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## ANTIGO HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Antigo High School will be awarding its 30th annual Distinguished Alumni Award at commencement exercises this year on May 25th, 2025. Citizens are encouraged to send a nomination to Trina Borneman, Antigo High School, 1900 Tenth Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409. A committee of former teachers, current teachers, and professionals from the community will choose one recipient of the award. Nominations must include information on how the candidate has used their time and talents to enrich or improve the Antigo community. A plaque containing a likeness of the annual recipient and a summary of his/her accomplishments will be on permanent display at AHS. The nominee will be presented a second plaque.

The winner of this award will be chosen based on his/her distinguished achievement or service in a career, the arts, politics, community service or other fields. The successful nominee must be a graduate of Antigo High School, and must agree to attend commencement exercises on May 25th, 2025. The recipient will be expected to make a brief acceptance address to the class and audience at the commencement.

Anyone may nominate an individual by completing the form below.

Name of Nominee

Address of Nominee

Graduating Class of nominee

I am nominating this person because (200 words or less)

Name, address, and telephone number of person nominating

-- All nominations must be returned by February 3rd, 2025 --

439227

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## Antigo Elk Teen of the Month Recognition

One male and one female will be selected each month September through April and will then be eligible for the award of Teenager of the Year along with a monetary scholarship - which will be awarded at the annual recognition banquet in May at the Antigo Elks Lodge. All recipients will be recognized at the annual dinner banquet.

Lillian L'Esperance was chosen to be recognized as Elk Teen of the Month for November 2024 & is now eligible for Teenager of the Year. She attended Tomahawk Elementary School, Tomahawk Middle School, Antigo Middle School before attending Antigo High School. In High School she has participated in three varsity sports, four clubs, and band. Her Cumulative GPA (Weighted) is an exceptional 4.405.



Her letter of recommendation boasts "her innate ability to approach tasks with a broad sense of objectivity. She offers

keen insights during classroom discussions, fostering an environment where diverse perspectives are valued and encouraged." Her hobbies include running, swimming, weight lifting, yoga, pickleball, reading, photography, and sewing.

Conner Umland was chosen to be recognized as Elk Teen of the Month for November 2024 & is now eligible for Teenager of the Year. He attended Crestwood & Spring Valley before attending Antigo High School. He has been an Honor Roll recipient for six semesters, Treasurer of National Honor Society, DECA Club (and treasurer last 2 yrs), Jr. Optimists Club, Christian Athletes Association, and Varsity Soccer.



His letter of recommendation emphasized his strong leadership qualities and a wonderful role model for others. As an active student he is also able to keep school his focal point. With a cumulative GPA of 4.117, putting his class rank at 10 of 176. His hobbies include yardwork and wreath making, as well as helping local elderly with home up keep.

## AHS Club Member Highlight

**Club:** HiLight/Yearbook

**Recognizing:** Maggie Neufeld

**Description:** Maggie is a Co-Editor this year and has been an amazing leader. She listens to everyone's ideas and is a great collaborator. She created several templates for everyone to use throughout the book & is helping to keep everyone on pace for deadlines, including herself, while taking on larger projects. Maggie has also stepped up as a photographer this year and has attended several events to make sure they are captured for the yearbook. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Maggie!!!

**Advisor:** Michelle Knappkavage



## Tavern League Donation

**FOR MMC**

The Tavern league is donating \$250 to the Angel Zimmerman Cancer benefit the tavern league of Wisconsin will provide matching funds. Shown in the picture is president Brian Miedl and Molly Held Director.



## Wisconsin Joins States in Levying \$20 Million Penalty Against Nation's Largest Nonbank Mortgage Servicing Company

**DFI**

The Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions announced Wisconsin and 52 other state financial regulatory agencies have taken coordinated action against mortgage company Bayview Asset Management LLC, and three of its affiliates, Lakeview Loan Servicing, Community Loan Servicing, and Pingora Holdings (collectively the Bayview Companies), for deficient cybersecurity practices and not fully cooperating with state regulators following a data breach that impacted 5.8 million customers.

The \$20 million fine and corrective plan underscore the importance of meeting state requirements to protect consumer data and complying with state supervisory demands.

"This multistate action and fine serve as an important reminder for our Wisconsin licensees: safeguarding consumer data is essential, and compliance with both federal and state regulations is non-negotiable," said DFI Secretary Cheryll Olson-Collins. "We encourage all of our licensees affected by any data breach to contact our Division of Banking. Taking this step is vital for ensuring consumer protection and maintaining confidence in our licensed financial services industries, including the nonbank mortgage industry, anytime a data breach occurs."

State regulators in California, Maryland, North Carolina, and Washington State led the multistate effort, which found that Bayview Companies' information technology and cybersecurity practices did not meet federal or state requirements. Furthermore, the Bayview Companies delayed the supervisory process by failing to comply with state requests in a timely and complete manner in the early stages of the examination.

In addition to the monetary penalty, the Bayview Companies have agreed to take specified corrective actions, improve cybersecurity programs, undergo independent assessments, and provide three years of additional reporting to the states.

State financial regulators license and supervise more than 33,000 nonbank financial services companies through the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System (NMLS®), including mortgage companies, money services businesses, consumer finance providers, and debt collectors. The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), on behalf of state regulators, operates NMLS®.

Wisconsin residents who have questions about this settlement should contact the DFI's Division of Banking by calling (608) 261-7578 or emailing [DFIMortgageBanking@dfi.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DFIMortgageBanking@dfi.wisconsin.gov). Residents can also visit NMLS® Consumer Access to verify that a company is licensed to do business in Wisconsin and view past enforcement actions.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

Richard Janke



Richard "Dick" Janke, of Deerbrook, formerly of Clintonville, passed away on January 13, 2025 at Wisconsin Veterans Home - King, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

Dick was born on April 11, 1948 in Clintonville to the late Marvin and Dorothy (Wege) Janke. He married Carol Fraedrich on September 5, 1970 in Clintonville. She preceded him in death in 2001.

Dick graduated from Clintonville High School, class of 1966. Dick proudly served in the United States Army. He served as part of the infantry during the Vietnam War from 1968-1969. For his bravery and dedication, he was honored with the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and Purple Heart. He worked as a leadman for Nordberg in Clintonville from 1968 to 2002. In 2010, Dick moved from Clintonville to permanently reside at the vacation property in Deerbrook.

Dick enjoyed hunting, fishing, and projects around his property up North.

Dick is survived by sons Steve (Denise) Janke of Elton and Mark Janke of Green Bay, granddaughters Rachel and Erica Janke both of Elton.

In accordance with his wishes, no services will be held. A private burial will take place at a later date at Union Cemetery in Symco.

Strasser-Roller Funeral Home is assisting the family. Friends may visit online at strasserrollerfuneralhome.com

Renate Hauser



Renate Hauser (79) of Deerbrook WI passed away peacefully on January 7 th at her home, surrounded by her family. Renate married Gustav Hauser on September 1st and 2nd in 1967 in Vienna, Austria. She obtained her MBA in Vienna.

Renate was a loving wife and mother to her children, including the friends she considered family. Renate was caring, strong willed, resourceful and a survivor. Renate loved to crochet heirloom pieces, cooking and baking in the Austrian tradition, tend her many flower gardens and was a long term Bears Fan.

