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Wood County launches new plan to improve community's health

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Wood County Health Department, Aspirus Riverview Hospital and Clinics, Marshfield Clinic Health System, community residents non-profits, businesses, and public officials are coming together. This partnership ensures a unified approach, reduces duplication, and better uses resources.

At the heart of the plan is a commitment to ensuring that all Wood County residents, regardless of income, age, race, ethnicity, gender, or location, have a fair and just opportunity to thrive, be healthy, and live their best life. "Health is determined by more than just

the choices we make and access to healthcare. 80% of what makes us healthy occurs outside of a doctor's visit and is influenced by things like housing, education, transportation, and access to healthy food," said Kristie Egge, Supervisor of Strategic Initiatives, Wood County Health Department.

The following health priorities have been identified based on community input and the data gathered through the Community Health Assessment: mental health, substance use, housing, transportation, access to care, and financial security.

"Improving the health of our communities requires

collaboration and investment across public and private sectors," said Sarah Beversdorf, Community Health Analyst at Aspirus Health. "By focusing on upstream factors we can create the conditions for all residents to achieve their healthiest lives."

The success of the plan will be measured by improvements in health out-

comes, but these changes will take time. This work is not a quick fix, but rather a long-term commitment to creating thriving communities for all people. "The health of a community depends on how well we support all residents, particularly those who have historically had less access to health-enhancing resources," said Jay Shrader,

Vice President, Community Impact and Social Accountability at Marshfield Clinic Health System.

Wood County Health Department invites all people who live or work in Wood County to join the efforts to improve the identified health priorities. Go to healthypeoplewoodcounty.org to get involved and to read the Community Health

Improvement Plan. You can request printed copies by calling the health department at 715-421-8911. The plan is a roadmap for improving the health of Wood County residents over the next three years by addressing health issues identified by the community in the 2024 Community Health Assessment, available at bit.ly/WoodCHA2024.

Billerud and Wood County, Wisconsin partner to preserve and enhance CERA Park

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Billerud announced that its subsidiary, Consolidated Water Power Company (CWPCo), has entered into a lease agreement with Wood County, Wisconsin, effective Jan. 1, 2025, to manage Central Wisconsin Employees' Recreation Association (CERA) Park. This partnership ensures the park's long-term preservation and accessibility for the benefit of the entire community.

Nestled on 60 scenic acres along the north shore of the Wisconsin River in Wood County, Wisconsin, CERA Park has been a beloved destination for recreation and relaxation since the 1970's. The park features a variety of amenities, including boating, fishing, swimming, camping, sports facilities, and picnic areas, making it a favorite gathering spot for families, outdoor enthusiasts, and visitors alike.

"We're thrilled to join forces with Wood County to manage CERA Park, a place that holds so many memories and possibilities for our community," said CWPCo Power Director Martin Burkhardt. "With activities



for all ages and interests, CERA Park is truly a treasured gathering place for outdoor activities, family celebrations and community events."

Looking to the future, CWPCo and Wood County, Wisconsin, are pursuing the potential transfer of park ownership to the County to develop it for use as a permanent public park. This initiative would preserve key amenities, such as a boat launch and dock, shoreline fishing piers, 62 campsites and picnic sites, while ensuring the park remains open to the public annually from Memorial

Day through Labor Day.

"We are thankful Wood County has resources to invest in making significant improvements to the park, ensuring it continues as a safe, welcoming and vibrant public recreational space for generations to come," said President, Billerud North America Doug Schwartz. "This partnership underscores Billerud's commitment to being a responsible corporate neighbor and highlights the importance of public-private collaborations in creating sustainable, thriving communities."

"We are excited to add

this beautiful park to our County Park System," said Wood County Parks and Forestry Department Director Chad Schooley. "By transferring ownership of CERA Park, Billerud and CWPCo are helping us expand opportunities for recreation, environmental stewardship and community engagement. We are deeply appreciative for their dedication to our shared vision."

The transfer of ownership is subject to obtaining necessary approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which is anticipated in 2026.

Gov. Evers appoints Gregory Jerabek to the Wood County Circuit Court

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Gov. Tony Evers announced his appointment of Gregory Jerabek to the Wood County Circuit Court – Branch 1. The appointment will fill the vacancy created by Judge Gregory J. Potter's retirement. Jerabek will complete a term ending July 31, 2025.

"Greg Jerabek's legal experience and extensive involvement in the local community and area will be important assets in his



Jerabek

work on the bench serving the people of Wood County," said Gov. Evers.

Jerabek has been an attorney at Nash Law Group, S.C. in Wisconsin Rapids since 2005. He has a general practice, which has given him experience in numerous areas of law, including bankruptcy, civil litigation, family law, criminal defense, and estate matters. His practice has also included trial experience with both civil and criminal cases. Additionally, he serves as counsel for the South Wood County Airport Commission.

"As an attorney, Greg

has distinguished himself as one dedicated to solving issues and looking for practical solutions to complex problems," said Wood County Circuit Court Judge Nicholas Brazeau Jr. "Greg has an unwavering commitment to treating people fairly and with respect, and I know he will take that with him to the bench. I can't think of anyone better suited for this position."

Jerabek

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

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Multi Media Channels editor launches Curly Lambeau Book

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Multi Media Channels (MMC) Senior Editor Kris Leonhardt has authored a book on Green Bay Packers first head coach and general manager, Curly Lambeau.

Lambeau – The Boy Behind Green Bay Football chronicles Lambeau's life from birth through death and includes photos supplied by Green Bay area archives, including the Neville Public Museum, UW-Green Bay Archives and Packers Hall of Fame, Inc.

The book also features a foreword written by current Packers Hall of Fame, Inc. President Don Sipes and is tailored toward both the casual football fan and the die-hard fanatic.

