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**NORTH CENTRAL  
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**It's time to celebrate Art and the New Year!**  
The Alexander House warmly invites you to an Opening Reception on Friday, January 10, 2025, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

**This special exhibit will feature: "Holy Ground": Paintings by Anne Horjus, Baraboo, Wisconsin with "Cultivation: Vessels for Gathering": Ceramics by Kyle Hendrix, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Meet the artists in person as they share stories about their work and creative journeys.**

During the Reception enjoy live music performed by members of the Lincoln High School Orchestra. They will play pieces inspired by the book "Sleep", illustrations by Anne Horjus and choral work by composer Eric Whitacre. The book will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be provided.

The exhibition runs until February 18, 2025, with gallery hours on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Discover more at [alexanderhouseonline.org](https://alexanderhouseonline.org) or on Facebook at Alexander House Center for Art and History. We can't wait to welcome you to this inspiring exhibition!

**LOCAL**

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS**

**City Times**

**Buyers' Guide**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 ■ VOLUME 41 ■ ISSUE 2 ■ 715-256-4446 ■ WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI

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# Aspirus Riverview introduces Wide Bore MRI

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Aspirus Riverview Hospital announced the installation of its new state-of-the-art Wide Bore MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) machine, marking a significant upgrade to the facility's diagnostic imaging capabilities.

MRI is a medical imaging technique used to create detailed images of the inside of the body. It is widely used to diagnose and monitor a variety of conditions, offering insights that help doctors understand and treat medical issues effectively.

Wide Bore MRI is specifically designed to enhance patient comfort, particularly for those who experience anxiety or claustrophobia during traditional MRI procedures, while providing more precise and detailed imaging to aid in diagnosis and treatment.

"The Wide Bore MRI is a game-changer for our patients and our medical team," said Kelly Kremer, Manager of Imaging Services at Aspirus Riverview Hospital. "Its larger opening offers a more comfortable experience, which is especially beneficial for patients



who may have struggled with the confined space of older machines. Beyond comfort, the advanced imaging capabilities allow us to capture clearer, more detailed scans that are crucial for accurate diagnoses."

The new machine boasts a wider opening and an improved table design, accommodating patients of various body types and allowing for a higher weight

limit than previous models. This upgrade also enables the hospital to perform a broader range of scans, which means more patients can be served with reduced wait times.

"We're proud to bring this innovative service to our community," Kremer added. "The enhanced technology ensures that our medical team can provide the highest level of care,

close to home whether it's diagnosing complex conditions or monitoring treatment progress."

With this investment, Aspirus Riverview Hospital continues to demonstrate its commitment to staying at the forefront of medical advancements, ensuring patients receive the best possible care in a welcoming and compassionate environment.

# Winning \$109,000 Badger 5 ticket sold in Wisconsin Rapids

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – 2025 is off to a great start for a Wisconsin Lottery player. A winning \$109,000 Badger 5 jackpot ticket was sold at Shree Ashapuri Inc., 3553 8th St. South, in Wisconsin Rap-

ids, for the Wednesday, Jan. 1 drawing. The winning numbers were 2-6-7-11-22.

Big Badger 5 jackpot wins may be a continuing trend entering the new year. It is the third time in less than a month that a winning

Badger 5 jackpot ticket of \$100,000 or more has been sold in Wisconsin.

Winning Badger 5 jackpot tickets of \$100,000 or more, sold in Dec. 2024 include:

Dec. 11, \$222,000 Badger 5 jackpot split between win-

ning tickets sold at a Kwik Trip in New Berlin and Bailey's 57 in Bailey's Harbor.

Dec. 19, winning \$165,000 Badger 5 jackpot ticket sold at Menasha Gas Inc., in Menasha.

# Gov. Evers, WHEDA award \$2 Million for Housing Assistance to Wisconsin's most vulnerable populations

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WOOD COUNTY – Gov. Tony Evers, with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), announced that 52 organizations will

receive \$2 million in grants from the WHEDA Foundation to improve emergency shelter, transitional residences, and extremely low-income housing.

"Expanding access to af-

fordable housing statewide continues to be one of our top priorities, and we're working to make sure folks have a safe, warm place to stay and a roof over their heads at night, including folks who are facing difficult circumstances," said Gov. Evers. "These grants provide critical resources to those who need them and will help foster safer spaces for Wisconsinites who are unhoused, unsafe, and working to overcome challenges to help them get back on their feet."

Administered by WHEDA, the WHEDA Foundation grants improve housing for community members with complex

needs, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people experiencing intimate partner violence, individuals with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income, youth experiencing homelessness, and people with mental and behavioral health conditions.

This year, the Foundation's 2024 Housing Grant Program is funded by \$2 million from WHEDA reserves. Providers in 29 counties received awards ranging from \$6,826 to \$50,000, the maximum award available. Projects involve installing security

**Housing**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

**Meat Raffles!**

**Public Welcome!**

**Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, and Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>**

- Cash bar opens 1pm
- Raffles begin 2pm
- Proceeds benefit area youth!

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3221 80<sup>th</sup> Street South**



# United Way awards \$1,000 cash prizes to Sweepstakes Winners

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS-This year for the \$1,000 Sweepstakes, every donor who gave \$1.00 per week (equal to \$52 per year) during the United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties campaign received 50

chances to win. This year's winners are: Carrie Easterly – Gundersen Moundview Hospital & Clinics Beth Rosandick – NextHome Partners Mark Sabatke – Doorworks, Inc.

Rachel Teeselink – Pitsch Early Learning Center The fifth winner decided to donate the prize back to United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties and remain anonymous while doing so.



Carrie Easterly, Gundersen Moundview Hospital & Clinics



Beth Rosandick, NextHome Partners



Rachel Teeselink, Pitsch Early Learning Center



Mark Sabatke, Doorworks, Inc.

## Sen. Testin to chair Agriculture and Revenue Committee

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Senate leadership has announced committee assignments for the upcoming legislative session, and Sen. Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) has been selected to be the chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue.

“The agriculture industry, which is a significant driver of our state’s economy, employs nearly 12 percent of our workers and generates an annual economic impact of more than \$100 billion,” Sen. Testin said. “I am eager to advance bills that help our farmers strengthen the agriculture sector while also protecting



Testin

our natural resources and the health of our residents. As for the revenue aspect of the committee, I expect to move forward legislation that cuts taxes for all Wisconsinites and makes our

state more competitive for future opportunities.” During the 2025-26 legislative session, Sen. Testin will also serve as vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health. In addition, Sen. Testin will be the co-chair of the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions and a member of the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage and the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology. Earlier this month, Sen. Testin was also named the Senate vice-chair of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee.

