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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024 ■ VOLUME 40 ■ ISSUE 52 ■ 715.384.4440 ■ MARSHFIELD, WI **FREE**

MMC announces holiday break for printed editions

PATRICK WOOD
 PUBLISHER

WOOD COUNTY--MMC will not publish a printed edition of this paper between 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!

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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 replacment 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.

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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 pickup 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



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

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>

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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.

See CRASH page 3

WREATHS across AMERICA

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for Wreaths Across America

Thank You from the Marshfield Veterans Council for all the volunteers who laid 1,900 wreaths, Dec 14th, on a cold and windy day in Wisconsin. With all the volunteers, it only took about one hour to accomplish this mission throughout Hillside Cemetery, to honor our service members and their families. On Saturday, January 4th at 10am The Marshfield Veterans Council invites you, your family and friends to REMOVE all the red flag markers and wreaths from each Veterans' grave.

MARSHFIELD HUB CITY Times

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5 lines (appx. 25 words)
\$10 for 1st market - \$6 each additional market

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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

WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from the staff of

MARSHFIELD HUB CITY Times

KEVIN GRANQUIST Office Manager
PEGGY SUE BEHSELICH Regional Sales Manager
KATIE SCHIMKE Editor
ANGELA TAVES Customer Service

Not Pictured: ERNIE NEUFELDT General Manager and TAMARA MORTENSEN Graphic Design

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Gov. Evers, DNR announce \$444 million to improve municipal wastewater infrastructure for Wisconsinites in 50 Municipalities

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), announced that \$444 million has been allocated for financial assistance through the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) to 50 Wisconsin municipalities to improve their wastewater infrastructure. The funding will help municipalities across the state construct needed wastewater infrastructure, including projects that reduce phosphorus discharges and address aging equipment, with a focus on small and disadvantaged communities.

Improvements in Wood County include a chemical addition for phosphorus removal in the Town of Milladore and upgrading the northeast pump station in Marshfield.

"We're working to make sure Wisconsinites have safe, clean water straight from their tap to drink and that community water systems are safe, reliable, and can help effectively prevent harmful contaminants from being in our water supplies. Thanks to programs like the CWFP these investments will go a long way toward building the 21st-century infrastructure we need to ensure Wisconsinites

See WASTEWATER page 5

CRASH

from page 2

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.

Season's Greetings

In observance of the holidays, our office will be closed
December 24th-27th, 2024
and

January 1st, 2025

Please note: We will not be publishing a paper the week of January 1st, 2025.

Our next paper will be January 8th, 2025.

Happy New Year!



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OBITUARIES



WANDA EDNA SHUPE
Wanda Edna Shupe, age 83, Marshfield, passed away peacefully at her home on December 15, 2024.

Wanda was born on February 22, 1941, in Marshfield to Alfred and Edna (Mews) Kohl. On November 28, 1959, she was united in marriage to Bruce Shupe. They had one son, Dean.

In her early years, she enjoyed cooking, knitting, sewing, and spending time at Hultman Lake where she and Bruce had a camper parked for many years. She began collecting antiques specializing in Carnival Glass and Red Wing pottery, where many miles were traveled to antique shops and Red Wing Collectors' conventions. After Dean graduated from high school in 1978, she decided to work outside the home and obtained a Medical Assistant diploma from Mid-State Technical College. She worked as a certified medical assistant at Marshfield Clinic Oncology Department for 26 years. In her retirement years, she enjoyed Sheephead card club with the gang and watch wildlife in the backyard.

She is survived by her husband, Bruce, son, Dean (Colleen), three grandchildren, Kristy (Nick Ludwiczak) Peterson, Kara (Matt) Houck, and Joshua (Rachael) Shupe, seven great-grandchildren and one on the way. She is also leaving behind dear friends, Holly Zopfi and Gayle Kronberger.

She was preceded in death by her parents and great grandson, Vincent Kohl Houck.

The family wishes to express their thanks to Compassus Home Hospice for the compassionate care during Wanda's decline. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS), Marshfield House of the Dove, or Marshfield Clinic Cancer Care Research Center.

www.hubcitytimes.com

BETTY ZDOR

Betty Zdor, 85, of Marshfield, passed away on Dec. 12, 2024. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.