This book captures the heart and history of the Green Bay Packers as not just a sports team, but a symbol of resilience and unwavering belief. At its core is the story of Curly Lambeau, a man who refused to let challenges stop him from building a legacy. Against all odds, he kept the Packers alive through sheer

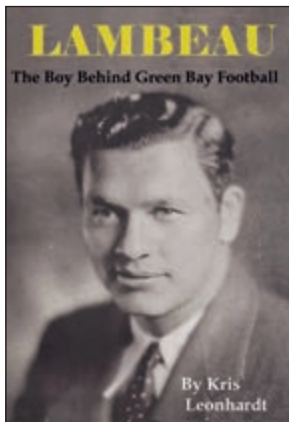


Kris Leonhardt

determination, transforming them into one of the most revered teams in NFL history. Lambeau Field stands as a fitting tribute to his passion and persistence, but this book tells the full story of his journey—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," said MMC Publisher Patrick Wood.

Signed copies are available through MMC at <https://shopmmlocal.com/product/lambeau> and also available on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/31K2Arc>.

The book will also be



accessible in the coming months in the Waupaca, Wausau and Stevens Point communities, as well as other local book providers throughout the state.

A book signing event will be held on Jan. 25, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Bosse's News Depot in De Pere.

Watch www.facebook.com/MMCLOCAL for future book signing events near you.

Kris Leonhardt honed her literary skills at Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin while obtaining her communications degree. She also served in the United



States Army, receiving an honorable discharge in 1997.

She began a part-time journalism career in 2001, while working in a family business, and joined MMC full-time in 2016.

As a part of MMC, Leonhardt has been recognized in the communities she serves for her work in his-

toric preservation.

Leonhardt is also a coordinator for the "Pass it Forward" community journalism internship initiative developed through a partnership with the Green Bay Packers Give Back, Nicolet Bank, UW-Green Bay, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, St. Norbert College, UW-Stevens Point

and Notre Dame de la Baie Academy.

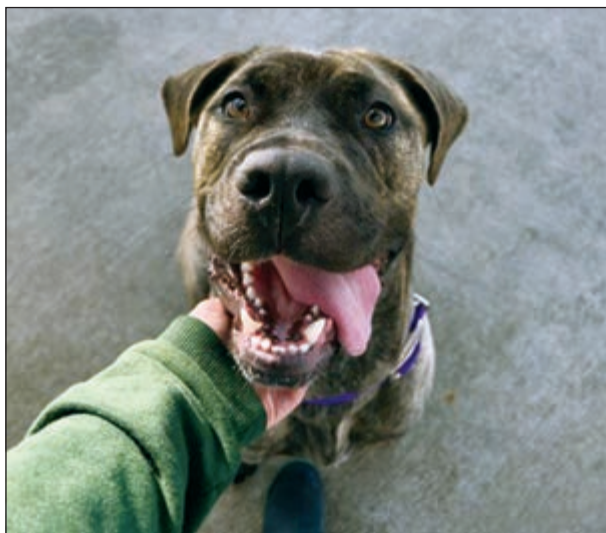
She has authored two other historical non-fiction titles.

MMC is the owner of more than 30 print publications, including 22 weeklies and 17 digital channels that serve the central, northern and eastern regions of Wisconsin.

South Wood County Humane Society: Pet of the Week

Tick is currently the longest guest at the shelter, with her stay stretching well past 500 days. She came to SWCHS on 7/3/23 as a stray. It appeared that she had been running on her own for a while as she was super thin and covered in ticks, which is how she got her name.

Tick is a very sweet and loving girl who knows how to give the best snuggles. She has stolen the hearts of everyone at SWCHS! Tick is incredibly smart and eager to learn anything for a treat. She walks well on a leash and enjoys her time outdoors. She loves a good game of fetch or keep-away and is an absolute master at puzzle toys. Get her going and she'll show off her goofy zoomie run! Tick may not be the typical "instant



best friend" for everyone, but once she warms up, she's a loyal and loving companion who will make your heart swell with her thoughtful hugs. Due to her cautiousness toward

people, it may take more than one Meet & Greet for her to get comfortable. But once she bonds with you, she's loyal and affectionate through and through!

Tick is best suited for

an active, experienced dog owner who is willing to invest in formal training and give her the time and space she needs to truly blossom. It's recommended that she goes to a home without young children (under 15) or other pets.

Those interested in Tick can fill out an adoption application online at <https://www.swchs.com/adopt/adoption-application/>

South Wood County Humane Society can be reached at office@swchs.com or 715-423-0505

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Protect Wisconsin's waters by reducing your salt use

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Salt Wise invite the public to learn more about the impacts of road salt on our drinking water and freshwater ecosystems during Winter Salt Awareness Week, Jan. 27-31, 2025.

Winter Salt Awareness Week will include a series of YouTube livestreams featuring speakers and topics focused on the true impacts of salt and ways to be a freshwater advocate.

Speakers include Abby Hileman (Izaak Walton League of America), Jess Hua (University of Wisconsin-Madison), public works professionals from across the country and a panel of experts providing salting policy perspectives from New Hampshire, Ohio and Minnesota.

Register in advance or watch afterward on the Wisconsin Salt Wise YouTube Channel.

Although salt keeps Wis-

consin roads safe during winter, using more salt than needed comes at a price. In Wisconsin and much of the U.S., chlorides from salt are infiltrating lakes, streams and groundwater. According to Wisconsin Salt Wise, one teaspoon of salt is all it takes to make five gallons of water toxic for freshwater organisms.

The DNR measures chloride levels in Wisconsin rivers over time. Recent studies have shown a steep increase in chloride loads. In the early 2000s, the DNR measured about 600,000 tons of chlorides annually. By 2018, that number increased to nearly 800,000 tons per year. Fifty rivers and streams and one lake in Wisconsin have been designated as impaired by high chloride concentrations, primarily from salt used during winter.