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<b>Ribs</b> Fully Cooked w/sauce St Louis Style Frozen 36 oz. ONLY <b>\$8.99</b>	<b>Turkey Breast</b> Fully Cooked, Sliced Frozen 32 oz. ONLY <b>\$3.49</b>	<b>Cod Fillets</b> IQF - Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY <b>\$4.99</b> a lb
<b>Sweet Potatoes Fries</b> Frozen 15 oz. ONLY <b>99¢</b>	<b>Hot Dogs</b> Chicken - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY <b>99¢</b>	<b>Hashbrowns</b> Shredded - Frozen 3 lbs. ONLY <b>\$3.99</b>

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# Wisconsin Rapids Family Center receives \$4,290 through Holiday Funds

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Wisconsin Rapids’ Family Center received \$4,290 this holiday season through Prevail Bank’s Holiday Matching Funds campaign to assist those families and individuals affected by domestic violence and abuse.  
Prevail Bank Branch Manager, Taylor Doescher (far left), along with seven other Prevail Bank professionals presented the big check to Tricia, Wisconsin Rapids’ Family Center Director (adjacent to Doescher). Other Family Center professionals pictured were Heather, Family Center Finance and Operations Manager (fifth person from the left), and Amy, Family Center Administrative Development Volunteer Coordinator (second from the right).  
Bank-wide, a remark-

able \$20,885 was gifted between the public and Prevail Bank, supporting nine nonprofit organizations. Every branch chose a different nonprofit to champion, matching public donations up to \$1,000.  
The benefiting nonprofits were: Sauk County Children’s Giving Tree \$2,070, Eau Claire County Department of Human Services’ Children’s Giving Tree received 149 gifts totaling approximately \$2,160, Marshfield Rotary \$4,506 in support of the meals they make for the Ronald McDonald House, Taylor County Supportive Housing homeless shelter \$482, Owen-Withee Food Pantry \$3,095 with a special acknowledgement going to the Owen-Withee Lions Club that contributed \$1,000, Loggers United Booster Club (Phillips)



\$1,020, Operation Bootstrap \$842 to support the Portage County Holiday Basket Project, Children’s

Wisconsin Child Advocacy Center (Wausau) \$2,420, and the Wisconsin Rapids Family Center \$4,290.

## UW-Whitewater announces Dean’s List

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The following students from Wisconsin Rapids were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean’s List for the 2024

fall semester: Corbin Giese, Trevor Martin, and Michaela Warpinski.  
These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or

above in a single semester.  
“Making the Dean’s List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of our students’ hard work and commitment to success,” said John Chenoweth, who serves as

UW-Whitewater’s provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “We are proud of our students and hope to see their names on the list again. Congratulations to all who were recognized!”

## Local students named to Dean’s List at UW-Superior

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WOOD COUNTY – To be named to the Dean’s List, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).  
Founded in 1893 as a teacher’s college, UW-Superior has more than 50

program offerings, select online and graduate programs, Division III athletics programs, continuing education, research and scholarship programs that support the community and region.  
The following students have been named to the Dean’s List at the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Superior for academic achievement during the Fall 2024 semester.  
From Abbotsford, WI, Lillian Graun. From Colby, WI, Hanna Meier. From Neillsville, WI, Mackenzie Person. From Arpin, WI, Brook SeEVERS.

## Meghan Jochimsen, of Wisconsin Rapids, named to USF Fall 2024 Dean’s List

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Meghan Jochimsen of Wisconsin Rapids was named to the University of Sioux Falls Fall 2024 Dean’s List.

Jochimsen is majoring in Biology and Psychology.  
Jochimsen was among 550 students named to the Fall 2024 Dean’s List. To

qualify, students must be enrolled in at least 12 semester hours and earn a term GPA of 3.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

## Aspirus Health announces top baby names of 2024

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WOOD COUNTY – Aspirus Health announced the top baby names of 2024 as chosen by families across its health system (excluding Aspirus St. Luke’s). This year, the names Henry and Evelyn topped the list

for boys and girls. Out of a total of 2,911 live births at Aspirus facilities during the 2024 calendar year, 1,427 were baby girls.  
**Top Boys’ Names of 2024:**  
Henry – 47  
Oliver – 29  
Liam – 28

**Top Girls’ Names of 2024:**  
Evelyn – 23  
Charlotte – 21  
Violet – 19

## Birth Announcement

On Dec. 16, 2024 Ross and Taylor Peterson welcomed their son, Nolan Anthony Peterson, born at 7:39 in the morning. Nolan weighed 9lbs and 4oz and measured at 21.5 inches. The family resides in Plover.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

**Buyers' Guide**

Best Local Newspaper  
in Wisconsin Rapids

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**AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025 • 9:30 A.M.**

**LUNCH BY OUR MAKER'S ACRES**

**Located inside the Jr. Activities building at the Central Wisconsin Fairgrounds, 513 East 17th St., Marshfield, WI**

Tim Schindler Auctions & Estate specialists of Central WI is proud to present the second auction of the estate of Kenneth & Ardyce Heiting. This is a live in person auction, if you cannot attend, please feel free to contact Mitch or Tim for absentee bidding options. **There will be an open house to preview items on Friday, Jan. 17 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Doors will be open on Sat. at 8:00 a.m.**

**FURNITURE:** oak lawyer's stacking bookcases; rare Globe Wernicke oak drop front desk w/bookcase; oak drop front desks; primitive pie & jelly cupboards w/old paint; primitive benches; oak & mahogany parlor tables; oak telephone chair; butternut 3 dr. wash stands; early immigrants trunk; walnut Eastlake style parlor table; Victorian parlor chairs; Victorian oval marble top parlor table; Victorian parlor sofa & settee; rare schoolhouse pull down maps w/ oak cabinet; oak printer's cabinet;

**LAMPS:** several leaded stained glass & slag glass lamps; French style torchiere pole lamps; Victorian cast iron pull down hanging oil lamps; cast iron oil lamp brackets & reflectors; & many others;

**POTTERY & MISC ANTIQUES:** RW 3 & 4 gal. churns; RW crocks & jugs; McCoy & Weller pottery; Victorian glass & cracker jars; Spode china; Wallace sterling silver flatware; .999 silver one oz. bars; several blue & white swirl graniteware pieces; Jadite tea & coffee canisters; lg. wooden dough bowl; primitive wooden bowls; lg. 2 wheel General Store coffee grinder; vintage quilts & rugs; German beer steins; 1932 WI hunting license button; wooden duck decoys; Marshfield Brewery crate; tramp art boxes; German feather tree; vintage Christmas items; costume jewelry; antique oil paintings & early lithograph pictures; 1905 Frederic Remington print; JFK assassination papers; Victorian wicker stroller, Marshfield State Bank notary stamp; Victorian picture frames; primitive boxes; woven wicker baskets; cast iron bookends, stained glass window, Texas Longhorn mount; Griswold cast iron pieces; wall mount coffee grinder; antique kitchen items; Bus Stop metal sign; wicker fishing creels; Victorian photo album & tin types; WWI history books, old toys & marbles; mantle clocks; Native American prints & So much more!!