Renate is survived by her husband of 57 years, Gustav Hauser, son Christian F. Hauser (Darlene F) and daughter Brigitte G. Hauser, her sister Annelise Scharl and her 5 daughters as well as her sister Traude Repnik. Renate was preceded in death by her mother (Natalia Findeis).

Renate came from Vienna, Austria with her husband and son in 1970, lived in Chicago Il for 8 years and moved to Pleasant Prairie WI in 1977, where she was an active member and former secretary of the Chiwaukee Preservation Fund. Renate and Gus retired to Deerbrook in 2008 where she enjoyed watching the wildlife surrounding her home. A celebration of life will be planned for a later date.

Strasser-Roller Funeral Home is assisting the family. Friends may visit online at strasserrollerfuneralhome.com.

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Warrant of the Week:

The Antigo Police Department holds a warrant for Amanda M. Rosio, 43 years old. The warrant is for failure to pay disorderly conduct and violating a harassment restraining order. Those with information on her whereabouts are urged to call the Antigo Police Department at 715-627-6411 or Langlade County Crimestoppers at 715-627-NAIL (6245), or by using the P3 app on your device which you can download for FREE in your phones app store. Callers may remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward.



346.19 What to do on approach of emergency vehicle.

Upon the approach of any authorized emergency vehicle giving audible signal by siren the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive such vehicle to a position as near as possible and parallel to the right curb or the right-hand edge of the shoulder of the roadway, clear of any intersection and, unless otherwise directed by a traffic officer, shall stop and remain standing in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.

When you see the cherries and berries in your rear view mirror or see them coming towards your position, pull over and wait until they are completely passed your location. When you pull back out into traffic, check your mirrors, use your blinker and pull back out into traffic safely. As first responders, we appreciate this as we are trying to get somewhere very quickly for emergency situations.



USDA and Wisconsin Award \$23.2 Million to Projects that Strengthen Food Supply Chain Infrastructure

DATCP The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced it has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to award \$23.2 million for 30 projects through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI). The 30 Infrastructure Grants

being announced today and the previously announced 41 Equipment Grants total 71 projects in Wisconsin funded through RFSI to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain while strengthening local

and regional food systems. "These Infrastructure Projects being funded through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program will build strength and resilience in Wisconsin's food system, diversify agricultural markets, create new revenue streams for small and mid-sized producers, and provide economic opportunities for local communities," said USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt. "USDA is grateful for Wisconsin's support strengthening local and regional agricultural supply chains."

"Wisconsin's farmers, producers, and our agricultural industries are a critical part of our state's economic success and help make sure we're getting food to tables, grocery stores, and restaurants across our country and the world over," said Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers. "I'm incredibly grateful these investments will help strengthen our supply chains and bolster economic opportunity and resilience across our state." Examples of funded Infrastructure Grant projects follow (access the full grantee list): Doudlah Farms Organics, a farmer-owned processing

enterprise in Evansville, Wisconsin, will increase Wisconsin's capacity to warehouse, clean, package, and distribute organic ingredients such as specialty grains, corn, and beans. Their RFSI-funded 20,000-foot processing facility will benefit an estimated 550 local and regional agricultural producers by reducing barriers to market entry; improving aggregation and distribution capacity for organic, value-added products through new sales channels; and increasing consumer choices for Wisconsin-sourced products.

Nasonville Dairy operates a cheese plant in Marshfield, Wisconsin, that currently processes 510 million pounds of milk per year from 171 central Wisconsin farms. Their new cold milk separator

system funded by the RFSI Infrastructure Grant will allow them to process an estimated 25 million more pounds of milk each year into five new value-added products including sweet cream.

Red Door Family Farm in Athens, Wisconsin, will construct a packing shed and cold storage facility to package and store their organically grown vegetables as well as those of 20 other farms. The purchase of a refrigerated truck will allow Red Door to transport produce from partner farms and distribute it to local and regional wholesalers, retailers, and food access organizations such as Feeding America and Marathon County Hunger Coalition.

Seasonal Harvest

See PROJECTS page 11

Real Estate SHOWCASE REAL ESTATE IN FOREST, LANGLADE AND OCONTO COUNTIES

Advertisement for RADenton REALTY LLC featuring a QR code, agent photos (Jamie Ausloos, Kenney Behrens, Rick Denton, Paul Eighmy, Amy Paikowski, Ken Schiefelbein), and contact information: 104 S. Lake Ave., Crandon, WI 54520. Office: 715-478-3744 • Fax: 715-273-7055. www.RADRealtyNorthwoods.com

Advertisement for Bolen Realty featuring 'FEATURED LISTINGS!' with three property photos and details: 24+ ACRES (BIRNAMWOOD, WI, \$475,000), DUPLEX (208 8TH AVE - ANTIGO, WI, \$137,500), and PRICE ADJUSTMENT (1010 8TH AVE - ANTIGO, WI, \$189,500). Includes QR code and contact: 715-623-3729, BOLEN@BOLENREALTY.COM.

Advertisement for CAL'S HANDYMAN SERVICES featuring a list of services (Garages, Remodeling, Yard Work, Driveway Sealcoating), the slogan 'NO JOB TOO SMALL!', and phone number 715-816-4602. Includes an image of various tools.

Advertisement for ALange Auction & Realty for a Saturday, January 25, 2025, 10:00 AM MOVING AUCTION at EXPO Center, 303 N Sales St., Merrill. Lists various items for sale and provides website and contact information: www.alangeauctionrealty.com or Call Arnold at: 715-574-2258.

# Staying safe in the cold: Aspirus Health shares cold weather injury prevention tips

Cold-related injuries can range from frostbite, frostnip, all the way up to hypothermia, where the body's not able to produce heat fast enough to keep it warm to survive

## ASPIRUS HEALTH

As temperatures begin to fall again, it's important to raise awareness about cold weather injury prevention. Exposure to cold weather can lead to various health risks, including frostbite, hypothermia and other cold-related injuries.

"Prevention is key," says Bryan Judge, MD, Aspirus Emergency Medicine Physician and Emergency Trauma Medical Director. "Preparing appropriately when you're out and about in the car, have a pair of gloves, hat and boots in case you get stranded is important."

Aspirus Health stresses the critical importance of cold weather injury prevention to mitigate the potential dangers associated with winter weather. Here are some tips from preventing injuries related to cold weather:

**Layer clothing.** Wear multiple layers of clothing to trap warm air close to the body. The layers should include a moisture-wicking base layer to keep sweat away from the skin, an insulating layer for warmth, and a waterproof and windproof outer layer



to protect against the elements.

**Protect extremities.** Keep extremities such as hands, feet and ears well-covered. Wear insulated and waterproof gloves, thick socks and a hat that covers the ear to prevent frostbite.

**Stay dry.** Wet clothing and skin significantly increase the risk of cold-related injuries. Use waterproof outer layers to protect against rain and snow and change into dry clothing if you become wet.

**Hydration.** Stay hydrated, as dehydration can increase the risk of cold injuries. Drink warm beverages and avoid excessive consumption of caffeine or alcohol, as they can contribute to dehydration.

**Know the signs of frostbite.** Be aware of the

early signs of frostbite, including numbness, tingling or pain in extremities. If you notice these symptoms, seek shelter and warm up the affected area gradually.

**Know your limits.** Be aware of your own cold tolerance and know when it's time to seek shelter. Avoid pushing your body beyond its limits in extremely cold conditions.