"All 43 of the long-term trend water quality monitoring sites across Wisconsin are showing increases in chlorides," said Shan-



Over-salting can lead to chloride buildup in lakes, streams and groundwater. **Stock Photo**

non Haydin, DNR Storm Water Section Manager. "Chlorides persist in the environment forever and cause significant impacts to fish, aquatic life and human health. In Wisconsin we are seeing evidence of Fresh Water Salinization Syndrome which is a condition where our freshwater becomes more like ocean water in terms of its salinity. Now is the time to make a change and reduce salt use when we can."

These increased chloride loads are partly due to road salting, but chlorides also enter Wisconsin waters because of water softeners and fertilizers. Find out if your softener is salt wise with this diagnostic tool.

Increased chloride levels have significant impacts on our daily lives, including environmental and economic effects. Nationwide, winter salt causes \$5 billion in damage to infrastructure each year, causing corro-

sion of bridges, roads and other infrastructure. Road salt can also impact pets by causing irritated paws or other health concerns if ingested.

In Wisconsin, 39% of the community wells exceeded the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' recommended sodium level for individuals on a low-salt diet of 20 mg/L at least once since 2004. This can mean individuals managing diseases by limiting salt intake may take in more salt than they may be accounting for.

Reducing salt use is critical to decreasing chloride loads. Follow these steps to right-size your salt use:

Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow removed manually, the less salt you will need and the more effective it will be.

Scatter: When using salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire

20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. If you see oversalting, Wisconsin Salt Wise offers some simple steps to help educate others about salt.

Switch: Salt is much less effective when pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.

The DNR works to reduce chlorides at the source through permitting programs for municipalities and industries. These measures include tuning or replacing water softeners, identifying significant chloride contributors and finding reductions, process efficiencies or improvements by instituting sewer use ordinances.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation works with Wisconsin counties to reduce road salt application using brine and pre-wetting road surfaces, significantly reducing salt use.

Romemakers Home & Community Educators to Host Voters' Forum

SUBMITTED BY LINDA O'DELL, PRESIDENT OF ROMEMAKERS HCE

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Feb. 18 Primary Election is coming soon! To aid in voters' education, the Romemakers Home & Community Educators (HCE) will sponsor a Voters' Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6pm at the Rome Municipal Building. The Forum will have candidates from both

Town Chair as well as the Town Supervisors. There are 3 candidates running for Chair and the primary election will reduce that down to 2 candidates for the April election. There are 5 candidates for Town Supervisor, which will also be reduced in the primary. At the April election, there are only 2 positions open.

Written questions for the

candidates need to be submitted prior to the Forum. Questions can be submitted to a forum box located in the receptionist's area at the Town Hall or at the Rome Library. The deadline to submit questions is noon on Friday, Jan. 31. Questions should deal with issues, not with personalities. A committee of residents will screen the questions

for clarity and to avoid duplication. Each candidate will have the opportunity to respond to each question.

The format for the forum models forums held by the League of Women Voters. Each candidate will have a chance to introduce him/herself to the audience. Then the question-and-answer period will begin. Final questions to be pre-

sented to the candidates at the forum will be selected from those submitted ahead of time. Each candidate will be given up to two minutes to respond to each question asked. Finally, at the end, each candidate will be able to make a closing statement.

Come and hear the candidates so that you can make an informed choice

at the ballot box. The public may attend in-person or may view the broadcast live over Channel 300 or on the Town's website, www.romewi.com under Community Services, then click on Channel 300 Live Feed tab. The Forum will also be broadcast on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@TownofRomewisconsin>.

SNHU announces fall 2024 President's List

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate

students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week

terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

On the President's List this fall are Karis Crowley, Logan Boigenzahn, and Angelica Sanger all from Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

JERABEK

FROM PAGE 1

Jerabek is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the Hamline University School of Law. He has been active in numerous community organizations, including serving on the boards of directors for the Boys and Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area, United Way of South Wood and Adams County, and the Wood County Crime Stoppers. He also served for eight

years on the city of Wisconsin Rapids Police and Fire Commission.

"I am deeply honored and grateful to accept this appointment to the Wood County Circuit Court – Branch 1," said Jerabek. "It has been my privilege to serve the people of Wood County for the last 20 years, and I look forward to continuing that service. As a judge, I will serve with great enthusiasm, diligence, and above all, with the highest ethical standards."

Birth Announcement

On Dec. 16, 2024 at 9:07 in the morning Edwin Atencia & Rachel Rucinski of Wisconsin Rapids welcomed their son Samuel Augustine Atencia Rucinski, weighing 7lbs 10oz and measuring 20".

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FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Take a trio of dashing men, add soaring melodies from stage and screen, and then refine the sound with contemporary three-part vocal harmony—you've got a ticket to BACHELORS OF BROADWAY: Gentlemen of the Theatre. This brand-new three-man act features symphonic arrangements of songs from modern and classic musicals like WICKED, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, JERSEY BOYS, 42ND STREET, MISS SAI-GON, THE GREATEST

SHOWMAN, DEAR EVAN HANSEN, LES MISERABLES, and many more.

Starring New York City's top theatrical talent, BACHELORS OF BROADWAY offers a fresh take on audience favorites that have captivated millions worldwide.

The Arts Council of South Wood County presents this Broadway production on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 pm at the Performing Arts Center of Wisconsin Rapids, 1801 16th Street South. Tickets are \$49 for adults and \$10 for students and are available at www.Sa-



vorTheArts.com 24/7. For personal assistance, stop by 1040 8th Street South, Suite 101, Wisconsin Rapids, or call 715-424-2787, Monday through Thurs-

day, 10:00 – 2:30. There are no ticketing fees; only sales tax is added.

Pull together a group of family or friends and save 15% on 10 or more tickets purchased in one transaction—just call The Arts Council or stop in.

Begin your evening with dinner before the show. The Ridges is offering a meal at their restaurant for \$26. Tax and gratuity are included, and a cash bar is available. There are three entrée selections from which to choose when purchasing your ticket through The Arts Council. Cocktails

begin at 4:30, with dinner being served at 5:30, in plenty of time to get to the PAC. (Meal tickets must be purchased by Feb. 6.)