**COINS:** Walking Liberty & Franklin half dollars; Washington quarters; Roosevelt & mercury dimes; wheat pennies.

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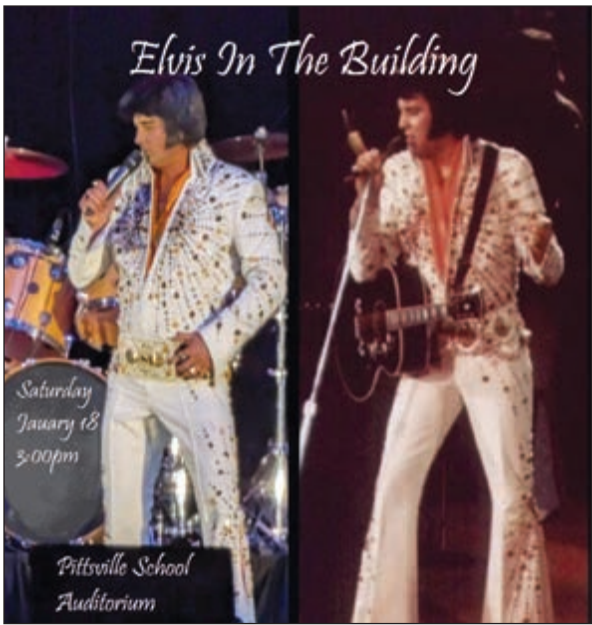


# Elvis is in the building

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – For some, it seems like just yesterday. Elvis Presley was a phenom in the 1960s through 1980s that the immortal announcement, “Elvis has left the building,” sounding loud over the speakers to relieve security details, sank the hearts of shrieking young gals and diminished the flames of wild fans wanting a glimpse, a whiff, much less an autograph of he who had become the king.

Although a shy kid, teased as a mama’s boy in school, his nervous habit of shaking his leg became his signature as he melded his background of church gospel music, hillbilly style, country ballads, and the back beat of rhythm and blues. Then, Elvis brought the guitar to the forefront



and, boom: rock and roll was born. From very humble beginnings in Mississippi, Elvis became a star like no other, adored by fans,

and consumed by fame. Singer, Dakota Pongratz, sings and shakes a tribute to the various stages of Elvis’s career,

from his teen start to the Vegas years, complete with mannerisms, movements, costumes and vocals in a tribute that does exceptional justice to the beloved talent. This show will take you back to those glory years and introduce younger generations to the eras of Elvis; performances that shocked TV censors and thrilled audiences.

Don’t miss ELVIS IN THE BUILDING on Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Pittsville school auditorium. Show time is 3:00pm. General admission tickets will be available at the door, or can be picked up in advance at the downtown Pittsville office of Wisconsin Farm Business/Ortner Accounting during regular business hours: staring at \$12, Seniors \$10, students only \$1. Online: Eventbrite.

## PUBLISHER’S LETTER

### A Shower A Day

Dear Reader,

Today I took a shower, as I do almost every day. It’s something so routine, we rarely give it a second thought. But there’s a certain comfort in that simple act—feeling clean, refreshed, and ready to face whatever the day or night may bring. Yet, we often take these small, everyday luxuries for granted.

There are millions around the world who don’t have this privilege. The people of Ukraine, for instance, have been robbed of such normalcy as they endure brutal and unjust attacks—simply for not being Russian. This tragedy, is a nightmare that has destroyed lives and shattered peace.

A daily shower won’t solve this crisis, but it reminds us of the life we hope the people of Ukraine—and all oppressed people—might one day return to. A life where peace prevails, and where, after all the chaos, they can enjoy something as simple as...a quiet shower in the morning.



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# Rural homelessness and the fight to do ‘more with less’

BY HALLIE CLAFLIN  
WISCONSIN WATCH

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Last winter, Eric Zieroth learned that multiple layers and a down blanket were the best way to keep warm while living in his car in far northwestern Wisconsin.

For over a year, he and his then-20-year-old daughter Christina Hubbell regularly

parked in a corner spot at a public boat landing a mile outside Shell Lake, where they had spent most of their lives.

Now, because they are homeless, they have been ostracized for showering, parking and sleeping in public places.

Washburn County has no homeless shelters. Hubbell’s job at a dollar store keeps them from relocating to a shelter in another county.

They are on a waitlist for a low-income housing unit.

Zieroth is awaiting a surgery that will allow him to get back to work.

If it weren’t for his daughter, the former mechanic said he might consider committing a crime and getting booked into jail instead of spending another winter in the vehicle.

“There’s no way I could do it again,” Zieroth said. “I had to figure out something else this year.”

In rural Wisconsin, homelessness is often hidden behind a veil of individuals and families who are couch

surfing and sleeping in their vehicles.

Resources are few and far between, shelters are always full, and funding can be a significant challenge.

After falling for years, the state’s estimated homeless population has been rising since 2021, surpassing 5,000 in 2024 for the first time since 2017.


In the 69 counties outside Milwaukee, Dane and Racine, the homeless population increased from 2,938

**Rural**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

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Eric Zieroth unlocks the back gate of the apartment where he’s staying as his dog, Bella, runs after him before driving to his storage unit with his daughter, Christina Hubbell, on Dec. 3.  
Joe Timmerman / Wisconsin Watch photos



Christina Hubbell runs the laundromat’s hot water to melt her frozen laundry detergent after picking up her winter clothes from a storage unit she shares with her father, Eric.



# The Krakens Close Out 2024

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS- The Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club (WRSC) swam in the final invitational for 2024. The Phillips Wave Invitational was held on Dec. 14 in Phillips. The Phillips Swim Meet is part of the Central Wisconsin Swim Conference. The CWSC offers an opportunity for the smaller clubs in this area to swim and compete. Each club is asked to host a meet on a Saturday throughout the season at no cost to the families. The Krakens had another outstanding tournament by setting eleven new club records and had four swimmers with multiple individual event wins.

“The Holidays bring out the best in our swimmers,” said Head Coach Dave Kontz. “It was a fantastic way to finish out 2024 and get ready for the conference championship in February.”

Travis McMahon is in his second year of swimming with the Krakens. On this day, Travis only recorded first place wins. The list includes the 50yd Free (a new club record), 50yd Breast, 500yd Free, and was part of the winning 200yd Medley and Free Relays. Travis presently holds ten club records.

Tretton Delaney and Joey Doebereiner captured first and second, respectively, in the 100yd freestyle. Tretton placed first in the 50yd Butterfly and placed second in the 50yd Freestyle (PR). The 50yd Free set a new club record. Joey also had a great day with all his swims being Personal Records (PR). Joey finished first in the 50yd Backstroke, and fifth in the 50yd Freestyle. Both boys swim in the 200yd Medley and Free Relays. Anna Gumz captured first in the 25yd Freestyle (PR) and in the 50yd Freestyle. Anna also swam to a second the 25yd Backstroke (PR). Anna set new club records in the 25yd Free and Back. Anna presently holds six club records.