**Play it safe with outdoor activities.** If engaging in winter sports or outdoor activities, plan ahead. Check weather forecasts, inform someone of your plans, and ensure you have the appropriate gear and equipment.

**Stay informed.** Be alert to weather conditions and warnings in your area. Be prepared to alter your plans to take extra precautions based on the changing weather forecasts.

**By adopting these preventive measures,** you can reduce the risk of cold weather injuries and enjoy outdoor activities safely during the winter. It's crucial to be vigilant, stay informed and prioritize personal safety in cold weather conditions.

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

# Looking Past; Looking Forward

Dear Reader,

When the love of your life dies, the impact is profound and life-altering. The grief can feel as though it will never subside, and the absence of that person—your partner in all things—casts a shadow over even the smallest moments of your day. The process of losing them, from illness or sudden tragedy to the final goodbye, is one of life's greatest challenges.



can provide crucial support, but their lives will naturally continue, and you may find yourself needing to rebuild parts of your own. Consider joining a grief support group where others who've experienced similar losses can share their insights and struggles. Knowing you're not alone in your feelings can be deeply reassuring.

Over time you can find new meaning and purpose.

After the funeral is over, the loneliness often sets in deeply. Friends and family may surround you for a time, offering kindness and support, but eventually, their lives pull them back to their routines. And there you are, left to grapple with the silence.

Many who experience such a loss have shared how the grief feels inescapable. The memories you shared with your spouse linger everywhere—in your home, your daily habits, and even in the way you think about the world. The ache is particularly acute when something good or bad happens, and you instinctively want to share it with them.

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to coping with such loss. Each person's grief is unique, shaped by the depth of the relationship and the individual personality of the one left behind. However, here are some thoughts that may offer comfort and guidance as you navigate this painful journey.

First, take it one day at a time. It's simple advice, but it holds profound wisdom. In the early days, just getting out of bed and facing the world can feel like a monumental task. Allow yourself to move at your own pace. Don't rush the grieving process or feel pressured to "move on" too quickly. Healing is not linear, and it's okay to have days when the sorrow feels overwhelming.

It's important to lean on others—but also seek to rebuild. Family and friends

Though it feels impossible at first, try to slowly re-engage with the world. Take up an activity or explore something you've always been curious about. Join a class in art, writing, or history. Volunteer with an organization that aligns with your values. If you're physically able, activities like yoga, gardening, or walking in nature can offer both physical and emotional relief.

You may find some healing in honoring your loved one's memory. Create a ritual or space where you can remember and celebrate your spouse. It might be a small garden, a photo album, or even a weekly moment of reflection. This helps keep them present in your life in a way that feels healthy and comforting, rather than overwhelming.


But don't remain in a constant state of sorrow. Your loved one wouldn't want that. While they may no longer be physically by your side, their love and influence live on in you. Embracing life doesn't mean forgetting them; it means carrying their memory with you as you find joy again.

Take heart, dear reader. Though the journey of loss is painful, it's also a testament to the love you shared. Grief is a long and winding road, but it does not mean your own story is over. It's a new chapter—one you didn't ask for, but one in which you can still find meaning, connection, and even hope.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**

Publisher

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




**"Best of Antigo Area"**  
**Official Nomination Ballot**

**We want to hear from you!**  
The "Best of Antigo Area" is a snapshot of the Antigo area and a celebration of all that it has to offer. This is an opportunity for you to give a shout out to the businesses that are the best in what they do!

**This is your ONLY opportunity to nominate your favorite businesses/individuals to be included in the voting for "The Best of Antigo Area." You may also complete this form online on our website.**

<p><b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b></p> <p>Pizza _____</p> <p>Bakery _____</p> <p>Restaurant _____</p> <p>Happy Hour _____</p> <p>Lunch Spot _____</p> <p>Coffee _____</p> <p>Salad Bar _____</p> <p>Place for a Sandwich _____</p> <p>Fish Fry _____</p> <p>Bar Beer Selection on Tap _____</p> <p>Grocery Store _____</p> <p>Store for Wine or Liquor Selection _____</p> <p>Bar/Tavern _____</p> <p>Ice Cream _____</p> <p><b>HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY</b></p> <p>Barber Shop _____</p> <p>Beauty Salon _____</p> <p>Facial _____</p> <p>Health Club _____</p> <p>Pharmacy _____</p> <p>Manicure/Pedicure _____</p> <p>Massage _____</p> <p>Dental Office _____</p> <p>Optical &amp; Eye Care _____</p> <p>Chiropractic Clinic _____</p> <p>Best Physical Therapist _____</p> <p>Best Occupational Therapist _____</p>	<p><b>PEOPLE (PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE BUSINESS &amp; LOCATION)</b></p> <p>High School Coach _____</p> <p>Teacher _____</p> <p>Most Influential Person _____</p> <p>Family Doctor _____</p> <p>Nurse _____</p> <p>Retail Sales Associate/Clerk _____</p> <p>Bartender _____</p> <p>Waitress/Waiter/Server _____</p> <p>Public Servant _____</p> <p>Hair Stylist/Colorist _____</p> <p>Realtor (Individual) _____</p> <p>Financial Planner or Advisor _____</p> <p>Photographer _____</p> <p><b>RETAIL, HOME &amp; GARDEN</b></p> <p>General Building Contractor/Remodeling _____</p> <p>Home Improvement/Building Supplies _____</p> <p>Heating/Cooling Services _____</p> <p>Plumbing Services _____</p> <p>Electrician _____</p> <p>Appliance Store _____</p> <p>Carpet &amp; Flooring Store _____</p> <p>Furniture &amp; Mattress Store _____</p> <p>Garden &amp; Landscaping Center/Services _____</p> <p>Retail Gift Shop or Specialty Store _____</p> <p>Pest Control _____</p> <p>Floral Shop _____</p> <p>Outdoor Powersports Equipment &amp; Sales _____</p>	<p><b>FUN</b></p> <p>Live Music Spot _____</p> <p>Place for a Date Night _____</p> <p>Singles' Scene _____</p> <p>Golf Course _____</p> <p>Family Fun Spot _____</p> <p>Outdoor Activity Spot _____</p> <p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p>Veterinary Clinic _____</p> <p>Pet Groomer _____</p> <p>Real Estate Agency _____</p> <p>Law Firm _____</p> <p>Bank or Credit Union _____</p> <p>Tax Preparation or Accounting Firm _____</p> <p>Insurance Agency _____</p> <p>Non-Profit Organization _____</p> <p>Best Assisted Living Care Center _____</p> <p><b>AUTOMOTIVE</b></p> <p>Automotive Services &amp; Repair _____</p> <p>New Car Dealer _____</p> <p>Used Car Dealer _____</p> <p>Auto Parts Store _____</p> <p>Body Shop _____</p> <p>Place to Buy Tires _____</p> <p>Auto Detailing _____</p> <p>Auto Glass Repair &amp; Replacement _____</p>
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Best of Antigo Area- Nominations  
C/O Antigo Times PO Box 408  
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www.AntigoTimes.com

**The deadline to have nominations in is:**  
**Tuesday, January 28th at 4pm**

**NO other nominations will be accepted after this date!**

**Official Voting for the "Best of Antigo Area" contest will begin on our website February 10th.**

# FRIGID Optimist Christmas Tree Burn



### FOR MMC

The trees are gone!  
Thanks to all of you for putting up with really frigid weather, including wind to serve hot dogs and hot chocolate to those few families willing to fight the weather to enjoy the bonfire, hot dogs and hot chocolate!