Mead Witter Foundation is sponsoring an outreach opportunity for students the afternoon of the performance. Call 715-424-2787 for information on attending.

Special thanks to show sponsors WSAW Channel 7, Rapids School of Performing Arts, Eron & Gee Herman's Plumbing & Heating, Modern Woodmen of America | Curtis Langemeier, and Cobblestone Hotel & Suites.

Community theater play to enter competition

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – A one-act play produced at Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre will compete

at the state festival in Feb. Cast will perform "Tiny Beautiful Things" at a one-night fundraiser at 7pm Friday, Jan. 31 at Wisconsin

Rapids Community Theatre, 220 Third Ave. S., in the Centralia Center. Reserved seats are \$10. Tickets are available online at <https://wrctheatre.vbotickets.com/> events, at the WRCT box office and at the door.

WRCT is sponsoring the group at the state community theater festival, Wisconsin AACTFest, Feb. 7-9, in southern Door County. The fundraiser will help pay for lodging for cast and crew. Donations are appreciated.

"We are excited to continue to rehearse and perform this play," said director Mystique Macomber. "It is a joy to work with

these talented actors, and we're fortunate to be able to spend time together doing something we love."

"Tiny Beautiful Things" originally was performed in Jan. 2024 in the Lois Cantin Studio Theatre at WRCT as part of the Director's Showcase series. The play was set "in the round," so audience members encircled the actors. The play has been restaged for the Main Stage and edited to meet the festival requirements. The fundraiser performance will mimic the festival setting, with a chance to ask questions of the cast and director.

For a couple of years, author Cheryl Strayed was online advice columnist "Dear Sugar." She compiled some of the letters and her responses in a book called "Tiny Beautiful Things." It was adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos.

Sugar is portrayed by Amanda Meidl. All of the letter writers are played by Cory Gavinski and Logan Macomber. Mozelle Stoiber was the fourth cast member in the original production but was unable to take part in competition. Technical support is provided by Alex Macomber and Nick Macomber.

"We are grateful to the WRCT board and Gretchen Powers, executive director, for their support and assistance. It's exciting to take our show to the next level," Mystique Macomber said.

The last time a WRCT play entered AACTFest was "The Gin Game" in 2016.

WRCT is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025. For information about the theater including upcoming shows, go to <https://www.wrctheatre.org/>. For information about the state theater festival, go to <http://www.wact.org/>.

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USDA invests \$14,000,418 in domestic biofuels and clean energy in Wisconsin

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Wisconsin State Director Julie Lassa announced that the USDA is investing \$14,000,418 more in grant funding in Wisconsin to expand access to clean energy systems and increase the availability of domestic biofuels.

The investments announced are being made in 42 projects in 27 counties in Wisconsin through the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIIP) (\$9,583,750 to three projects) and the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) (\$4,416,668 to 39 projects).

"The dozens of awards I'm announcing today will help lower energy costs and provide a historic opportunity for farmers and



rural businesses to invest in clean energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements," said Lassa. "Many of these investments are made possible with help from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and will create more energy independence, save businesses money on their bottom-line, and strengthen economic development

in rural communities."

In Wood County, Travis Marti Farms, LLC, an agricultural producer in Vesper, will use a \$415,000 REAP grant to install a roof-mounted solar electric array. This project is expected to

save \$29,580 per year. It will replace 405,203 kilowatt hours (82 percent of the company's energy use) per year, which is enough energy to power 40 homes.

Also in Wood County, Michael Arnold, a farming operation in Rudolph, will use a \$16,811 REAP grant to install a small solar electric array. The project is expected to save \$668 per year. It will generate 14,795 kilowatt hours (100 percent of the farm's energy use) per year, which is enough energy to power

one home.

In Marathon County, Stainless Specialists, Inc. a rural small business in Wausau, will use a \$28,857 REAP grant to install a solar electric array. This project is expected to save \$4,100 per year. It will replace 32,800 kilowatt hours (91 percent of the company's energy use) per year, which is enough energy to power three homes.

In Clark County, Short Lane Ag Supply, LLC, a rural small business in Colby, will use a \$113,508 REAP grant to install two solar electric arrays. The project is expected to save \$11,235 per year. It will replace 144,032 kilowatt hours (kWh) (100 percent of the business's energy use) per year, which is enough energy to power 13 homes.

Also in Clark County, Raebel Ranch, LLC, a real estate business in Neillsville, will use a \$20,000 REAP grant to install a small solar electric array. This project is expected to save \$3,081 per year. It will replace 33,835 kilowatt hours (100 percent of the company's energy use) per year, which is enough energy to power two homes.

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UW-Green Bay announces academic honors

WOOD COUNTY--Students who earn a 4.0 grade point average, which represents all A grades, receive highest honors. High honors go to students earning 3.99 to 3.75 grade point averages. Honors are given to students earning 3.74 to 3.50 grade point averages. All were full-time students in the fall/winter term, earning 12 or more credits of graded coursework.