GERALD C. MEYER

Gerald "Jerry" C. Meyer, 92, Marshfield, passed away on Friday, December 13, 2024 at Marshfield Medical Center.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 am on Monday, December 23, 2024 at Rembs Funeral Home, Marshfield where visitation will be from 10:00 am until the time of service. The funeral will be streamed online at www.facebook.com/rembsfuneralhomes. Entombment will follow at McMillan Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Town of McMillan, Marathon County. Rembs Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Jerry was born on December 25, 1931 in Marshfield to George and Ora (Powell) Meyer. He attended Ebbe School in the Town of Lincoln and graduated from Marshfield Senior High. He was united in marriage for 71 years to Adeline Gessert on May 12, 1953 in Bakerville.

Jerry spent a majority of his life working as a farmer but later worked at the Eagles Club and bartended at the KC Hall. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and playing cards. He is survived by his wife, Adeline, son, Charles Meyer, daughter, Dawn (Mike) Bluhm Martens, 12 grandchildren, and 35 great grandchildren.

He is further survived by his brothers, Russell (Sandy) Meyer of Green Bay, Bernard (Shirley) Meyer of Marshfield and Randy (Cheryl) Meyer of Auburndale.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Ora, sons, Jeffery and Steven Meyer, sister, Doris Dupee, and brother, Donald Meyer. The family would like to extend a special thanks to the doctors and nurses at the Marshfield Clinic and Hospital. Condolences may be sent online at www.rembsfh.com



DONALD DILLINGER

Donald A. Dillinger, 86, of Auburndale, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 16, 2024, at The House of The Dove, with his loving family by his side.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, December 20, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Auburndale, with Father Angi officiating. Burial will be in the parish cemetery. The visitation will be from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Thursday at Rembs Funeral Home and from 10:00 am until service time on Friday at St. Mary's Church. St. Mary's Parish Council of Catholic Women will recite the rosary at 4:00 pm on Thursday at the funeral home.

Born on March 27, 1938, in Auburndale, Don was the son of Andrew Frank and Mary Teresa (Karl) Dillinger. He attended St. Mary's Parochial School in Auburndale and later married his beloved wife, Regina Catherine Konrardy, on August 22, 1964, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Hewitt.

Don was preceded in death by his wife Regina; sons Michael and James Dillinger (Tami); his parents; and his sisters, Eileen (Jon) Kolbeck and Lucille (Daryl) Gremban. He is survived by his daughter Laura Cemohous (Nick); son Brian Dillinger (Jackie); daughter-in-law Tami Dillinger; as well as his cherished grandchildren, Matt Monson (Kenzie), Alyssa Monson, Dylan Fleischman (Andrea), Zoey Haupt (Zach), Brooklyn Dillinger, Heather Dillinger, Monica Dillinger, and Megan Dillinger. Don was also a proud great-grandfather to Amalia Haupt and Addelyn Monson. He is further survived by his brother, Richard (Patricia) Dillinger.

A man of deep love and devotion to family, Don's greatest joy was being a husband, father, and grandfather. Family always came first, and he took great pride in supporting his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Don had a lifelong passion for baseball—especially the Brooklyn Dodgers, later the Los Angeles Dodgers—and was a dedicated fan who cheered for his team through the years. While he also supported the Milwaukee Brewers, the Dodgers were always number one in his heart.

Don's career began in the mid-1950s at WD Connor Farms before he started working at the Auburndale Schools in 1966. He spent 35 years as a dedicated employee in the elementary school, earning the distinction of being the longest-lasting "student" in the school's history. In addition, Don drove a school bus for Kiefer Bus Service for 44 years. He retired in 2003, enjoying a well-deserved break that allowed him to travel, attend sporting events, and spend quality time with family and friends.

Don's love for baseball extended beyond watching the game; it was an integral part of his life. As a young boy and throughout adulthood, he collected baseball cards and played the game whenever possible. He was part of several championship teams and later became a coach and manager, sharing his knowledge and love of the sport with young players. Don had a special gift for teaching the game, instilling skills and passion in all who played under his guidance.