Rapids started the morning with the 200yd Medley Relays. The age group girls placed third and the boys placed first while setting a new club record. Swimming for the girls included Anna Gumz, Annabelle Graumann, Janessa Rucinski, and Aubrey Knoll. Swimming for the boys included Mason Ironside, Nigel Schultz, Travis McMahon, and Noah Grosskopf.

Janessa Rucinski did great individually as well, and finished with a second in the 100yd Breaststroke and a pair of thirds in the 100yd Individual Medley and a PR in the 50yd Butterfly.



Aubrey Knoll was swimming in her very first swim meet, but she swam like a professional by placing seventh in the 25yd Backstroke, eleventh in the 25yd Freestyle, and swam well in the 50yd Backstroke. Aubrey also played a big part in the 200yd Medley and Freestyle Relays.

Mason Ironside, in his first year as a Kraken, has done very well. Mason placed first in the 50yd Backstroke (PR), second in the 100yd Freestyle and fifth in the 50yd Freestyle (PR). Mason swims the Backstroke in the Medley Relay and is part of the 200 Free Relay.

Noah Grosskopf is another new swimmer to the Krakens. Noah has become part of the 200yd Medley and Freestyle Relays. Noah went on to place eighth in the 50yd Backstroke and had a (PR) in the 50yd Freestyle.

Nigel Schultz scored a second place in the 100yd Individual Medley, third in the 50yd Breaststroke, and ninth in the 50yd Freestyle. Nigel presently holds four club records.

The Graumanns have been Krakens from the beginning and are very supportive of the program. Annabelle Graumann had

a PR in the 50yd Freestyle, she set a new club record in the 100yd Freestyle and did a great job in the 50yd Backstroke. Cody Graumann swam PRs in the 25yd freestyle and 25yd Backstroke. Cole Graumann swam to all PRs. Cole placed second 25yd Freestyle, fourth in the 50yd Freestyle and fifth 25yd Backstroke. Ellie and Maddie Graumann swim in the afternoon with the senior girls.

Finally, Rhiannon Zaba-wa swam to a PR in the 50yd Backstroke and swam well in the 50yd Freestyle. The 200yd Freestyle Relays were the last event of the morning session. The age group girls finished in third place and the boys in first place while setting another club record. Swimming for the girls was Annabelle Graumann, Rhianna Zabawa, Anna Gumz, and Janessa Rucinski. The boys relay included Mason Ironside, Nigel Schultz, Travis McMahon, and Noah Grosskopf.

The 200yd Medley Relay started the afternoon session and had the Krakens senior girls in fourth place, the senior boys finished in second and the middle school girls also took second place. Swimming for the senior girls included El-

lie Graumann, Lilly Reetz, Elyxa Peck, and Willow Devine.

The senior boys relay included Joey Doebereiner, Jameson Bernette, Tretton Delaney, and Chasten Delaney. Finally, the middle school girls included Mackenzie Miloch, McKenna Anderson, Mya Marquard, and Payton Kraklow.

The individual winners started with McKenna Anderson scoring a pair of seventh places. McKenna swam the 100yd Individual Medley and 50yd Backstroke (PR).

The Krakens welcome Jameson Bernette as one of the newest swimmers. Jameson placed fourth in the 100yd Breaststroke (PR) and seventh in the 100yd Freestyle. Jameson swam very well in the relays.

Chasten Delaney captured a fifth place in the 50yd Breaststroke, eighth in the 50yd Freestyle and swam well in the 100yd Freestyle. Chasten played a big part in the senior relays.

Ellie Graumann swam to all PRs. Ellie placed second in the 50yd Backstroke, third in the 50yd Breaststroke and seventh in the 50yd Freestyle.

Payton Kraklow is doing very well also. She had a PR in the 50yd Backstroke and swam well in the 50yd Free and 50yd Breast. Payton also swam great in the relays.

Mya Marquard is a fine swimmer and enjoys working with the club's youngest swimmers. Mya placed fourth in the 50yd Butterfly, sixth in the 50yd Breaststroke, and ninth in the 50yd Freestyle. Mya holds nine club records.

Reeyce and Sunday Rose Matthews swam in their very first swim meet. Even though they joined the Krakens in the middle of the season, to watch them swim, you would not know it. Reeyce finished 18th in the 100yd Free and 28th in the 50yd Free. Sunday Rose placed 12th in the 50yd Back and 27th in the 50yd Free.

Mackenzie Miloch finished fifth in the 100yd Individual Medley and sixth in the 50yd freestyle. Mackenzie also swam in the 200yd Medley and Free Relays.

The Krakens welcome back two very talented swimmers from the Lincoln High School Swim Team, Elyxa Peck and Lilly Reetz. Elyxa and Lilly finished first and second, respectively in the 50yd Breaststroke. Elyxa went on to place second in the 100yd Individual Medley and fourth in 100yd freestyle. Elyxa was last year's conference champion in the 50yd Butterfly and presently holds eight club

records. At the meet, Elyxa set new club records in the 50yd Breast and 100yd Individual Medley. Lilly placed second and with a Personal Record in the 50yd Freestyle and fifth in the 100yd Freestyle.

The afternoon sessions ended with a first-place sweep of all the relays. The middle school girls also set a new club record. Swimming for Rapids were Mackenzie Miloch, McKenna Anderson, Payton Kraklow, and Mya Marquard. Swimming for the senior girls included Ellie Graumann, Willow Devine, Lilly Reetz,

and Elyxa Peck. Finally, the senior boys with a “come-from-behind” win included Joey Doebereiner, Jameson Bernette, Tretton Delaney, and Chasten Delaney.

The Krakens had a little time off to have the team Christmas Party and prepare for 2025. The Central Wisconsin Swim Conference starts 2025 with meets in Merrill on Jan. 11, Minocqua on Jan. 18, and the first WRSC home meet on Jan. 25. The Divisional Meet will be held in Minocqua on Feb. 1-2, and the Conference Championships will be held in Tomahawk on Feb. 8-9.

## Obituaries

Elizabeth Ann Rosandick  
May 30, 1933-December 29, 2024



Elizabeth (Libby) Ann Rosandick, 91, passed away peacefully December 29, 2024 surrounded by family.

Libby was born May 30, 1933, in Madison, Wisconsin, to William and Marguerite (Nielsen) Grimmer. She graduated from Madison West High School and attended UW-Madison, graduating in 1955 with a degree in Home Economics and Education. She made the most of her college experience, pledging Delta Delta Sorority and being selected for Mortar Board, a national honor society. After graduation, she moved to Wisconsin Rapids to work in Wood County's UW Extension Office. There she met her future husband, Louie Rosandick. She often joked that she and Louie attended so many meetings together that they decided to get married, which they did on October 13, 1956. They raised five children and were blessed with 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Louie passed away in May 2022.