From Chili

Kaden Olson, Semester Highest Honors

From Marshfield

Jace Campbell, Semester High Honors,
Ashley Ermis, Semester High Honors
Rachel Fischer, Semester High Honors
Christy Lang, Semester High Honors
Ethan Lecker, Semester Honors
Joshua Schaefer, Semester High Honors

From Neillsville

Fletcher Bredlau, Semester Honors
Ellie Walter, Semester High Honors

From Rudolph

Kira Allord, Semester High Honors

From Wisconsin Rapids

Alli Dewitt, Semester Highest Honors
Averi Dewitt, Semester Honors
Kristina Keip, Semester Highest Honors
Emma Raboin, Semester Highest Honors
Kate Schaeffer, Semester Highest Honors
Ava Schill, Semester High Honors
Ava Spurlin, Semester High Honors
Danika Young, Semester Honors

Students named to UW-Stout Dean's List for fall 2024

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--The following students from the area have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Arpin

Ruby Hilber, BFA Studio Art

Auburndale

Laina Marcott, BS Business Administration
Dakota Specht, Pre Graphic Design and Int Med

Greenwood

Georgia Butterbrodt, BS Information & Comm Tech

Hewitt

Eli Junco, BS Computer Net & Info Tech
Cailyn Sommers, BS Real Estate Property Mgmt, Pre Interior Design
Caleb VerBerkmoes, BS Mechanical Engineering

Loyal

Mckenna Schley, BS Art Education

Marshfield

Cassie Conley, BS Psychology
Ted Conley, BFA Entertainment Design
Ashlyn Guldán, BS Early Childhood Education
Benjamin Gust, BS Construction
Ainsley Hall, BFA Studio Art
Samuel Himes, BS Mechanical Engineering
Sierra Loew, BFA Graph Des & Interact Media
Aaron McGreevey, BS Information & Comm Tech
Collin Messmann, BS Criminal Justice & Rehab
Jackson Ott, BS Construction
Isaac Polacek, BS Computer and Electrical Eng
Adam Potts, BS Mechanical Engineering
Will Schlafke, BS Mechanical Engineering
Lily Smith, BFA Studio Art
Jacob Thompson, BS Cybersecurity

Pittsville

Brayden Kumm, BS Environmental Science
Britney Lewer, BFA Interior Design

Spencer

Arianna Likes, BFA Animation & Digital Media
Connor Luedtke, BS Real Estate Property Mgmt
Alana Piller, BS Food Science and Technology
Leah Zastrow, BS Business Administration

Stratford

Lexee Graff, BFA Game Design & Dvlpmnt-Art
Allison Lindner, BS Business Administration



Sheriff Kerry Kirm recently officially swore in Chief Deputy James Hirsch as the CLSO Undersheriff. Chief Deputy Hirsch started at the Clark County Sheriff's Office in March of 1997, and has been where he has spent his entire 27 year career.

Picture by Clark County Sheriff's Office

Frozen road law expands to entire state

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY - Effective Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) declared highways are officially frozen statewide and the frozen road law will expand to include the entire state.

The frozen road law allows heavier loads for trucks carrying logs cut crosswise (not including woodchips), and salt and sand for winter maintenance



while cold weather allows. The seasonal weight restriction program is one way to protect Wisconsin's invest-

ments in roads.

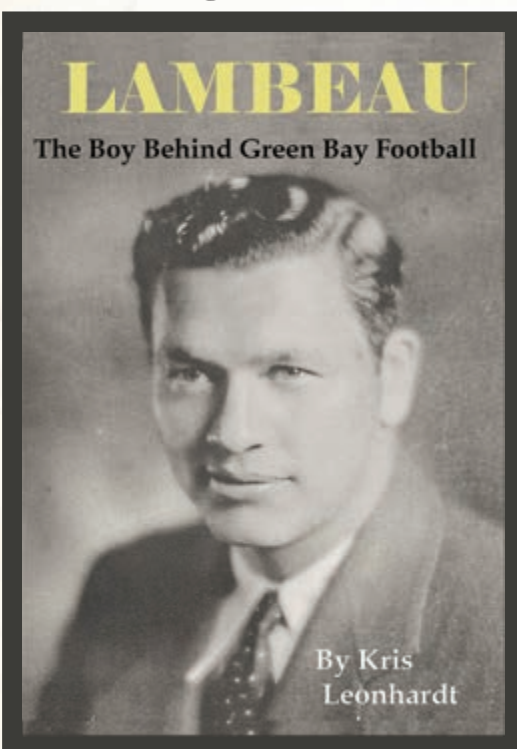
The department maintains an interactive map for seasonal weight restrictions, which shows the frozen roads boundaries, Class II roads and posted roads.

WisDOT and county highway personnel monitor temperature forecasts, along with frost tubes - liquid-filled devices under pavement - to help determine when roads are adequately frozen to accom-

modate heavier loads.

More information on overweight permits can be found on the WisDOT oversized/overweight permits webpage. Haulers with specific questions can contact WisDOT's Oversize/Overweight Permits Unit at (608) 266-7320. A recorded message with general information on road restrictions is available by calling (608) 266-8417.

“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.

BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, Jan. 25 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bosse's News Depot
107 S Broadway, De Pere

Police Calls

On Jan. 8 around 4:30 in the afternoon a Port Edwards caller described a strange call they had received that was concerning. The caller ID suggested a female caller, however the voice on the other end was male. The male caller stated he wanted to make a donation, and when asked where he would like to make a donation, the male caller replied "maybe a casket, because people there are going to die."

On Jan 8, a Grand Rapids citizen called with concerns about a house sitter. The caller hired a house sitter to watch their home while they were out of the country for work, but the house sitter was now refusing to leave.

On Jan. 9 at 5:40 in the evening a Saratoga caller reported a 14 year old male in a grocery store that was only wearing a hooded sweatshirt, the 14 year old mentioned his parents had locked him out of his house.

On Jan 10, at 1:30 in the

afternoon a caller in Auburndale requested police to be in the area and pull over a male who was reported to not have properly buckled in a 3 year old child.

On Jan. 10 at 1:40 in the afternoon a caller from Pittsville High School requested police after a student became uncooperative and refused to follow school rules while cursing at staff members.

On Jan. 10 a caller from Marshfield High School reported a student attempting to run away from school and refused to get onto the bus.

On Jan. 12 at 6:43 in the evening a Grand Rapids caller reported threatening messages from a customer. The customer, who was a regular to the store, came into the store and purchased something not typical to his usual transaction. The customer had not been to the store in a while, therefore an employee asked the customer where they had been since

it had been a while since they had seen the customer in the store. The customer stated they no longer shopped there due to being asked to show identification. The customer then stated the next place to ask for identification was going to get "shot up." The customer stated that their gun was ready. The customer left prior to police arrival but was captured on camera.