Don was an active member of the Auburndale Lions Club and a dedicated parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church. In his spare time, he enjoyed woodworking—creating birdhouses, marble boards, and crafts for anyone who wanted them. He was also a regular at local high school sporting events, particularly enjoying baseball, basketball, and volleyball games. On Thursday afternoons, Don could be found playing cards with friends, and if you stopped by his home, he'd likely talk you into a game of marbles or cards.

Don's zest for life was infectious, and he seemed to possess the "secret" to living fully and with joy. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Condolences may be sent online to www.rembsfh.com

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In Memory of
Dennis Kmiec

We wish to extend our sincere thanks for the many kindnesses, and for the condolences and support that we have received before, during and after the passing of Denny. He was a special person who would have been touched by this outpouring of love and friendship.

With deep gratitude - Kaye, Denise & Nate

"Only time & tears take away grief; that is what they are for."

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- Johnsonville Beef Summer Sausage, 12 oz. (Case of 12, \$32.45) **\$2.95**
- Mushroom Pieces & Stems 4 oz. (Case of 12, \$14.85) **\$1.35**
- Elbow Macaroni, 1 lb. (Case of 20, \$21.00) **\$1.15**
- Condensed Cream of Mushroom or Chicken Soup 10 oz. (Case of 24, \$25.30) **\$1.15**
- Spaghetti, 2 lbs. (Case of 12, \$23.65) **\$2.15**
- Premium Saltine Crackers 1 lb. (Case of 12, \$21.45) **\$1.95**
- Honey Maid Graham Crackers 57.6 oz. **\$6.95**
- Planter's Salted Cashews 144 packs, 13.5 lbs. **\$44.00**
- Gourmet Blend or Cafe Italiano Roasted Ground Coffee 12 oz. **\$3.65**
- 100% Orange Tangerine Fruit Juice, 6 oz., 40 pack **\$14.90**
- Nacho or Ranch Veggie Chips 6 oz. (Case of 6, \$9.10) **\$1.65**
- Assorted Fanta Drinks 20 oz. bottles, 24 pack **\$12.00**
- Dark Chocolate Mint Bark Thins, 20 oz. **\$5.95**
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- Smoked Boneless Ham pepper coated, frozen **\$1.39/lb**
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- Ripe Pitted Broken Olives 5.75 oz. **\$0.79**

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House fire on N. Maple Ave.

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--On Dec. 17 at 12:57 in the afternoon, Marshfield Fire and Rescue initially responded to 708 N Maple Ave. with 11 personnel to a report of a house fire, with the fire located in the basement. Upon arrival heavy black smoke was showing from all sides of the house. Firefighters made entry and located the fire in the basement, which they quickly extinguished. Other firefighters made entry to search for any trapped people, they did not find anyone. The fire was contained to the basement and all smoke was ventilated from the structure.

The occupant was located at the neighbor's house and stated that everyone who lives in the house is accounted for and safe. The American Red Cross is assisting the family. A total of 16 fire personnel responded from MFRD throughout the duration of the incident. MFRD was on scene for 1.25 hours. The origin and cause of the fire is still under investigation. While no injuries were reported, damage includes moderate fire, smoke, and water damage located in the basement as well as moderate smoke damage found throughout the 1st floor.

WASTEWATER from page 3

have access to clean and safe water across our state," said Gov. Evers.

The CWFP provides financial assistance to municipalities throughout Wisconsin for wastewater and water quality-related urban stormwater infrastructure projects that protect and improve public health and water quality for current and future generations. The DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Administration have administered the CWFP since 1991, providing over \$6.1 billion in financial assistance to Wisconsin municipalities. Additional information about the CWFP can be found online here.

Through this round of funding, the DNR is allocating \$399.9 million in subsidized loans and \$44.1 million in principal forgiveness funding to support wastewater improvement projects. The CWFP subsidizes municipalities to buy down the market rate on program loans (reduced-interest rate loans). The principal forgiveness funding is comparable to a grant because the municipality will not have to repay those funds.

DNR Environmental Loans programs like the CWFP are receiving more than \$900 million in additional funding in Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2026. The BIL also appropriates \$1 billion over Fiscal Years 2022-2026 to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund specifically to address emerging contaminants, including perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution nationwide. The CWFP Funding List for state fiscal year (FY) 2025 represents the third year of Supplemental Wastewater BIL funding.