Libby loved people. She received great joy from talking with you, learning more about you and helping you, if needed. Thus, education was her perfect career choice. She devoted 39 years to Mid-State Technical College, beginning in 1957, teaching evening courses in home economics, sewing and cooking at what was then Wisconsin Rapids Vocational College. She became the first home economics coordinator in 1960 and advanced through several roles. During that time, she expanded her own education by earning her Master's Degree from UW-Stout. In 1989, she was named Wisconsin Rapids Campus Dean. She retired in 1996. Libby was proud to be part of Mid-State's evolution from a city vocational school into the Wisconsin Technical College System and see it become a major partner in central Wisconsin.

After retiring, Libby was free to share her leadership talents in the community. She served as president of Woodland Girl Scout Council, Historic Point Basse, and Riverview Hospital Auxiliary. As a member of Wisconsin River Garden Club for more than 50 years and Master Gardeners, she helped beautify the community. In 2008, Libby was honored to receive the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award for her community involvement. She also enjoyed antiquing, her book club, Common Thread Quilters and AAUW. Some of Libby's greatest joys were attending her children's and grandchildren's athletic and musical events. She shared her love of UW-Madison with several grandkids by attending Grandparents University with them. Family holiday celebrations and vacations “up north” in Bessemer and St. Germain also brought her great joy.

In 2022, a blood clot required amputating Libby's right leg. But she declared, “I've got more living to do.” After recovery, she continued to enjoy family gatherings and going out to eat with friends and family. Libby was also blessed to spend one more summer with her family in St. Germain. She even won the family beer tasting contest.

Libby is survived by her five children, Bill (Beth) Rosandick, of Granton, WI; Katy (Jim) Worden, of Burlington, WI; Andy (Pam) Rosandick, of Wisconsin Rapids; Carol (Tom) Davis of Wisconsin Rapids; and Jim (Jaime) Rosandick of Appleton; sister, Catherine (Ted) Luedtke; sister-in-law Eileen Rosandick; grandchildren, Rebecca (Aaron) Greisen, Ben Rosandick, Alex (Sarah Zuhlsdorf) Rosandick, Brad (Beth) Rosandick, Matt (Megan) Davis, Margo (Ryan) Bloor, Emma (Trent) Vukodinovich, Nick (Olivia) Davis, Lauren (Alex) Hardy, Brian (Neve McElhane) Davis, Sophie (Andy) Nickel, and Sam Rosandick; great-grandchildren Louie, Kennedy and Helen Vukodinovich, Ari, Kieran and Dominic Davis, Fern and Wren Greisen, Lincoln Bloor, Brooks Rosandick and Calvin Hardy. She is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

Libby was preceded in death by her husband, parents, baby brother, Billy, and in-laws Joseph (Manda) Rosandick, Michael (Nellie, Florence) Rosandick, Rose (Gilbert) Bymers, Mary (Norbert) Barten, John (Alice) Rosandick, Stephen (Priscilla) Rosandick, Thomas (Arlene) Rosandick, Anna (Alvin) Bartell, Helen (Lawrence) Schultz, Amanda (Rueben) Gliniecki, Paul (Jackie) Rosandick, and Nicholas Rosandick.

Memorials may be directed to Mid-State Technical College Foundation or the Louie & Libby Rosandick Scholarship Fund at Incurage Community Foundation.

Libby's family would like to thank the nurses, doctors and staff at Aspirus Riverview Hospital for their compassionate and professional care. Libby also treasured her special friendships with many kind caregivers during her time at The Renaissance, especially Charissa and Kristen.

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**RURAL**  
FROM PAGE 4

individuals in 2023 to 3,201 in 2024 — and that’s likely an undercount.

Those living in cars are often missed, and those sleeping on couches don’t count

because they’re “housed,” said Jenny Fasula, executive director of Wisconsin’s Foundation for Rural Housing.

Despite accounting for over 60% of the state’s homeless population in 2023, these mostly rural counties

collectively contain just 23% of the state’s supportive housing units, according to the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

Experts say such long-term housing support with on-site services is the best way to address chronic homelessness. But providing the option is an expensive, labor-intensive task for small, rural providers with limited funding.

Rural shelter providers across the state identified several solutions to the problem: Cutting out county governments as the middleman for state reimbursements, increasing the availability of new rental units, consolidating multiple definitions of homelessness, more consistent and proportional state funding and assistance with case management are just a few.

are next to no rental units. So even if somebody did get approved for the housing program, where are we going to put them?”

Rural areas are also home to the state’s aging housing stock, which can mean higher energy bills.

“People stereotype them to think ‘Oh, we have these programs because people don’t know how to manage their money.’ It’s not that,” Fasula said. “These are folks that come in that just have a crisis. ... They don’t have anything to fall back on. Any little hiccup is a big impact for them financially.”

While working to eventually afford an apartment in Shell Lake, Hubbell is making \$13.50 an hour at the Dollar General, but only scheduled to work 20 hours a week. The living wage calculation for one adult in Washburn County is \$19.45 an hour working 40 hours a week, according to the MIT living wage calculator.

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## Federal funding and HUD

Since 2009, HUD — the main federal agency that handles homelessness — has targeted permanent supportive housing programs with long-term, sustainable services like case management for federal funding.

The national shift from temporary housing programs reflects a widely adopted “housing first” approach — that the security of a permanent shelter is the first, necessary step before people can address the root causes of their homelessness.

While permanent housing programs effectively lowered Wisconsin’s homeless population in both rural and urban areas before the pandemic, the shift hasn’t been easy for rural shelters that are strapped for resources.

“As a shelter, when you have 50 people, it’s impossible to have the funding to hire case managers that are really involved and able to really assist people,” said Michael Hall, a former Waupaca County shelter worker and director of Impact Wis-

consin — a nonprofit providing housing and recovery services in a six-county rural region.

Restrictions on federal funding and multiple definitions of homelessness are another barrier for rural homeless providers, said Millie Rounsville, CEO of Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency.

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness specifically for youth as minor children who “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

But HUD defines homelessness in multiple categories including: 1) an individual or family who is immediately homeless and without shelter and 2) those at imminent risk of homelessness.

Homeless children and families in the rural region surrounding Superior tend to be doubled up in some kind of housing, Rounsville said.

While they often meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, they are considered category two homeless under HUD’s definitions.

But in order to qualify for HUD-funded Rapid Rehousing programs, individuals must fall under category one.

“The funding needs to be flexible,” Rounsville said. “We can’t assume that every community across the country has the same need.”

## It’s a housing issue

Rural Wisconsin is lacking affordable, habitable homes.

Providers in Rusk County, Taylor County, Bayfield County and Waupaca County said without low-income options, they often can’t get people into permanent housing.