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## Wrapping Up an Outstanding Year at the U.S. Census Bureau

BY: ROBERT L. SANTOS  
DIRECTOR

At the end of my third year as director of the U.S. Census Bureau, I've been thinking a lot about our work and how our successes lie in the ability to put relevant and useful data into the hands of the public. It's exciting to think about all the ways we provided quality data on our nation's people, places, and economy in 2024 - and all the ways that we continuously adapted our collection methods to meet America's data needs and maintain our quality standards. We continuously researched strategies for improving respondent understanding of the questions we ask

and the accuracy of the data we produce. And we continuously engage the public to promote the value of our data and to collect feedback and input as to how we can improve our methods, our data, and the relevance of our statistical products. A great example of this is our release of data from the 2022 Economic Census, a primary source of information about the U.S. economy. In January, we released new First Look estimates. By combining our expertise with machine learning technology, we were able to improve our efficiency in data collection and produce these estimates earlier than we have in the past.

Also from the Economic Census in December, we released (ahead of schedule) the Geographic Area Statistics, which provide detailed industry statistics by state, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, counties, and places for U.S. employer businesses. For the first time, these statistics were made available in a single release - every sector and geography published at the same time! We released a host of other new data this year, too. From the American Community Survey, we produced the 2019-2023 5-year estimates and the 2023 1-year estimates. We released our Vintage 2024 population estimates by

age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, and data on income, poverty, and health insurance coverage from the 2023 Survey of Income and Program Participation. We also released our final data products from the 2020 Census. The Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File B (Detailed DHC-B) contains information on household type and tenure for approximately 1,500 detailed racial and ethnic groups, as well as American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. And the Supplemental Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (S-DHC) provides average household size and counts of people living in certain types of households.

And speaking of the decennial census, we are hard at work preparing for the 2030 Census. This year, we announced our plans for the 2026 Census Test. We've been designing improvements to try to get a complete count of hard-to-count and historically undercounted populations, and this will be our first opportunity to test them in real conditions. The test will be conducted in six sites across the country, and will include a nationally representative self-response testing component.

For two of the surveys that the Census Bureau conducts on behalf of other federal agencies, 2024 was a landmark year. We celebrated the 30th

**Nothing is Sweeter Than a Grandchild!**

Submit a photo of your grandchild by Thursday, January 30th to be published in our Valentine's Day edition February 10th \$5 per photo

Submit photos via mail and make checks payable to Antigo Times or submit photos via email and call with payment. Text 715-350-6866, Email: [nwinkler@mmclocal.com](mailto:nwinkler@mmclocal.com) or mail to Nothing Sweeter C/O Antigo Times PO Box 408 Waupaca WI 54981

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope to have your photo returned.

Antigo Times The Antigo Area SHOPPER

Grandchild's Name  
Grandson/Granddaughter of  
Grandparent Name  
City Name

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- Never use a gas range for heat. This could create both a fire hazard and a carbon monoxide hazard.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for operation of gas appliances.
- Make sure gas appliances have adequate fresh air and their vent is free of any obstructions.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Antigo Area Community Food Pantry**  
Wednesdays 11am-1pm & Fridays 1-3pm.  
2120 Progress Blvd., Antigo. All the time needs include: Low sodium canned vegetables, Low sodium canned beans, Low sodium condensed soups such as chicken noodle, tomato or cream of mushroom, Whole grain cereals, Canned fruit in 100% juice or sugar-free, Plain Oatmeal, Peanut butter, Brown rice/whole grain pasta. Personal Hygiene: Laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, toothpaste (these are not purchased by the pantry unless we are given a grant specifically for these items). For more information, go to AntigoFoodPantry.com or call 715-623-1103. For emergency food assistance needs after hours call 715-627-1818.

**Elcho Area Community Food Pantry**  
Mondays 2:30-4:30pm. Wednesdays 4-6pm, 11224 Antigo St., Elcho. Food will be distributed based on availability and # of family members. Note that the pantry is not open on holidays, or on days when the schools are closed because of snow. 715-275-5010. In accordance with federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

**Community Closet** Open Mondays 10am-Noon, Wednesdays 4-6pm & Saturdays 9-10am, N9570 Hwy. B, Summit Lake (across from the Summit Lake Post Office) Free Clothing and Jackets (Baby to XXL). Clothing donations are welcome. Everyone is welcome!

**Senior Cribbage** Group Mondays 1pm. Summit Lake Town Hall N 9575, County Rd B, Summit Lake. CURRENTLY ON HOLD DUE TO LOW PARTICIPATION- PLZ CALL IF INTERESTED: Judy Beecher 715-219-4333

**Group Dance Class & Social** Tuesdays 6pm. Northstar Lanes 400 Prosser Pl., Antigo. learn to dance in a fun, social setting! Each week the lesson rotates to another style of Latin or Ballroom dance (Salsa, Bachata, Cha Cha, Waltz, Rumba, Foxtrot, Swing, etc.) NO PARTNER (OR EXPERIENCE) REQUIRED! Doors open by 5:45pm. The 45-minute class begins at

6pm and afterwards we'll play a variety of music so everyone can dance and have fun!

**Line Dancing** Jan. 20th 1-2:30pm. Senior Center of Langlade County 623 Edison St., Antigo. Line Dancing- Instructions and handouts are provided for every dance. No prior knowledge of line dance is necessary. The goal of the class is to have fun while getting to know others and learning steps to dance.

**StrongBodies Program** (Virtual) Jan. 21st & 23rd 9-10:15am. This will be a virtual program via Zoom that you can follow along with at home. Sign up online at <https://go.wisc.edu/j9468d>

**Dementia Basics** (Presentation) Jan. 21st 3-4pm. Antigo ADRC Office 1225 Langlade Rd., Antigo. Join the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin for a presentation about dementia for individuals, family, and caregivers.

**Cardio and Strength Training** Jan. 22nd 4:30-5:30pm. Senior Center of Langlade County, 623 Edison St., Antigo. Cardio and strength training at the senior center with Dawn. This is designed for all levels of fitness. There is no charge.

**TPSC 2nd Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show & Ride** Jan. 25th 9am. N9398 County Road DD, Pickerel. Registration opens at 9am, and the show begins at 10am. Awards at noon. The guided ride begins at 12:30pm. There will be food and beverages, raffles, and more! Registration fee is \$10 per sled, more than three free.

**8th Annual Spanky Mustache Ride** (Charity Fundraiser) Jan 25th. Snowmobile Poker Run 11 am - 7 pm at Gerrits Lakeview 656 County Road G, Pelican Lake. Poker drawing at 7pm, Snowmobile raffle at 8pm! 2001 Arctic Cat ZR 800, Fireworks on Pelican Lake at 8:30pm, Live music by 2 Miles South at 9pm.

**Elcho X-C Club Annual Ski Junket** Jan. 25th 11am-2pm. Moccasin Ski Trail N11190 Bear L., Elcho. Try out ski and snowshoe equipment provided by Mel's Sporting Goods of Rhineland and relax in the warm Michelle's Lodge. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided. Snacks can be brought to share. The public is welcome. It is a great time to meet Elcho X-C Ski Club members and express any concerns for the club or trail.