On Jan. 14 at 7:53 in the morning a caller in Marshfield reported a car that had been flipped over in a field, which in the process had taken out three posts. The car had plates removed from it. There were footprints around the vehicle, but the vehicle was found empty.

On Jan. 14 at 7:36 in the evening Grand Rapids Police responded to a call regarding the caller's brother and his girlfriend who were going into the property of the caller's parents and taking things.

Community Calendar

sponsored by



To submit calendar events, please email information to entertainment@mmclocal.com

BAR BEATS

The Swing Doctors - 2/13- Bullseye Golf Club, Wisconsin Rapids. 16-piece jazz/swing. 7pm. 715-423-2230

ON STAGE

Jeff Allen: Are We There Yet? · Fri. 1/31, Performing Arts Center of Wisconsin Rapids, 1801 16th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Comedy. Starts at 7:30pm. \$47 adults, \$10 students. savorthhearts.com

EVENTS/SPECTATOR SPORTS

Ice Harvest · Sat. 1/25, Nepco Lake & Historic Point Basse, Nekoosa. Join us in harvesting ice the old fashioned way. During the Port Edwards Lions Fisheree, we will be offering an opportunity for you to try your hand at ice harvesting. Then witness the filling of the ice house on site. Ice is used for making ice cream & chilling drinks. Starts at 10am at Nepco Lake & 11am at Historic Point Basse. Free admission. historicpointbasse.com

Christian Women's Connection Ladies Brunch · Wed. 2/12, Elk's Club, Wisconsin Rapids. Speaker Randy Zemlicka will present "Running the Marathon of Life". Special feature will be a celebration of Valentine's Day. Reservations are essential. Starts at 9:30am. \$20 includes meal, tip and program. 815-994-1317 or 701-741-5905 for reservations by 2/4

ONGOING

Celebrate Recovery · Every Tuesday, hosted by Love Inc. at St Lawrence Church basement, 530 10th 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 6:30pm. 715-424-5683 for questions

OUTDOORS

Pinery Road Snowshoe and/or Hike · Sat. 2/1, Historic Point Basse, Nekoosa. Snowshoe and/or hike, depending on the snow conditions, our 3.5 miles of trails or simply join us for hot cider & roasted marshmallows to enjoy a Winter's Day outing. The schoolhouse will be open as a warming house where there will be a traditional snowshoe construction demonstration. Trail maps will be available. Bonfire will be in the upper parking lot with marshmallows for roasting. Starts at 11am. \$3. Snowshoe & pole rental \$7. Snowshoes/poles must be returned by 4pm. historicpointbasse.com

ARTS/EXHIBITS

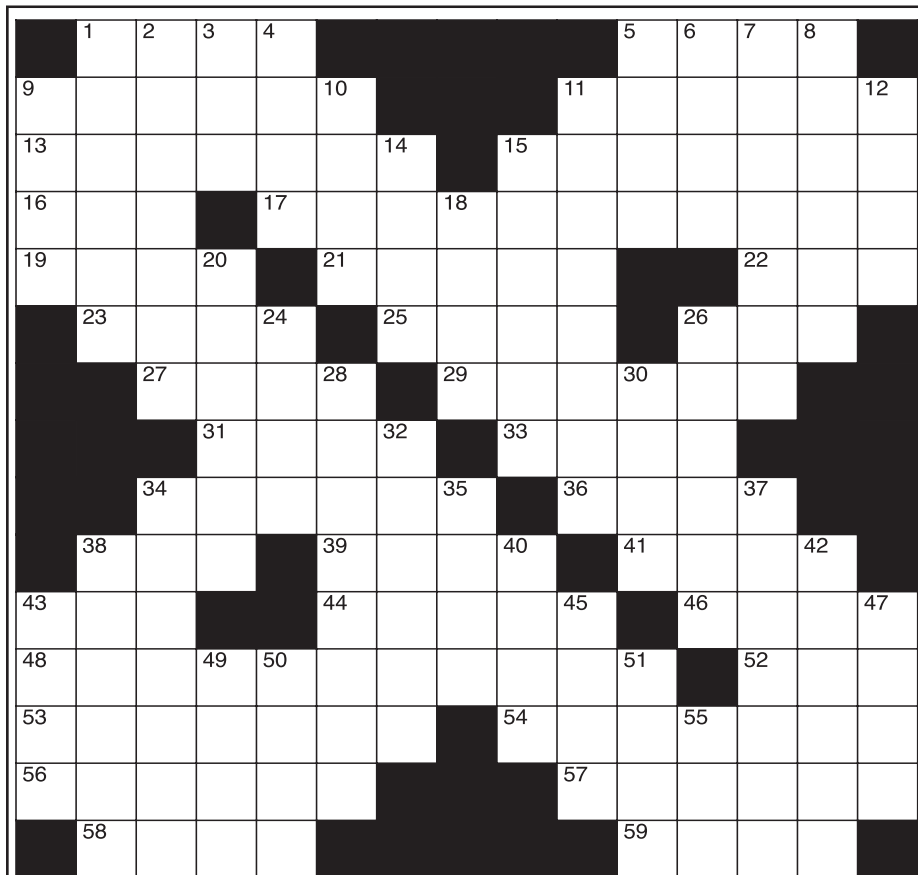
The Alexander House · Opens Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1131, Wisconsin River Drive, Port Edwards. Art gallery and historical museum with a focus on lumbering and papermaking exhibits. Open 1pm-4pm. <http://alexanderhouseonline.org/>

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/>

LIFELINES

Blood Drive · Wed. 1/29, South Wood County YMCA, 601 W Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10am. redcrossblood.org



