.

“Under state law, Wis-



An example of a REAL ID, marked by the star in the upper right hand corner, which will be required by May 2025 for domestic air travel, to enter a federal building, or a military base.

consin DMV provides both options,” Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Administrator Tommy Winkler said. “Those who want the REAL ID designation should start now. Visit wisconsindmv.gov/REALID to learn about

what documents are required to present at a DMV, start the application online, and make an appointment for service to make your trip as quick and convenient as possible.”

To date, 62% of Wisconsin's driver license or ID cards currently display the



An example of a non-compliant Wisconsin driver's license.

REAL ID star indicating they are federally compliant. In 2005, the federal REAL ID Act was passed by Congress to standardize state-issued driver licenses and ID cards to enhance security and prevent identity fraud.

Those who already have a driver license or ID may obtain a REAL ID-compliant card for \$14 (the cost of a replacement driver license) or \$16 for an ID card. There is no additional fee if the upgrade takes place at the same time as the renewal.

To obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver license or ID card, individuals must visit a Wisconsin DMV and bring the following original documents or a certified copy (not a photocopy, fax or scan):

Proof of Name and Date of Birth

Proof of Legal Presence in the U.S.

Proof of Identity

Proof of Name Change (if applicable)

Proof of Social Security number

Proof of Address

For a complete list of ac-

ceptable documents, visit wisconsindmv.gov/REALID.

For a personalized checklist of the required documents needed to bring to the DMV, check out the interactive Driver Licensing Guide. It also allows customers to pre-fill any required application(s), print and bring the forms or submit them electronically (if eligible). Customers are also able to print a checklist of required documents to bring.

## Legal

Legals 7700

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ADAMS COUNTY**  
Plaintiff(s):  
Creative Finance, Inc.  
815 Business Park Road  
PO Box 454  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965  
-vs-  
Defendants(s):  
Jenna Lynn Miller  
1220 19th Avenue South Apt 2  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
**Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)**  
Case No. 24SC494

**Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):**  
You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court: Adams County Courthouse Telephone Number of clerk of court: 608-339-4208 Address: 401 Adams Street, Suite 6, Friendship, WI 53934 on January 7, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

**If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you.** A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that court.

Electronically signed by: Christopher M. Kern Date: 12-17-2024 Creative Finance, Inc. 815 Business Park Road, PO Box 454 Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965 (608) 254-6855 Bar Number 1093883 Publish December 25, 2024 WNAXLP

**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  
WNAXLP

# Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

DEAR EDITOR—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, “If you see it in The Sun, it’s so.” Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O’Hanlon



Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary

as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children

nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the un-

seen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abid-

ing. No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia,

may 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

**FRANCIS B. CHURCH**  
**EDITOR OF THE**  
**NEW YORK SUN**  
**1897**

## Classifieds

Auctions 7282

**All Above Storage**  
**11078 State Highway**  
**13 S Wisconsin Rapids WI**  
Lessee: Elisabeth Sommer  
Description: household items  
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For Sale GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES! Vet checked Shots Ready To Go Now! Can Send Pictures. Caddot WI. 715-289-3165. (12/23)

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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

Dear Readers,

On December 18th, “Social Security, Often Misunderstood” was printed with information from 2023 when in fact, it was written with 2025’s information. Please accept our apologies. Below, please find the correct version of the article I’d written. I hope you find the information of value and thank you for your continued readership.

Sincerely,  
LouAnn Schulfer, “The Wealth InFormation Lady”.

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 be-

cause you see the deduction from your wages. Those tax payments are then used to pay other people who are receiving benefits. In 2025, employees pay 6.2% of the

first \$176,100 of their wages. The amount of income that is taxed has increased each year. For example, that number is up from 2024, where \$168,600 was subject to social security tax. In 2023, it was \$160,200, 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. Overall, that is a 27.9% increase on the amount of wages subject to social security tax, from 2020 to 2025. Employers 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 \$176,100 or more in 2025, you will pay \$10,918 in social security taxes and your employer (who is you if you

are self-employed) also pays another \$10,918. That’s a total of \$21,836.

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.i

The maximum retirement benefits for new recipients in 2025 are as follows:

\$2,831 / mo (\$33,972/year) at age 62  
\$4,403 / mo (\$52,836/year) at age 67  
\$5,108 / mo (\$61,296/year) at age 70 ii

A couple both receiving max benefit at age 67 would

collect \$105,672 this year, while a couple both earning the max benefit at 70 would take home \$122,592 in social security income. The estimated average benefit paid to retired workers in 2025 is \$1,976 per month. iii

Go to 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. A bit of 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.

i. Social Security Tax Rates (ssa.gov) www.ssa.gov/OACT/ProgData/oasdiRates.html

ii. Maximum-taxable benefit examples (ssa.gov)

iii www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2025.pdf

LouAnn Schulfer of Schulfer & Associates, LLC Wealth Management can be reached at (715) 343-9600 or louann.schulfer@lpl.com TheWealthInformationLady.com SchulferAndAssociates.com , or louann.biz

Content in this material is for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Schulfer & Associates, LLC Wealth Management and LPL Financial are not endorsed by or affiliated with the United States Social Security Administration or any government agency.