Additionally, for the first time in CWFP history, loan demand has exceeded capacity. Total CWFP demand in state FY25 equaled more than \$535 million. Due to recent spikes in demand for funding, the CWFP has exhausted available revenue bonding authority and can only allocate funding to some applicants. Additional funding will be allocated to unfunded projects if it becomes available.



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 celebration. 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.

DNR seeking public comment for environmental assessment of Marathon County shooting range grant project

FOR CITY TIMES MARSHFIELD--The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed issuance of a grant award through the DNR Shooting Range Grant Program.

The village of Spencer will develop a new shooting range at 106263 County Road C in Spencer, Marathon County.

Subject grant funds originate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pittman-Robertson Basic Hunter Education and Safety Subprogram.

The proposed village of Spencer Gun and Archery Range will include a compact gravel driveway, two parking areas, firing lanes for guns and archery, and berms. The land disturbance will be just over half an acre. Construction will include clearing and grubbing of just over half an acre, adding wetland fill, installing a culvert and underdrains, concrete work and earthwork.

The DNR is dedicated to promoting hunter safety, hunting and shooting sports. To meet these objectives, the DNR has

developed the Shooting Range Grant Program to assist with the development of new ranges and improvements to existing ranges that make their facilities available to the public.

The DNR's vision for shooting ranges in Wisconsin is to increase opportunities for shooting in a safe environment. Doing so will maintain Wisconsin's hunting heritage and the economic impact those activities have.

Per requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended), the DNR assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed projects and documented the results.

The public can review the draft environmental assessments for the village of Spencer Gun and Archery Range and is encouraged to submit comments. Submit comments electronically by Jan. 11, 2025, to Sarah Brenner at Sarah.Brenner@wisconsin.gov.

To request a hard copy of the draft environmental assessment or to receive the draft environmental assessment in an alternate format, please contact

Sarah Brenner at Sarah.Brenner@wisconsin.gov or 715-492-0928.

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Kelley Supply donates proceeds from No Shave November Campaign to Marshfield Clinic



FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD-Kelley Supply, a local business-to-business dairy, food, and beverage distributor, donated proceeds from its No Shave November fundraising campaign to the Marshfield Clinic Cancer Research Center. No Shave November partners with the American Cancer Fund to promote cancer education, awareness, and patient support.

"The purpose of our fundraising campaign was to grow the awareness within our organization and our clients while having a lot of fun with it," said Greg Alberts, president of Kelley Supply. The No Shave campaign encourages people to stop shaving for the entire month of November to let their hair grow in solidarity and honor of patients who lose their hair during treatment. The campaign, managed through Kelley Supply's safety program, encourages customers to utilize the company's personal protective equipment (PPE), such as beard nets and hairnets, to grow out their hair while maintaining food

safety procedures in their food operations. Kelley Supply's November sales from its PPE promotion funded the financial gift.

"As someone personally affected by cancer, this gift reflects Kelley Supply's ongoing commitment to its friends and customers, as well as to support the efforts of the

Marshfield Clinic and its legacy of healthcare and cancer research excellence."

Proceeds from Kelley Supply's No Shave November campaign raised nearly \$6,000.00.

"We and our patients are incredibly fortunate to have compassionate donors, who have giving back to their communities, neighbors and friends through donations like this.

Often, when someone we know has cancer, we struggle with what to do. This is a shining example of turning that wondering into action," said Jennifer Meece, Chief Research Officer of the Marshfield Clinic Health System.



Dr. Adedayo Onitilo, Director of the Cancer Care Research Center also expressed his deep gratitude for the support. "Our clinical trials offer sometimes life-saving trials for our patients. Offering trials in

rural WI takes significant resources to keep our patients as close to their home as possible, so donations like this help us do that even more effectively."

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.

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, Stephanie 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.

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 Marshfield, 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.



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Security Health Plan honored as a Top 10 Finance Team

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc., was announced as a winner for the Top 10 Finance Team by OnConferences Icon Awards. OnCon is an organization that connects professionals across various industries, promoting collaboration, innovation, and leadership. Through conferences, awards, and networking opportunities, OnConferences provides a platform for executives and organizations to exchange insights, fostering growth and development within their respective fields.