“As fast as units open up, they get filled,” said Kimberly Fitzgerald, interim director of the Rusk County Lighthouse shelter. “In Ladysmith specifically, there

## State funding

In the state’s 2023-25 biennial budget, the Legislature rejected Gov. Tony Evers’ recommendations to spend some \$24 million on emergency shelter and housing grants, homeless case management services and rental assistance for unhoused veterans.

The Legislature also nixed \$250 million Evers proposed for affordable workforce housing and home rehabilitation grants.

The state funds two main grants for homeless shelters and housing annually.

The State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) receives around \$1.6 million per year, and the Housing Assistance Program receives \$900,000.

But for small shelters like Taylor House — the only homeless shelter in rural Taylor County — the funding is “pennies,” said Adam Schnabel, the shelter’s vice president.

The facility has a continuous waitlist.

The north central Wisconsin shelter with a 17-person capacity received \$10,000 from SSSG this year, Schnabel said.

That’s around \$588 per person. But four emergency shelters in Milwaukee with a combined capacity of around 392 received \$400,000 from the \$1.6 million grant total — \$1,020 per person.

The state’s Recovery Voucher Grant Program awarded \$760,000 to grantees in 2024 to provide housing to those experiencing homelessness and struggling with opioid use disorders.

Half of these funds went to three providers in Dane, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

Another state resource is the Homeless Case Management Services (HCMS) grant program, which distributes up to 10 \$50,000 grants per year to shelters and programs that meet eligibility requirements.

While helpful, these pots of money quickly run out, and many of them don’t cover operating costs or wages.

## Small shelters face county-level hurdles

Some shelter workers and advocates say in rural Wisconsin, homelessness is addressed only to the extent that their local governments and administrations are

willing to acknowledge the issue and get involved.

Providers in several rural counties noted that there aren’t any shelters that are owned or operated by local governments.

Washburn County Social Services can only direct homeless residents to the Lakeland Family Resource Center.

Hall and Schnabel said local governments need to be more involved in their work, whether that be providing a county employee to serve as a shelter director, or simply making better use of their limited resources.

Schnabel added that small shelters often cannot pay their directors a decent wage, resulting in frequent staff turnover.

Taylor House has had four directors in the last 18 months, he said. The inconsistency leaves “a bad taste” in the mouth of those reviewing their grant applications.

Some counties are much more willing than others to utilize Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) — a state program aimed at addressing substance abuse and mental health needs.

The program allows counties to contract employees and case managers who provide services such as skills development and peer support.

The county can bill those expenses back to the state through BadgerCare.

But some county officials are unwilling to engage in the program, Hall said.

He added that allowing local shelters that serve those covered under BadgerCare to bill the state directly for these services instead of relying on the county to initiate it “would solve the problem tomorrow.”

Hall also noted that county governments can use their opioid settlement funds to provide housing and shelter to those with eligible needs, yet some have instead spent it on other things.

Waupaca County, for example, told Wisconsin Watch it has spent nearly \$100,000 in opioid settlement funds on awareness campaigns, training, a counselor position and equipment that helps local police quickly identify narcotics.

Another challenge is that some small communities reject homeless shelters, assuming they will bring negative footprints.

The small city of Clintonville approved an ordinance last winter enforcing a 60-day limit on local hotel stays in a six-month period, citing drug concerns, disorderly conduct and disturbances.

Many homeless individuals in the area are put up in those hotels.

“We’re trying to figure out, what are we going to do with those 50 people this winter when the police departments come through and say they have to get out,” Hall said.

## Shunned by their community

While still homeless, Zi-eroth and Hubbell were fortunate enough to find a temporary place to stay as the weather gets colder — a small room in the unfinished basement of an acquaintance who

**Rural**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

**SUDOKU**

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# Celebrate the new year with art at The Alexander House

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS-The Alexander House will be holding an Opening Reception on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m featuring exhibits such as “Holy Ground”: Paintings by Anne Horjus, Baraboo, Wisconsin with “Cultivation: Vessels for Gathering”: Ceramics by Kyle Hendrix, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Meet the artists in person as they share stories about their work and creative journeys.

Anne Horjus is a Dutch artist from Friesland, near the Wadden Sea. He studied classical singing at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague while also developing his skills in visual arts. His work includes portraits, landscapes, murals, art installations, theater sets, woodcarvings, puppet making, and writing.

Anne’s illustrations have been featured at venues such as the Royal Concert Hall in Amsterdam and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He has illustrated several children’s picture books in the Netherlands, Belgium, and the U.S.

His puppets have appeared in productions at theaters like the Marcus Center in Milwaukee, the Orpheum in Madison, the Pablo Center in Eau Claire, and the Stephanie H. Weill Center in Sheboygan.



For 16 years, Anne worked as a children’s library program coordinator, contributing to the nationally distributed Collaborative Summer Library Program Manual and creating craft projects for World Book. He also runs literacy and art workshops for library systems and schools.

Kyle Hendrix received his MFA in studio arts at the University of Missouri, and his BFA in ceramics and art education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He has completed Artist In Residence programs at C.R.E.T.A. in Rome, IT. Lillstreet Arts Center in Chicago, IL, and the Cub Creek Foundation in Appomattox, VA. Currently he is a full-time studio potter located in Milwaukee, WI.

During the Reception en-



joy live music performed by members of the Lincoln High School Orchestra. They will play pieces inspired by the book “Sleep”, illustrations by Anne Hor-

jus. The book will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be provided.

The exhibition runs until Feb. 18, 2025, with gallery hours on Sundays,



Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Discover more at alex-

anderhouseonline.org or on Facebook at Alexander House Center for Art and History.

## Wood County Home and Community Education holding game day on Feb. 6

DENISE MANCL  
FOR CITY TIMES  
MEMBERSHIP  
CHAIRPERSON  
WOOD COUNTY HOME  
AND COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION

The first week in December was very eventful for Wood County Home and Community Education.

Our annual Christmas gathering was held at the Lester library in Nekoosa Wisconsin. Everyone had a fantastic time with our basket raffle being a great success. Many donations were made and all of the proceeds will go toward our scholarship fund. We had a great catered dinner followed by a bingo game and a fantastic presentation given by Hannah Wendel’s, the food-wise educator for Wood County UW extension.

Two days later, there was a no-bake treats lesson given at McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids by Denise Mancl and Peggy Wettstein.

We demonstrated three different treats that included lemon white chocolate



truffles, no bake peanut butter bars, and puppy chow snack mix. After demonstrating the preparation of the treats, everyone got to enjoy a sample and take the recipes home to enjoy with their family.

Now that we have entered 2025, I would like to invite you to attend a game day that will be given on Feb. 6 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the first Congregational

UCC Church. The address is 311 2nd Street Wisconsin Rapids Wisconsin. No pre-registration is required. Simply show up and enjoy!