**Langlade County Snowmobile Council Ride-In** Jan 25th 11am-3pm. Lily Sno-Bird Club House W4505 Turtle Lake Rd., Lily. "This event is open to the public". Lily Sno-Bird Club will be serving free lunch and beverages, in addition to 50/50 raffles, cash raffles, and several door prizes.

**Antigo Gateway Squares** Jan. 26th. dance at the Senior Center is cancelled. Members will be attending the Square Dance Assoc. of Wisconsin Jamboree at the Lincoln Town Hall, Marshfield. 9 AM-3:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. Rose Marie Kerner 715-623-2128 or Betsy Lane 715-350-9687.

**Pancake Breakfast/Blood Drive** Jan. 26th 8am-12pm. Gleason Lions Park N5179 Bradley St., Gleason. All you can eat pancake-breakfast which includes pancakes, potato pancakes, sausage, apple sauce, milk, and coffee. Adults - \$9, children 5 to 12 - \$5, children under 5 free. Give blood and get a free breakfast. New item: Sausage gravy and biscuits. Call the Community Blood Center at 1-800-280-4102 to pre-register.

**MEETINGS**  
**Langlade County Broadband Commission Meeting** Jan 21st 4-5pm. NTC Antigo Campus 312 Forrest Ave., Antigo.

**Hotel Motel Commission** - Regular Meeting Jan 22nd 8:30am. City Hall 700 Edison St., Antigo.

**Public Works Committee** - Regular Meeting Jan. 22nd 5:30pm. City Hall 700 Edison St., Antigo.

**GROUPS**  
**AA Support Group** (Open) Wednesdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Ave., Antigo.

**AA Meetings** Tuesdays at 7pm at the Elcho UCC Church N11291 Dorr St., Elcho.

**AA Meetings** Sundays 10am. White Lake Community Center 615 School St., White Lake. Any questions call 715-219-0305

**Alanon/Nornon Group** Mondays 1:30pm. Antigo Community Church School (old St. Mary's), 723 Deleglise St., Antigo. Enter in the back please. For more information including other meeting times and locations call (715-623-4904).

**Alzheimer's Support Group** Second Monday of the month 5-6pm. Rolalia Gardens Door #3 519 Flight Rd., Antigo. 715-610-6681

**Alzheimer's Association Virtual Support Groups** Coffee for Family Caregivers, 2nd Monday of the month 5:30pm-6:30pm. For Persons Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment, 2nd

Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am. Family Caregivers for a loved one with Frontotemporal Degeneration 3rd Wednesday of the month 6-7:30pm. Family Caregivers for a loved one with Dementia in the early stages 4th Tuesday of the month 10-11:30am. Family Caregivers for a loved one with dementia living at a facility every other Friday 10-11:30am. Phone In Caregiver Support Group the last Tuesday of every month 10-11:30am. To register for any of the support groups contact the 24/7 helpline. 800.272.3900

**AVAIL Support Group Meetings** on Mondays, 5:30pm-7pm, Wednesdays 10:30am-12pm, Thursdays, 10:30am-12pm and again at 5:30pm-7pm, Fridays 3-6pm. AVAIL Inc. 1410 N. Superior St., Antigo.

**Baby & Me Support Group** Wednesdays from 1-2pm in the Langlade Birthing Center 112 E 5th Ave, Antigo, second floor. Facilitator: RN/International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. For more information please call 715-623-9280. No fee.

**Broken Arrow Christian Recovery Meeting** Thursdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Avenue, Antigo.

**Community Recovery Bible Study** Fridays 6pm. Aspirus Langlade Hospital 112 E. Fifth Ave., Antigo- in the large conference room.

**Life Recovery Group & Christian Recovery Meetings** Wednesdays 8:30am. Church of the Nazarine 230 Elm St., Antigo. This group is for anyone struggling with addiction, anxiety, food, depression, relationships, etc. There will also be Christian Recovery meetings at the same place and time.

**Narcotics Anonymous** Mondays 8am, Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Ave., Antigo.

**Overeaters Anonymous** Mondays 7-8pm. SS. Mary & Hyacinth Parish Center, 819 3rd Ave., Antigo. Room #4 Contact: Rose Marie, 715-623-2128.

**Stroke & Neurological Support Group** (2nd Friday of the Month) Langlade Co. Senior Center 623 Edison St., Antigo.

If you have an upcoming event or ongoing group activity that you would like to include, please email the information to [nwinkler@mmclocal.com](mailto:nwinkler@mmclocal.com)

## CENSUS from page 6

anniversary of the Internet Use Survey, a supplement to the Current Population Survey that we conduct on behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. This survey represents a consistent and comprehensive data collection about internet and computer use in America - important data in the work to achieve digital equity.

We also marked the 50th anniversary of the American Housing Survey (AHS), conducted on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The AHS is our nation's most comprehensive housing survey, providing foundational data on the size, composition, quality, and cost of our nation's housing - and how it's changed over time. This is so important for communities, planners, and policymakers, all of whom use AHS data to assess local and national housing needs. Through it all, we've

continued our community-of-the-whole efforts to seek out different perspectives and actively engage the public in our work.

As you can see, 2024 has been a busy year, full of quality statistical data, innovation, and engagement... all of which I know will continue in the year ahead. Using public and whole-of-government engagement, we will continue to work on issues such as disability measurement and implementing Statistical Policy Directive 15 on

revised race/ethnicity collection. And we'll open the Puerto Rico Federal Statistical Research Data Center (PR FSRDC) - the first such center in a U.S. territory. By providing local researchers secure access to federal data for advanced statistical research and analysis, the PR FSRDC will enhance the statistical capacity on the island and enable local officials and others to make more informed and timely data-driven decisions.

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<p>Golden Delicious Apples <b>\$3.99 / 5 lb</b></p>	<p>Fuji, Jonagold, or McIntosh Apples <b>\$4.99 / 5 lb</b></p>
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## Kids and healthy eating: Gobble up these body-friendly food practices

FOR MMC

Despite being pint-sized people, children can have some very big personalities and opinions. Parents know that kids have strong feelings on everything from the clothes they wear to the foods they eat.

Although not all children are inherently picky eaters, most go through phases of picky eating during their childhood development, particularly when they are toddlers. The UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals also says some children naturally are more sensitive to certain tastes, smells and textures, which could make certain foods less desirable to youngsters. Others may mimic their parents' picky food tendencies. A child who has strong aversions to trying new foods can make it hard to plan meals, especially ones that include nutritious fare.

Getting kids to eat more healthy foods and be excited about them could take some time and effort. Parents can try some of these strategies to change kids' perceptions about healthy eating.

### Take the lead

Parents can model healthy eating behavior every time they sit down to a meal. Research suggests parents' eating behaviors significantly influence their children's



food preferences and dietary habits. Given their influence, adults should choose healthy foods often enough so that the process becomes habit for the entire household.

### Make it a team effort

Children may refuse foods because it gives them a modicum of control in a world where adults seem to be making all the decisions. When children are included in meal planning and shopping, they are more likely to eat foods that are healthy. While the bulk of foods should be healthy ones, a few treats or special ingredients can be thrown in every so often.

### Create family meal expectations

Routines are essential to children's well-being. By eating together as a family and serving meals and snacks around the same time each day, kids will thrive knowing what

is coming next. Mealtime is a good time to talk about healthy eating habits and table manners as well, says the Cleveland Clinic. Parents can model how half of the plate should be made up of vegetables and some fruit.