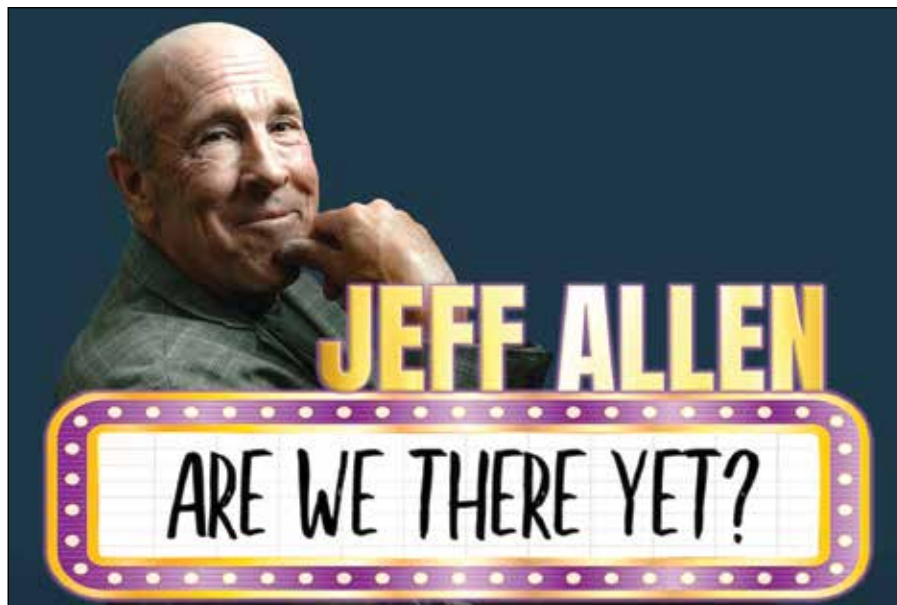
This recognition is determined through peer and community voting. Voters are instructed to select teams they have seen make a significant impact on their own organization or within the broader industry, contribute to their professional community through thought leadership, drive innovation, and demonstrate exceptional leadership.

“Our team’s success is a testament to the power of teamwork,” said Security Health Plan Chief Financial Officer Chris

Buel. “Every member of this department has contributed their unique skills and perspectives to achieve this milestone.”

Security Health Plan’s finance team achieved several accomplishments this year, demonstrating collaboration, innovation and operational excellence. They successfully united five teams of risk adjustment professionals. This alignment streamlined operations, reduced administrative burdens for physicians and care teams and enabled a stronger focus on advancing superior health outcomes for members. Through advanced contract analysis, the team reduced 2025 commercial rate increases by 2%, saving nearly \$2 million for a major provider system. Additionally, actuarial enhancements improved DOS reporting and developed comprehensive actual-to-budget analysis across all product lines, driving informed strategic decisions. Finally, the underwriting team processed over 530 new business quotes and renewals for 2024, highlighting their commitment to efficiency and exceptional service.

Welcome the New Year with comedy



Arts Council

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 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 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 ticketing 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.

Human remains found in field identified

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--On Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, the Marshfield Police Department responded to a call regarding the discovery of human remains in a field adjacent to W. McMillan St, near N. St. Joseph’s Ave in the City of Marshfield.

On Dec. 16 the deceased was identified

as Muhammed Naqeeb Zubair, 35 years old, from Southern California. Mr. Zubair was in Marshfield visiting family at the time of his death. The cause of death has not yet been determined, however there is no reason to suspect foul play nor is there any evidence to lead us to believe there is a risk to the community.

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432729

Marshfield Police Department hosts Shop with a Cop



BY KATIE SCHIMKE

MARSHFIELD--The Marshfield Police Department hosted its 7th annual Shop with a Cop event on Dec. 14. Shop with a Cop began in Marshfield in 2018 as a way to foster positive relationships between community youth and local law enforcement. Children in the community are able to be paired with a police officer and shop not only for gifts for themselves, but also for their family members funded by donations. Shop with a Cop not only provides youth in the community with Christmas

gifts they may have not otherwise been able to find themselves, but also builds important relationships between police officers and local youth.

The Marshfield Police Department thanks the Marshfield Professional Police Association, Walmart 2813, and Pepsi for their donations to make Shop with a Cop possible, as well as Scotty's Pizza & Chicken for donating pizzas and Wood County Sheriff deputies for assisting in the shopping.