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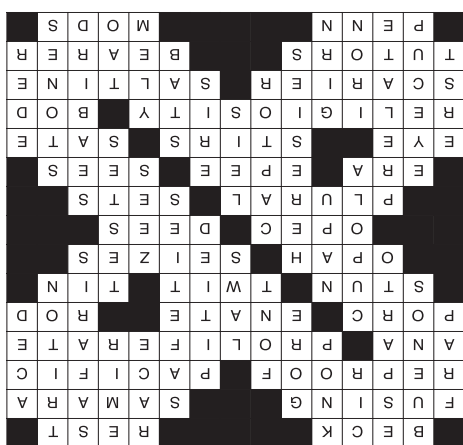
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "Loser" rocker
- 5. Partner to relaxation
- 9. Mixing
- 11. Winged nut
- 13. Expression of blame
- 15. Vast ocean
- 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 17. Multiply
- 19. Meat from a pig (French)
- 21. Related
- 22. Rocker Stewart
- 23. Surprise completely
- 25. Loon
- 26. Canister
- 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 29. Takes forcefully
- 31. Oil cartel
- 33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
- 34. More than one
- 36. Places down purposefully
- 38. Pitching statistic
- 39. Type of sword
- 41. Witnesses
- 43. Body part
- 44. Mixes slowly
- 46. Satisfy
- 48. Strong belief
- 52. One's physique (slang)
- 53. More frightening
- 54. Soup cracker
- 56. Teaches
- 57. One who carries something
- 58. Actor Sean

59. Changes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. ___ Aires, city
- 2. Coarse grass
- 3. Type of gene
- 4. Door handle
- 5. Competition
- 6. Muslim ruler title
- 7. Hunting expeditions
- 8. Large mollusk
- 9. Bind securely
- 10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 11. 2-point plays in football
- 12. Breezed through
- 14. Type setting
- 15. Felt for
- 18. Codified rules
- 20. Small dome
- 24. Chevrotain
- 26. Male reproductive gland
- 28. Controversial beliefs
- 30. Z Z Z
- 32. One who confines another
- 34. Bishop
- 35. Garlands
- 37. Bird that flies by the coast
- 38. Optical device
- 40. Greek goddess of discord
- 42. Some are "Rolling"
- 43. Formerly (archaic)
- 45. Thru a knife into
- 47. German river
- 49. Atomic #26
- 50. Make a grotesque face
- 51. Primordial matter of the universe
- 55. Chinese philosophical principle



432883

FROM THE EDITOR

Losing my favorite 'boy of summer'

It's the first warm spring day in May and the Milwaukee Brewers have a day game, the window is open and as the warm breeze flows in, you hear Bob Uecker say, "And the 'petch'..."

The atmosphere is one of comfort and familiarity that Brewers fans will never experience again after the recent passing of Uecker.

The longtime Brewers announcer was a constant in many a fan's life from the day they were old enough to attend a game or turn on the radio.

And it's not just the fans.

Seasoned Central Wisconsin broadcaster/Packerland Co-editor Mike Warren, who has spent three decades calling sports, said that Uecker had a large influence on his style and sound.

"I remember my mom asking me one day, 'Are you trying to sound like Bob Uecker or does it just come out of you?' And I'm like, 'You know, I'm not trying. It's just, you know, he was part of your subconscious.' If you're a broadcaster, you just can't help having him in your brain somewhere, and that was the impact I think he's had on a lot of us over the years," Warren told Bill Michaels on Jan. 16, the day Uecker's passing was publicly announced by the Brewers.

"He's the voice you hear in your head when you're watching a baseball game and calling one on the air. And for me, it will forever be there and it's just a memory that I have of him.

"And the game itself was a total byproduct of what you were hearing on the radio, just stories of him traveling on trains and busses between games and stuff like that. It took you to an era that obviously most of us didn't live through. And so it brought life to a game that existed before we were even here, which was just phenomenal."

For me, my thoughts of Uecker will always go back to my nephew.

As a young boy, my nephew was honored by the local Optimist Club, where he received the privilege of returning the tee at a Wisconsin Badgers Football Game.

I won't mention the team's name, but one of the opponent's players decided that it



Bob Uecker, left, takes a moment to visit with Mike Warren in the bowels of what was then Miller Park in 2018. **Kris Leonhardt photo**

would be funny to run out in front of my nephew and steal the tee away before he had a chance to grab it.

Needless to say, this did not go over very well for the young boy who lived for sports and highly anticipated the moment he would be able to run out on the Wisconsin Badgers football field.

Seeing how devastated he was, I thought of the man that my nephew looked up to at the time — the man he referred to as "Bob Buecker."

I wrote a letter to Uecker telling him of my nephew's devastating experience.

Within a week, my nephew received a package of memorabilia in the mail with a note from Uecker.

The fact that Uecker went out of his way to help cheer my nephew did not surprise me, it was the speed in which he did it and the note that touched my heart.

From that day forward, I've had a great deal of respect for him.

Two media commitments have brought me within proximity of the longtime announcer since that day, and I've watched him take time to be present when meeting fans.

Uecker was a class act and a great role model for our state.

Someone will be able to fill his role, but I doubt that anyone can fill his shoes.

So long to my favorite 'boy of summer.

Kris Leonhardt
Editor-in-chief



Snowfall may cover hazardous ice.

Photo by Wisconsin DNR.

No ice is 100% safe: be careful on frozen waterbodies

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Ice is still forming, and ice thickness will vary. Ice hazards could be covered by light snowfall.

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions, but they are monitored locally. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for local current ice conditions.

If your winter outing involves travel over a waterbody, remember that every waterbody has its own characteristics. Check if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows, is spring-fed or has currents, which can thin the ice.

Some smaller lakes can have aerators that run throughout the winter either covering a large area towards the center of the lake or smaller aerators placed by private property landowners adjacent to their shore and/or piers.

Equally as important

is to stay alert for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water and often are created, move or grow with changes in temperatures and high winds. This can happen on Wisconsin's largest lake – Winnebago, a popular home to sturgeon spearkers – and the Bay of Green Bay.