# A family man runs the 2024-2025 Midwest Division Champions

BY DANIELLE SNEDEKER

WISCONSIN RAPIDS--It is not a surprise that the River Kings are tied for first place during the 2024-2025 hockey season with the Hudson Havocs holding the rival slot.

Coach Paul Pechmann, leads his team with 19-16-2. Pechmann is accustomed to bringing the team to victory. Last year saw a season of 37-7, with diverse players from Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic, England and Canada, and finishing off with a National Championship win.

Their regular season runs for 44 days and loyal fans can come support them at River Kings Hockey Club. Fans can cheer and travel all over Wisconsin for their beleveloped team win. But, these players have achieved more than wins on

the hockey rink.

What drives the teams’ success is not the accumulation of titles or accolades gained. It is how Pechmann is an empathetic, influential, and a parental leader. Pechmann has had players come back as mentors, Pechmann has supported former players at graduations, and even guides them to UHL, USHL, and NCAA.

Keeping Pechmann around for ten years was an easy choice for him, the River Kings had quite the prestigious line of coaches to follow. However, Pechmann has stayed in the Rapids forefront and continues to show up for his players and community.

When asked if he had any Joe Pavelski candidates standing out this season—Pechmann said, “We are a team effort

here,” Although, “Lucas Whitehead,” number 25 defense—“He’s a lighthearted kid. Whitehead leads by example. Bleeds Green and Black.” Pechmann shines though with his leadership qualities—transparently transferring them over to his players. Pechmann continued, “I have everything they got, because I wanted to go where they want to go. For example, a one hour loss in the rink we want to know who we are and what the problem was. My team holds itself accountable.”

Hockey, being one of the most expensive sports in the nation—the fiscal responsibility isn’t a Davy Croket story. But that doesn’t deter Coach Pechmann or the team from reaching out for financial aid when necessary. Especially this time of year. Upon the coming season, Coach Pechmann wants recruits or players to try to feel welcomed, not burdened, but at home. Pechmann’s number one



goal is to make a difference in his players’ life. To lead them on to bigger and better things. A shot for Nationals this coming year is second. He greatly understands the goals and achievements this team has to offer are meant for every social class in the community.

Within part of their mission statement, “To seek education opportunities for the student athlete and to aid them in those opportunities. To build interest through fostering community spirit and involve-

ment.” Pechmann holds the great qualities of candor, enthusiasm, and empathy the players need. Finally, when asked who he would have dinner with dead or

alive and why? Coach Pechmann responded, “My sister.” And there was no reason to ask why. Coach Paul Pechmann is a family man.

## From the editor: welcoming Danielle Snedeker, new reporter

BY DANIELLE SNEDEKER

WOOD COUNTY – Danielle Snedeker is a reporter who brings a blend of experience, curiosity, and creativity to her work. Originally from Plover, Wisconsin— Danielle’s vast upbringing within a tight-knit community has inspired her to tell impactful and rich stories.

Danielle earned a BFA in English with a writing, publishing, and editing intent from the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point, performing at the top of her class, and earning a place on the Dean’s List. While she expands her education in Chicago with an MA in Publishing and Writing from DePaul University. She is actively honing her craft through publishing courses and fiction workshops.

Her professional experience spans from grant writing at UWSP to publishing and copy editing at DePaul. Outside of writing, Danielle has worked as a dental assistant at a local Wisconsin non-profit; Noble Community Clinics. This provided her with incredible insights into the lives and challenges of her hometown community. Her education, paired with her small-town experiences, has shaped an all-encompassing foundation for her writing.

Beyond her reporting, Danielle is a passionate storyteller. She aspires to evoke deep emotions through her writing, inspired by the novels she cherished growing up. A horror novelist in the making, Danielle blends her creative ambitions with a desire to connect with readers, creating stories that inspire, and resonate across boundaries.

An adventurer at heart, Danielle has completed the iconic Tour du Mont Blanc and is thrilled to place her hiking boots back in the mountains this summer, in Scotland. Sharing nature with her friends is one of the driving forces behind her writing and being a paddquest participant is just to name a few. When she’s not writing, reading, or exploring, she enjoys running and spending time with her cat, Nebula.



Snedeker

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