### Respect eating quirks

One child may only eat broccoli if it is dunked in ketchup. Another might only embrace a turkey sandwich if it is cut into triangles. Parents should pick their battles regarding food. Parents should go with the flow if kids are eating right, even if their choices are a little unorthodox.

### Make it a game

Incorporate some fun into meals by encouraging children to come up with funny names for their foods, however ridiculous they may be. Make competitions of healthy eating by seeing who can eat the most vegetables during the week and earn a prize. Kids likely will respond better to these positive choices rather than ultimatums about foods they "have" to eat.

Healthy eating may not come easily to all children, especially if they are picky eaters. Some patience and flexibility on the part of parents can help kids become more excited about healthy food choices.

## CentralStar recognizes excellence in dairy reproduction with ReproStar Awards



### Evergreen Dairy Resort, LLC, Antigo, Wis.

Picture L to R: Laura Styczynski, Records Analysis Consultant; Moises Antonio, Herdsman; Jose Landa, Herdsman; Dave Doolittle, Nutritionist; John Freund, Herd Manager; Dr. Valerie Baumgaurt, United Vet Service.

FOR MMC

Four herds with 12-month pregnancy rates of 36% and greater were recently recognized with the CentralStar Cooperative ReproStar Award. Evergreen Dairy Resort, LLC, Antigo, Wis.; Olson Dairy Farms, Inc., Birnamwood, Wis.; Reed Dairy Farm, Owosso, Mich.; and Maier Farms, LLC, Waunakee, Wis., are the recent recipients.

This award recognizes excellence in reproduction, each exemplifying key practices that drive success. The cow herds at Evergreen Dairy Resort, Olson Dairy Farms, and Reed Dairy Farm all maintain a strong population of mature cows (three or more lactations), efficient breeding practices, and sustainable approaches to herd-management strategies that enhance long-term productivity. Recognized for their heifer-management practices, Maier Farms set a high standard with a non-completion rate of just 7%, ensuring youngstock reach their potential as valuable members of the milking

herd.

"Monitoring pregnancy rate is important because it provides a clear picture of a herd's reproductive efficiency and overall health," said CentralStar Director of Consulting and Profit Strategies Cole Mark. "By working alongside their local CentralStar team, these herds have incorporated tools that complement their broader efforts, contributing to low days in milk and days open, reducing facility and staffing stress caused by calving slugs, ensuring cow longevity, and supporting their commitment to animal care and sustainability."

Initiated in 2019, the ReproStar Award celebrates dairy producers who achieve exceptional reproductive efficiency. Winners are selected based on a comprehensive evaluation of herd data, considering multiple factors that influence pregnancy rates. While genetics and reproduction provide the foundation for success, these herds demonstrate that achieving top-tier results requires a complete approach to herd

management. Learn more about their achievements and strategies on page 23 of CentralStar's Big Book: <https://mycentralstar.com/centralstar-big-book-2025/>.

CentralStar's mission of enhancing producer profitability through integrated solutions for mutual success is fulfilled by incorporating an array of products and services critical to dairy-and-beef-farm prosperity. CentralStar's product and service offerings include Accelerated Genetics, GenerVations, and Select Sires genetics; extensive artificial-insemination (A.I.) technician service; genetic, reproduction, and dairy-records consultation; DHI services; diagnostic testing; herd-management products; research and development; and more. CentralStar's administration and warehouse facilities are located in Lansing, Mich., and Waupun, Wis., with laboratories in Grand Ledge, Mich., and Kaukauna, Wis. The cooperative serves dairy and beef producers throughout Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana, with additional DHI territory in various surrounding states. For more information, visit CentralStar Cooperative Inc. at [www.mycentralstar.com](http://www.mycentralstar.com).



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# Antigo Wrestling Team Shines at 2025 Bluejay Challenge



**NATASHA WINKLER**

The Antigo wrestling team delivered impressive performances at the 2025 Bluejay Challenge in Merrill, with both individual victories and strong team contributions. Leading the charge were Nolan Kielcheski and Olivia Hofrichter, each earning first-place finishes in their respective weight classes.

### Varsity Highlights

Nolan Kielcheski Captures Gold at 165 Pounds Kielcheski showcased his dominance with five victories, including three by pinfall. He opened with a quick pin over William Hackel of Edgar and followed it with a technical fall against Mark Knopps of Boyceville. In the semifinals, he edged undefeated Nolan Bradley of Crandon in a dramatic 9-8 decision. Kielcheski secured gold by pinning Caiden O'Kelly of Chippewa Falls in the finals, improving his season record to 19-2.

Olivia Hofrichter Reigns at 145 Pounds Hofrichter was unstoppable, recording five pinfall victories to claim the top spot on the podium. She defeated Ariel Webster of Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln in her first match and continued her streak with wins over Aliyah Solis of Tri-County, Ali McCorison of Wausau West, and Ripley Skrzypchak of Marathon. In the finals, Hofrichter pinned Naveah Alloway of Crandon at 3:13, improving her season record to 18-1.

### Other Top Finishers

Jayson Arrowood placed fifth at 150 pounds with three technical falls and a pin, ending his day with a 15-0 technical



fall victory over Bryce Van Lannen of Pulaski.

Joseph Stimac, also at 165 pounds, secured fifth place. His highlights included a pinfall win against Jose Quiroz-Medina of Wausau West and a major decision over Hunter Opper of Merrill.

### Additional Standouts

Johanan Taylor earned a sixth-place finish in the heavyweight division, with two victories, including a pin against Joshua Gustum of Merrill.

Jordy Pregler placed seventh at 215 pounds, clinching a close 10-9 decision over Ryan Schutte of Chippewa Falls.

Jack Sundermeyer finished 11th at 132 pounds,



highlighted by a pinfall victory over Justin Sendejo of Chippewa Falls.

### A Team Effort

Antigo's wrestlers displayed resilience and skill across all weight classes. Freshman and veteran athletes alike contributed valuable points, demonstrating the program's depth and potential.

With standout performances at the Bluejay Challenge, the Antigo wrestling team looks ahead to a pair of dual meets in Mosinee and Tomahawk before continuing their season.

## Classifieds

Deadline: Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.  
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Please submit your resume, two references, and a letter of interest to:

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## WI POLICY FORUM

As consumers turn more heavily to online purchases, cardboard recycling has more than doubled in Wisconsin since 2013, while other paper recycling has dropped by 36%. The amount of recyclable material collected in the state has remained relatively stable overall, but recycling services have stressed local government budgets, in part because state aids have declined and now only cover approximately 16% of the total cost of recycling services.

For every Wisconsinite, local governments collected an average of 136 pounds of recyclable materials in 2022, the lowest per capita amount in at least a decade. When totaled up, that amounted to about 2% fewer tons of recyclables in 2022 than in 2013. Amid this slow overall decline, the makeup of what the state recycles has changed considerably, with cardboard collections soaring and paper declining. These trends reflect changes in how people get their news, share information at home and at work, and purchase goods.

While operational costs for municipal recycling have grown slowly – 0.6% per year between 2013 and 2021 when adjusted for inflation – they still stress local government budgets. That’s because over that time, state grants for recycling services have fallen as a share of total statewide local government recycling costs. The slight drop in recycling tonnage, combined with volatile prices for recycled materials, have also caused a drop in revenue from the sale of recycled materials, further reducing outside resources used to cover these costs. These factors, plus strict state limits on local government revenue, have pinched local budgets.