Photos by Marshfield Police Department



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, Wisconsin 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



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.

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 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 acceptable documents, visit wisconsindmv.gov/REALID.



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

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.

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

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



Janet Wimmer, clinical therapist with Aspirus Health.

striving for a "perfect" holiday. She also advises managing financial pressures by planning ahead and sticking to a budget.

"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

See TIPS page 16

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CONTEST RULES
 In the puzzle, find and circle the 24 words or phrases listed in the black boxes at the top of each participating merchants advertisement or artwork. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years or older to win. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON THUR., JAN. 2, 2025.

Submit this entire word search, to: "Word Search" Marshfield Hub City Times 104 East 2nd Street Marshfield, WI 54449

Only original forms will be accepted. All duplicated will be disqualified. Only one entry per household or address. Winners drawn at random of all correct entries. Winners will be announced in the January 8th, 2025 edition.

Note: There will be a drop box outside our office door, or you can mail your entry.

DEADLINE DATE!
5:00PM
THUR., JAN. 2

NOW YOU CAN PLAY AND ENTER ONLINE!
 Go to HubCityTimes.com and click on the "Word Search" box in the upper right hand corner.

N	Y	O	B	R	E	M	M	U	R	D	E	L	T	T	I	L	O	H	X
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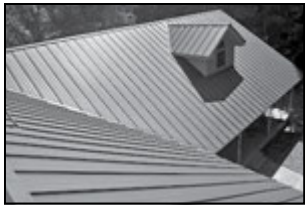
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DNR seeks nominations for 2024 Ethical Hunter Award

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is accepting award nominations for the 2024 Wisconsin Ethical Hunter Award. Nominees are selected based on exceptional moral actions and character while out in the field.

Established in 1997, the award recognizes a hunter whose action is symbolic of Wisconsin's hunting heritage. This honor represents an outdoor tradition enjoyed responsibly, respectfully and safely.

Examples of award nominations can include helping other hunters find lost game, assisting novice hunters or protecting natural resources. Any hunter or non-hunter can nominate a licensed Wisconsin hunter for the Wisconsin Ethical Hunter Award for their actions during the 2024 calendar year. Although many nominations result from gun deer season, ethical actions can occur for any hunting season throughout the state.

A five-person committee reviews the nominations and selects the person deemed most deserving of this award.

The annual honor's creators are Bob Lamb, retired outdoors editor of the La Crosse Tribune; Steve Dewald, retired DNR conservation warden supervisor; and Jerry Davis, a retired University of Wisconsin-La Crosse biology professor and outdoors writer. The nomination committee focuses on singular actions or events rather than individuals who have long-term conservation-related programs.

Written nominations must contain the name, address and telephone number of the witness or witnesses, or the person must be aware of the behavior which led to the nomination. The public is encouraged to submit nominations for consideration for the award. Submit nominations via mail or email by Jan. 31, 2025 to:

April Dombrowski, Bureau Director, Recreational Safety Outdoor Skills (RSOS)/Public Safety Resource Protection Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2421 Darwin Rd.
Madison, WI 53704-3109
April.Dombrowski@wisconsin.gov



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New winter road condition categories unveiled on 511 Wisconsin

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY-The Wisconsin Department of Transportation announced new winter road condition categories to better reflect current conditions on roads across the state. The categories are now: Normal, Partially Covered, Completely Covered, Travel Not Advised, and No Report. The information streamlines the categories and makes it easier for motorists. Drivers are encouraged to "know before you go" with 511 Wisconsin, online at 511wi.gov or via the mobile app.

"We continually look for ways to enhance our 511 Wisconsin traveler information service," WisDOT Secretary Kristina Boardman said. "As we prepare for another winter season, we're excited to announce these new road condition categories. We know that road conditions during Wisconsin's winters can change in the blink of an eye and drivers must expect the unexpected. We're confident the updated winter road condition categories will help drivers make informed travel decisions this winter and beyond."

511 Wisconsin first launched 15 years ago in 2009, and the free travel information system has evolved over the years with its web and smartphone capabilities. Drivers have direct access to up-to-date traffic information throughout the state. On 511 Wisconsin, users can access live streaming video through hundreds of traffic cameras across the state and winter road conditions for more than 14,000 miles of roadway.