If you have an interest in becoming a member of HCE, please feel free to email me at deedeemancl@gmail.com. we have a great history of service to our homes and communities and would welcome new members.

### RURAL FROM PAGE 6

didn’t want to see them living out of their car.

They insist on paying the homeowners \$50 a week — all they can afford — for letting them stay in the basement.

Zieroth uses his skills as a mechanic to fix things

around the property, and Hubbell picks items up for them at the Dollar General whenever she can.

Once healed, he wants to get back to work and acquire a property of his own, but his first priority is his daughter.

After getting on her feet,

Hubbell hopes to go to cosmetology school in Rice Lake.

“She has her whole life ahead of her and experience has taught me that some real bad beginnings get really good endings, and she deserves a good one,” Zieroth said.

## Classifieds

Guns7264

Wittenberg Gun Show: January 17th & 18th at the Best Western W17267 Red Oak Lane Wittenberg, WI Friday 3pm-8pm Saturday 9am-4pm Bearing Arms Gun Shows 715-641-2439

Wanted to Buy7268

\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$

I'll buy out estates, attics, barns, basements, & sheds. Central Wisconsin. Also, guns, military, gold & silver coins, old musical instruments, and jewelry. GUARANTEED I'll buy more than my competitors!!!

Call Randy 715-204-2578  
References available  
Located in Stevens Point 42600

WANTED:  
FENTON GLASS  
ITEMS. CALL  
CHARLOTTE  
715-366-2574

WANTED TO BUY: ANTIQUES,  
ANY OLD STUFF, TOOLS, FURNITURE - ESTATE ITEMS, ETC. I'LL DIG THROUGH PILES. CALL JERE 715-366-2574

Dogs7272

After Christmas Sale: Purebred Jack Russell Terrier puppies. First shots and dewormed. \$275 each. 715-921-2989

AKC GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES! 2-M \$400 Serious inquiries only! DOB 11/13 Very nice pup. Shots DEW 715-304-1097 (12/30)

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES. Ready Now Shots Vet Ck'd \$450! 715-721-6407 (1/6)

AKC REG. CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIAL PUPS. DOB 10/24 Shots, DEW, Vet Ck'd \$800. Call 715-644-5726 (1/6)

Dogs7272

AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$300 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)nw

Australian Shepard Black Tri M-\$175 Blue Merle F-\$275 11 Weeks Old. Wanted to buy Manx puppy M/F 920-905-4665 (1/6)

BICHAPOO KING CHARLES CAVALIER MIXED PUP. Adorable Faces Shots DEW Vet Ck'd \$450 715-669-5928 (1/6)

BOSTON/RAT TERRIER PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$500 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)s

BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES Maels/Females Health Guar. Ready Now \$600 715-937-0916 (01/13)

CAVAPOO PUPS \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)12/30)nw

For sale COLLIE PUPPIES! Shots DEW Marion area \$120 715-754-5214 (12/30)

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS! \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)nw

Pomeranian Puppies Cute Fun Vet Ck'd \$500 call 715-654-5149 (1/13)

PUGALIERS PUP CAVALIER KING CHARLES Mixed with PUG PUPS. DOB 10/24 Shots, DEW, Vet Ck'd \$600. Call 715-644-5726 (1/6)

REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Dew, Vet Ck'd Ready NOW Can deliver \$700 Call 715-470-0458 (#509642) 1/6 am

SHITZO TEDDYBEAR PUPS! Cute Shots Dewormed \$600 call after 6pm 715-669-3356 Thorp Wi. (1/6)

WHOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$600 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/6)s/m

Livestock7284

ALL NAT. GRASS FED BEEF. Butchered Jan 14th Vac. Pak. Incl. Processing \$6.50lb. 715-250-2793

Lots and Acreage Wanted7484

HOME WANTED TO BUY!! Looking for a 3bdr country home in Wood or Portage County. Acreage a plus. I have a qualified buyer ready to buy. If you would consider on selling for CASH, please give me a call at 715-421-9999 North Central Real Estate

Motorcycles7502

BUYING SALVAGE MOTORCYCLES-ATVS-WATERCRAFT 920-850-9299 Local Dealer Pickup

Passenger Cars7538

FOR SALE:  
2009 Hyundai Sonata FWD. Good shape, new tires. 83,500 miles. \$7000 obo. 715-355-4408

Professional and Technical7135

Park Place Adult Day Services Director: The Director will be responsible for day-to-day operations and will report to the Board. The Director must have at least one of the following: \* An Associate Degree or higher from an accredited college in a related healthcare field that has cared for a population like the group at PPADS (elderly) OR \* At least two years of experience working in a related healthcare field that served a population like the group at PPADS. The position is full-time time approximately 40 hours per week, For further information, visit the PPADS website or FB page Park Place Adult Day Services 220 3rd Avenue South Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 Parkplaceadulthoodservices@gmail.com

Painting and Wallpaper7364

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# “The Wealth InFormation Lady”: Our Dynamic Social Security System



## The Wealth InFormation Lady

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

I posted a question on social media recently, “ATTENTION LADIES: I am seeking your input! What financial topics do you feel are important to women? Why? Thank you!”

As I read what was weighing on the ladies’ minds (represented in bold below) and thought of the advice I’d give, which would differ by individual circumstances, there was a common piece that would be important: The Social Security system of the United States of America. Here are a few of the responses I’d gotten to my question, and for the context of a short article, how social security plays in.

I am a single lady: What do I need to do to retire? What to expect when you

are retired? Many women were in positions while raising kids that didn’t offer retirement plans/401k’s for a long time. If you are divorced, you can receive social security retirement benefits based upon either your own work record OR your ex-spouse’s record. Your marriage must have lasted at least 10 years, you must not be re-married (if you are you can claim benefits on that spouse) and you become eligible to begin collecting social security income at 62.

Financial planning in the event your spouse passes before you, especially at an early age. The financial devastation of this possibility cannot be underestimated and is often best solved with life insurance and a com-

partmentalized plan as to how much money is needed for specific purposes such as replacing income, paying off debts or planning for future expenses like college. Social security can also play a part, although not nearly as powerful as you, yourself can prepare for with your own risk management plan. Social security has a “survivors’ benefit” which is based on the amount of earnings (that were taxed by social security and therefore paid into the system) of the person who passed away. Widow or widower’s benefits may be received at full retirement age (differs for each person depending on your year of birth), that are 100% of the deceased workers benefit amount. That means that, although the person paying into social security may have died, their surviving spouse may still get to collect on their benefit for their entire retired life. Reduced benefits may be available as early as age 60. Disability benefits are available as early as age 50. Benefits are available to a surviving

spouse at any age caring for a child under age 16, or for children under age 18 (19 if in elementary or secondary school) who has a disability, and even for dependent parents of the deceased worker age 62 or older.