Recycling has substantial environmental benefits, chief among them preserving landfill space. Wisconsin DNR reports that since 1990, when Wisconsin’s recycling efforts began in earnest, recycling has saved the equivalent of five landfills. Using recycled materials also reduces energy needed to produce aluminum containers and limits air pollution generated when making paper products. Recycling remains popular, with 94% of Wisconsin survey respondents indicating they recycle and feel it’s worthwhile.

In our analysis, we use data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to see how recycling trends have changed over time, and data from the state’s Department of Revenue to understand how local governments pay for these services.

### What We recycle is Changing

Because the state only has data from recycling facilities that accept material from local governments, we can’t be certain about statewide trends in overall recycling. We can be more certain, however, about the recyclables collected by local governments. The total weight of recyclable materials collected by these local governments in Wisconsin dropped by 6,900 tons (1.7%) between 2013 and 2022. The decline was

## PROJECTS

from page 4

in De Pere, Wisconsin, will strengthen its food aggregation hub by upgrading inventory management software, purchasing their first two delivery vehicles, and constructing a shared wash/pack facility. These upgrades will alleviate some of the logistical challenges of aggregating products from an increasing number of very small farms, some of which have no access to potable water or clean packing space. As a result of this grant, Seasonal Harvest will be able to procure from additional underserved farms to serve their growing community of customers, including the Green Bay Packers.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Community in Bowler, Wisconsin, will construct a facility to process and store food such as Lenape beans, Mohican corn, and Indigenous squash grown on their Tribal farm as part of their strategic plan to protect and promote local food and community self-governance. This project is part of a set of proposals coordinated by the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition (GLIFC) designed to form a statewide network of mid-supply-chain infrastructure-supporting economic opportunities for underserved producers across the state.

Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative in Waupaca, Wisconsin, will build out its existing warehouse and

trucking fleet, optimizing distribution routes to collaborate with and link together sub-hub, or smaller on-farm, and Tribal aggregation initiatives across the state. This improvement will benefit an estimated 250 local and regional producers. The improved aggregation infrastructure will be used to focus distribution efforts to distressed communities, schools, and early childhood education programs, and smaller-scale grocery and food service buyers.

This awarded funding is part of the \$420 million available through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant program to build capacity within the middle of the supply chain and support local and regional producers. It is funded by President Biden’s American Rescue Plan. Through this program, AMS has entered into cooperative agreements with state agencies, commissions, or departments responsible for agriculture, commercial food processing, seafood, or food system and distribution activities or commerce activities in states or U.S. territories.

For more information, visit the AMS Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure webpage <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsi/rfsi-rfa-status>. The status of each state and territory’s RFSI program is available on USDA’s State Grant webpage <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/rfsi/rfsi-rfa-status>.

# Wisconsin Recycling Changes

larger — 5.6% — on a per capita basis, as shown in Figure 1.

Together, cardboard and paper make up the largest share of materials collected each year since 2013, accounting for approximately 60% of the statewide total. However, the split between the two has seen big changes. Newsprint, office paper, and other types of recyclable paper have seen a 35.6% drop, falling from 208,220 tons (over half of the total for all materials recycled in 2013) to only 134,089 tons in 2022. Paper product use has declined as fewer households buy newspapers, more correspondence and billing occurs electronically, and people print documents for personal use less often.

During the same period, corrugated cardboard recycling more than doubled, climbing from 53,974 to 109,651 tons. The biggest jump came between 2019 and 2021, when the amount of cardboard recycled jumped by 59.3%, likely due to increased online shopping and shipping during COVID lockdowns. When combined, paper products and cardboard contributed more to the overall drop in recycling than any other type of material, decreasing by 18,500 tons between 2013 and 2022, a 7.0% decline. Figure 2 shows the diverging trends between the two types of paper products.

Increased cardboard recycling could lead to fuller residential recycling carts because while the total tonnage of the two materials is about the same, cardboard is bulkier than other types of paper products. Given recycling carts are often smaller than garbage carts and are typically collected every other week rather than weekly, local governments may wish to consider changing their pickup frequency or standard recycling cart size if customers’ carts are filling up more often.

Besides paper, other materials also saw big changes in recycling activity between 2013 and 2022. Aluminum containers saw the biggest drop on a percentage basis, falling by 16.4% or 1,800 tons. It’s noteworthy that aluminum containers are the most valuable recyclable material, typically fetching payments of more than \$1,000 per ton. Glass containers, the third most recycled material by weight, saw an increase of 10.8% or 9,900 tons over the nine-year period, while plastic climbed 11.5%, or 3,400 tons.

Recycling changes also align with societal changes. For example, younger people tend to consume less alcohol overall and less beer specifically, which could help explain some of the drop in aluminum recycling. However, there are other potential explanations for the falling volume of recycled materials, including the rising perception that recyclables all end up in a landfill and growing confusion about what can and cannot be recycled. Surveys conducted by the DNR have identified these two issues as hurdles to recycling among the public.

A practice known as lightweighting may also help explain some of the drop in recycled materials. Over time, some types of packaging have become thinner and lighter; for example, a plastic water bottle today weighs nearly 40% less

and will be much easier to crumple than one from 10 years ago because of the thinner plastic used in its construction. Similarly, food manufacturers have replaced recyclable plastic or cardboard containers with pouches for products like applesauce and fruit drinks. While lightweighting may lead to fewer tons of material being recycled, it often represents a reduction in total material consumed and discarded, so it may still provide environmental benefits.

### Who Handles Wisconsin’s Recycling?

A combination of municipal, county, and private entities take responsibility for getting recyclable materials from where we discard them to the facilities that repurpose them. State law bans a number of materials from landfills and requires statewide access to facilities where these items can be recycled. In practice, that means the entire state is served by a “recycling responsible unit” that must ensure that residences, businesses, and other locations such as construction sites and special events have an option to dispose of banned materials.

Counties and municipalities both serve as responsible units, though they typically meet the state requirements in different ways. Municipalities typically fulfill the requirement through curbside recycling collection, along with trash collection, using city employees or through contracts with private waste haulers. When counties serve as the responsible units, they operate recycling drop-off sites for residents of smaller communities, providing access to those who live in places without recycling collection services. County and municipal responsible units also perform education and outreach to ensure residents know what to recycle.

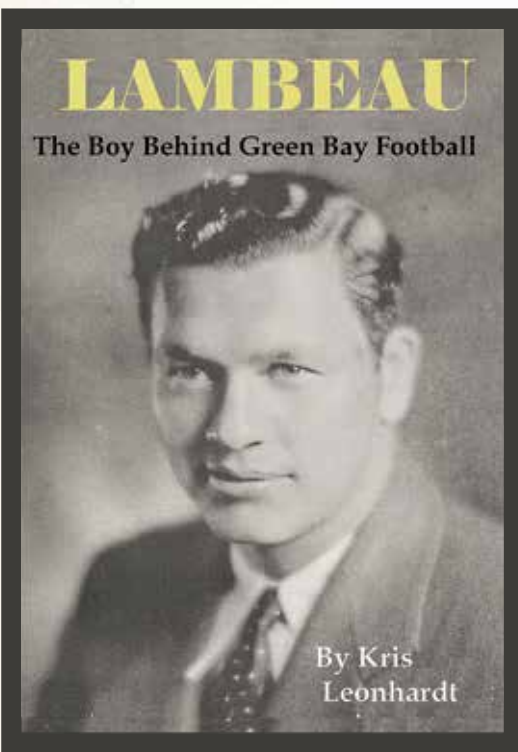
Once collected, recyclables are then hauled to recycling centers known as Materials Recovery Facilities operated by private firms, counties, or municipalities for sorting and processing. These facilities handle more than just recycled materials from responsible units; they also take care of recyclables collected by private firms from businesses, multi-family residences, and construction sites, among other sources. Recycling facilities that receive materials collected by responsible units are required to report how much they ship to end users each year. These facilities reported a 9.3% drop in the tonnage of materials shipped to end users between 2013 and 2022 – bigger than the dip in statewide recyclables collected. However, since there are a number of facilities that do not report to the DNR, it is difficult to draw any conclusions about total statewide recycling.