The WisDOT Traffic Management Center (TMC) oversees 511 Wisconsin to update the website and mobile app with current information based on notifications from law enforcement and other first responders.

"The Wisconsin State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies coordinate with TMC staff and dispatchers working around the clock to keep all travelers in the know," Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. "Our winter weather in Wisconsin can make driving dangerous at times, so we encourage drivers to plan ahead, watch your speed during inclement weather and avoid distractions behind the wheel."

How to use the winter road conditions:

Visit 511wi.gov online, or download the 511 Wisconsin app.

In the map legend, make sure "winter road conditions" is checked.

Look for the colors outlining the roads near you. The colors are listed from best to worst: normal (green), partially covered (blue), completely covered (pink), travel not advised (black), and no report (gray).

How to view live traffic cameras:

Visit 511wi.gov online or download the 511 Wisconsin app.

In the top right corner under the Map Legend and 511 layers box, click the "cameras" checkbox.

Look for the camera icons along your route. On 511wi.gov, click the camera icon and look for "show video" button to view the live camera feed.

On the 511 Wisconsin app, press the "play" button in the bottom right corner.

Users can still dial 511 to access travel information; however, for the most up-to-date technology, the traveling public is encouraged to use the 511 Wisconsin app or online at 511wi.gov.

Motorists should always expect the unexpected when driving in the winter in Wisconsin. When possible, avoid traveling during storms to give winter maintenance crews room to work.



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LIGHT UP THE FIELDHOUSE

01.10.2025 MFLD • SPASH

Join us for an unforgettable event to lift up our student community! Light Up the Fieldhouse is all about giving back and supporting students in need, whether they're facing financial struggles, health challenges, or other hardships. Together, we can make a real difference in their lives.

January 10th, 2025 • Events begin at 6:30PM

A boys AND girls varsity basketball game
Youth night AND teacher appreciation night

GET INVOLVED:

- Basket Raffles with Amazing Prizes! We have awesome baskets, packed with everything from gift cards to exclusive goodies! Every ticket you buy helps support students in their time of need.
- T-shirt sales: shirts with our event logo will be sold for \$15.
- Help us Light up the field house by buying some of our many glow sticks.

Every dollar raised goes directly to supporting students who need it most, giving them a brighter future and the resources to succeed.

Let's come together as a school and a community to Light Up the Fieldhouse with hope, generosity, and care. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

NEW YEAR'S EVE CASH and keys

WIN ONE OF TWO GMC TRUCKS

DEC 31 HO-CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG

TIPS

from page 13

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.

Musky season closes statewide Dec. 31



FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that the 2024 open water musky fishing season will close statewide on Dec. 31. Anglers are also reminded that musky may not be targeted through the ice at any time.

Wisconsin has about 775 lakes and streams with thriving musky populations, and several waters have special 50-inch minimum lengths. Anglers should consult the 2024-2025 Fishing Regulations for the waters they fish for more information.

Anglers can use the DNR's Quality Waters webpage to find trophy-class musky opportunities near them.

The season will reopen in the southern zone on May 3, 2025 and in the northern zone on May 24, 2025.

Learn more about these famous fish, including where to find them, on the DNR's Musky webpage.



2024/2025 season Presents...

Saturday, January 4, 2025
7:30 PM

Reserved seats \$35
Buy Tickets Now!
lucilletackcenter.com
Call anytime 715.659.4499

In person box office hours
Wed. 11am-2pm
300 N. School St - Door #22




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Laugh
IN THE NEW YEAR!

with
Mike Mercury

featuring Brady Gregurich



Tuesday, December 31, 2024

ONE SHOW ONLY!

Show Time 8:30pm

Tickets available at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or scan here:







Ring in the New Year with a Flavorful Feast—Celebrate with Us This NYE!

Tuesday, December 31st
Full Menu also available.

Seafood Buffet	30
Available 5pm-8pm, featuring Steamed Snow Crab Legs, Shrimp Scampi, Chicken Italiano, Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes and more!	
Prime Rib	32/25
Available 5pm-9pm, featuring an In-House Mesquite Smoked Prime Rib.	

Reservations required. Please call 715.387.2711.