Retirement, all aspects. What to do when the market tanks, timeframes for retirement how to retire early and working part time in retirement. As for social security, your monthly income check is not at all tied to financial markets. In fact, you’ll receive Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) based upon inflation. Working part time can be an excellent idea for many reasons. If you’ve chosen to receive your social security retirement benefits before your FRA or Full Retirement Age (based on your year of birth) you may have earned income up to a certain level before your monthly social security check would be reduced. In 2025, that amount is \$23,400. After full retirement age, you may earn as much income as you would like without any reduction.

How do women who may have left the workforce to take care of children and then want to re-enter the workforce catch up on the years they might have missed putting into retirement? In a lot of cases, women are the younger spouse, how does that play in? Individualized planning is key as each case will differ. As for social security, when you are old enough to begin collecting benefits, you are essentially allowed to collect either your own benefit based upon your own work record, OR an amount equal to ½ of your spouse’s benefit (even with your spouse collecting their own full benefit), whichever is higher. Our Social Security system compensates spouses who left the workforce for any reason and did not themselves pay in as much as their working spouse.

I was a stay-at-home Mom. Now I’m ready to retire and have nothing. Similar to the responses above, if you are married, you may collect social security based on your spouses’ benefit in

addition to him or her collecting his or her full benefit. If you are divorced or widowed, you may also collect on your former spouses’ benefit. If your spouse is working, you may contribute to an IRA or a Roth IRA based upon your spouse’s income, even if you are not working.

Visit [ssa.gov](https://ssa.gov) to learn more about our dynamic Social Security system.

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

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

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Community Calendar

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

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

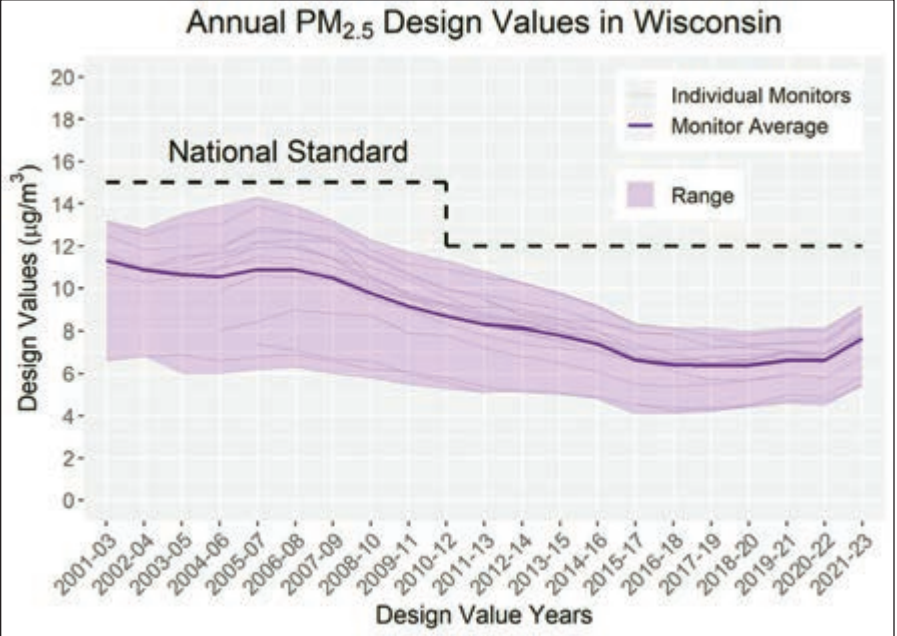
**ONGOING**  
Celebrate Recovery · Every Tuesday, hosted by Love Inc. at St Lawrence Church basement, 530 10 th St N, Wisconsin Rapids. Come share adult fellowship through hurts, hang-ups & habits guided by the Beatitudes

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. Open 1pm-4 pm. <http://alexanderhouseonline.org/>

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

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



## DNR releases 2024 air quality trends report

## Inland trout early catch and release season opened Jan. 4

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that they will be able to target any of Wisconsin’s inland trout species using artificial lures only starting Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, through May 2, 2025, on designated early season trout streams.

Any trout caught during this time will need to be immediately released. All anglers are encouraged to continue to practice responsible catch and release and reduce their reel and handling time with the fish as much as possible. Tips on how to release your catch responsibly can be found on the DNR’s Responsible Release webpage.

Anglers will be able to keep the trout they catch once the general hook and line season opens on May 3, 2025, provided bag limits



Wisconsin’s early catch and release season for inland trout opened Jan. 4, 2025.

and length requirements are met. Check the Guide to Wisconsin’s Trout Fishing Regulations for specifics.

Anyone wishing to participate in the season will need a 2024-2025 fishing license and an inland trout stamp, which are both good until March 31, 2025, and can be purchased online through Go Wild or at

one of many license sales locations throughout the state. After April 1, 2025, anglers will need a 2025-2026 fishing license and inland trout stamp.

For a look at trout streams across the state, access the T.R.O.U.T. tool and additional trout fishing information on the DNR’s Inland Trout Fishing webpage.

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released its annual air quality trends report. This year’s report covers 20 years of state air monitoring data for air pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act, including ground-level ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, particle pollution and lead. The report presents data from the 2023 calendar year, including the historic 2023 Canadian wildfire smoke events.

According to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center, 15 million hectares (about two million acres larger than the state of Wisconsin) burned in 2023 – more than six times the annual average in Canada.

“Five percent of the entire Canadian forest burned last year,” said Gail Good, DNR Air Management program director. “During the multi-day air quality advisory in late June of last year, the air

monitoring network measured some of the highest PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations ever recorded in the state.”

Wildfire smoke events in 2023 resulted in the DNR issuing 15 PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality advisories – almost five times higher than the average over the previous 12 years. PM<sub>2.5</sub> advisories are issued when air quality has reached or is expected to reach the orange “unhealthy for sensitive groups” level on the Air Quality Index (AQI).

The design values used to assess PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations are calculated over a three-year period. This year’s Trends Report shows an increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations for the most recent period (2021-2023). Despite the jump caused by 2023’s wildfire smoke, overall, PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations have decreased 25% in the last 20 years, and all monitors measured concentrations below the 2012 federal air quality standards.

The report shows that over the last 20 years, state-

wide ozone concentrations have decreased by 15%. For decades, ozone concentrations have been dropping across the state. However, that trend has slowed. Last year’s wildfire smoke contained ozone-forming pollutants, which, combined with recent warmer-than-usual summers, contributed to increased ozone concentrations.

As a result, the Lake Michigan shoreline area, including the Milwaukee area and parts of Sheboygan and Kenosha counties, continues to fall short of meeting the 2015 ozone standard. Wisconsin has implemented many programs that have reduced emissions of ozone-causing pollutants from power plants, industry and transportation in the state. However, these emission reductions have not resulted in the attainment of the 2015 ozone standard because most ozone-causing emissions are transported across state boundaries and are outside Wisconsin’s control.