### Local Recycling Spending Grows Slowly

According to data reported to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, between 2013 and 2021, statewide operating spending by municipalities on recycling activities grew by only 0.6% per year when adjusted for inflation. However,

See RECYCLING page 12

# “A fascinating TALE



of dedication that will inspire fans and readers alike. If you love football, community and tales of grit, this book is a must-read. ”

The story of the beginning of the Green Bay Packers and the life of Earl Louis “Curly” Lambeau are so intertwined that it is hard to imagine one without the other.

From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

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

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# DHS Encourages Homeowners, Property Owners, and Schools to Test for Radon

## Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking

**DHS**

Radon, a colorless, odorless gas, can seep into homes through their foundation and be deadly at high levels. In Wisconsin, 1 in 10 homes has elevated levels. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and approximately 962 Wisconsinites have radon-induced lung cancer. Fortunately, radon is easy to test for and leaks can be fixed. This National Radon Action Month, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging home and building owners, and schools, to understand their risk and test their buildings for radon.

“Knowing about radon and testing radon levels in your home can save lives,” said DHS State Health Officer Paula Tran. “In Wisconsin, we have 17 Radon Information Centers around the state where experts are available to answer your questions and offer low-cost test kits. Indoor radon levels tend to increase during the colder months, so now is the perfect time to test your home or building for radon if you haven’t before.”

While radon can affect anyone, children are generally considered to be more sensitive compared to adults due to their smaller lung sizes and faster breathing rates. Along with encouraging testing at home, Wisconsin continues to take steps to improve testing in spaces where children spend significant amounts of time. In March 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) enacted rule changes which require licensed child care providers to test for radon and install a mitigation system if radon levels exceed the EPA action level. In addition, DHS recommends that all schools test for radon at least once every five years or upon completion of any major renovations.

“Since the DCF rule went into effect, 41 child care centers across Wisconsin have mitigated high radon, protecting over 820 children enrolled in care from exposure to high radon levels,” said DHS State Health Officer Paula Tran. “Preventing exposure to high radon in places where kids spend a lot of time is a significant way to reduce their overall exposure to radon.”

Reduced-cost test kits are available to child care providers and all Wisconsin residents through their regional Radon Information Center and test kit promotions are happening throughout January. The cost of mitigation can be a barrier for some families and businesses; Wisconsin residents can visit their Radon Information Center or speak with local public health department radon experts by calling 888 LOW-RADON to discuss available options.

Any house or building can be at risk for high radon levels, including apartments and commercial buildings. Landlords have a responsibility to provide safe living and working conditions to their tenants and should work with a certified radon testing or mitigation contractor to get started on addressing the issue for their tenants. DHS encourages homeowners and property owners to use a certified contractor and to locate one using resources available on the DHS How to Find a Contractor webpage.

More information can be found at [lowradon.org](http://lowradon.org).

### RECYCLING *from page 11*

over that time recycling spending by counties grew at a much faster rate of 4.8% per year. Figure 3 shows the two trajectories, which differ because municipalities and counties typically provide a different set of services with distinct revenue sources.

Municipalities – especially cities and villages – tend to provide collection services either with their own staff or through contracts with private firms, with services paid for through either taxes, state aids, or fees. This puts downward pressure on costs, as local leaders try to keep taxes and fees on residents from increasing. The drop in costs from 2009 to 2013 was realized because labor costs for public employees fell in response to increased pension and healthcare contributions by public employees as a result of 2011 Wisconsin Act 10.

Counties do less collection work and more frequently operate landfills and recycling centers, and since they can charge fees for landfill deposits, they are less constrained by revenue limits, which has allowed their recycling spending to rise more rapidly than that of municipalities.

While local spending on recycling has grown slowly, state aid dedicated to recycling has covered a decreasing portion of local government costs to provide services (see Figure 4) because state recycling grants have remained flat at either \$19 or \$20 million annually since 2011. Before large cuts included in the 2011-13 state budget took effect, state recycling aid covered more than 30% of the total spent on recycling by local governments. By 2021, that had dropped to only 15.7%.

### Volatile Prices for Recycled materials

While recycling has an environmental benefit, recycled materials also have economic value and are sold to end users for repurposing into consumer goods and other products. Sales of these materials by local governments help them pay for recycling services. These payments defray a substantial portion of service costs — in some years nearly 20%, according to data from the state’s Department of Revenue.

Between 2013 and 2019, the amount of revenue local governments reported per ton of recycled materials collected fell by 27.8%, as prices paid for these materials, and the tonnage sold, dropped. The price decline was especially acute between 2017 and 2019, when the price per ton of most recycled materials decreased dramatically, with some dropping by more than 70% and a few even falling to zero, according to a database maintained by the Wisconsin Council on Recycling. DNR officials indicate that one major reason for this drop was a change in policy by the Chinese government that prohibited the import of certain materials for recycling, which came in response to lax sorting of recyclables sent there from the U.S. and other countries.

Since 2021, however, recycling prices have rebounded somewhat, led by the price for mixed paper, which has nearly doubled. Higher prices help to defray the cost of providing services, as evidenced by a drop of \$4.68 in the city of Madison’s annual recycling fee in 2025. While in the short term, this is a positive trend, it again shows how volatile these prices are and underlines the risk of relying on them heavily to pay for recycling services.

### Conclusion

The cost to Wisconsin municipalities and counties for recycling collections continues to grow, though slowly. Those governments have three main sources to cover recycling service costs: local revenues like property taxes or customer fees, state aid, and proceeds from the sale of recyclable materials. If one source weakens, another one must pick up the slack.

State recycling grants have not kept up with growing costs, covering a smaller portion of the total each year. While the sale of recycled materials helps to fill a portion of that gap, the prices local governments receive for recycled materials can be volatile. This leaves local residents paying more for services through increased property taxes or fees for service. If state leaders want to ensure continued high-quality recycling services and limit the growth of local taxes and fees, they could consider increasing state recycling aids to again cover a larger portion of the costs.

The recent decline in the amount of recyclable materials being collected in Wisconsin also is notable, as the list of materials banned from landfills has not changed. This may reflect reduced consumption overall and changes in packaging practices, or it may be a sign that people are choosing to recycle a smaller portion of their household waste. Given the environmental benefits of recycling, and the popularity of the practice among state residents, if state leaders wish to see more waste diverted from landfills, it may be wise for state and local officials to determine if improvements can be made to educational efforts that encourage recycling.



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