Here are more safety tips:

Carry a cell phone, and let people know where you are going and when you'll return home.

Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a personal flotation device or a float coat to help you stay afloat and to help slow body heat loss.

Take an extra pair of mittens or gloves so your hands can remain dry and warm.

Wear creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.

Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.

Do not travel in unfamiliar areas – or at night.

Have a plan in place noting where you will be and when you plan to return. Along with leaving a written note of your plans, it is also recommended to keep a charged cell phone.

If the worst happens and you happen to fall in, here's what to do:

Carry a couple of hand-held spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket or inside your sleeves to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.

If you fall in, remain as calm as possible and while attempting to assist yourself out of the water, call for help as soon as you can. Anyone who attempts to rescue you also is recommended to use a rope or something similar to avoid falling through as well.

LHS Boys Swim falls to SPASH

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Despite the tough loss to SPASH, the Lincoln High School Boys Swim Team had a night full of personal triumphs. Many swimmers achieved personal records (PRs), showcasing their growth and hard work

throughout the season. A standout performance of the evening came from Brycen Henslin, who secured first place in the 100 Butterfly with an impressive time of 1:03.67.

"I'm incredibly proud of the team," said Coach Wittenberg. "Each swim-

mer gave their best effort and showed significant improvement in their strokes. These PRs are proof of their dedication, and I couldn't ask for more."

The team looks forward to building on these successes as the season continues.

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.



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 can provide crucial support, but their lives will naturally continue, and you may find your-

self 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. 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.

Classifieds

Announcements 7005

FLORIDA BOUND EMPTY TRUCK. Can move household & Cars – CHEAP! Local 414-520-1612

Pioneer Cemetery Annual Meeting - Saturday February 1 2025 - 6 P.M. at the Saratoga Town Hall, 1120 Hwy 73 So.

Agenda will include the following: Update on the Third Addition, Financial Update on Columbarium installation, Price increases for Cemetery Operations, Cemetery Weekend Operations, Election of Officer. **All owners are voting members. For more information call 715-424-7270**

Firewood 7244

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ADORABLE PUG PUPPIES! Great w/kids awesome family pets shots dewormed vet ck'd 2-F 1-M \$500 715-669-7571 (1/20)

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CAVAPOO PUPS \$600 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/20)nw

CAVAPOO PUPS. Shots, Dewes, Wormed Vet Ck'd Health Guaranteed \$500 Call 715-470-0458 No Text (#509642) 1/20 amsm

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Miniature Australian Shepherd puppies. Registered, Blue Merles & Black Tris, shots, dewormed, vet checked, born 10-12-24. Ready now \$400 715-819-0865. No texts.

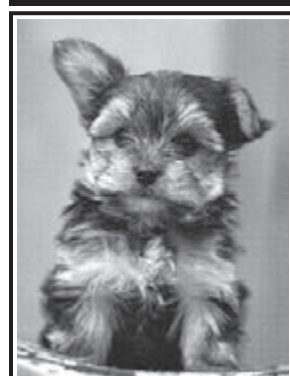
MINI GOLDDOODLE PUPS! \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/20nw

want it? get it!
CLASSIFIEDS

don't want it? sell it!
CLASSIFIEDS

lost it? find it!

Dogs 7272



Purebred Yorkshire puppies: Two males for sale. 8.5 weeks old. first shots & dewormed. 75% potty trained. 715-977-2933

WELCH CORGI PUPS! Vet Ck'd Dewormed 1st shots \$600 Well socialized with Kids call 715-7456018 (1/20)

Livestock 7284

HOMEGROWN BEEF NO IM-PLANTS! Half \$3.05lb Quarter \$3.10lb call 715-470-0458 (am1/20n)

Motorcycles 7502

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

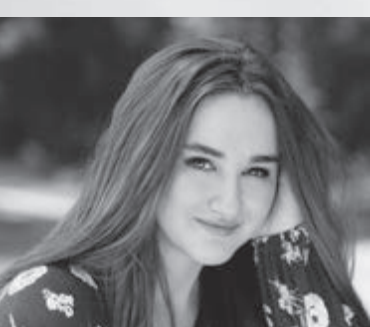
Professional and Technical 7135

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 Parkplaceaduldaysservices@gmail.com

Check us out online!
WRCityTimes.com

Is There News We Should Know About?

Send your announcements, press releases & news tips to the Wisconsin Rapids City Times & Buyers' Guide!



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City Times
Buyers' Guide

Katie Schimke
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“The Wealth InFormation Lady”: When Should I Start Planning for Retirement?



The Wealth InFormation Lady

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We are often asked what the ideal time is to begin retirement planning.

To be clear, retirement planning and retirement saving are two different

things. One should begin saving for retirement as early as possible. Our sons began their retirement accounts when they first had earned income, at ages 7 and 9. Planning for retirement brings in more complexities, determining the income that you'll need to fund the lifestyle that you desire in your golden years along with the many other fac-

tors and decisions that encompass the future projections.

If you are young, save as much as you can. You can find simple calculators online that can give you preliminary estimates. Keep saving. As your nest egg and your age both advance, more detailed planning should add clarity as to how your financial future will play out. If

you wait too long to plan, you may not have the time or resources left to make necessary adjustments for your goals to come to fruition. Generally speaking, it is advisable to begin detailed, comprehensive planning five to ten years before you wish to retire. For many people, that puts them at 50 – 65 for the ideal age range to begin planning for retirement.

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Jameson Bernette



Noah Grosskopf



Nola Woller

Krakens at the Merrill Invitational, Set 43 PRs with 17 Club Records

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club (WRSC) traveled to Merrill on Jan. 11 to attend the first invitational of the new year. The swim meet was held at the Prairie Park Middle School Community Pool. The Krakens sent 35 swimmers to compete against other clubs from the Wisconsin Central Swim Conference. Overall, WRSC captured fifteen first place honors with seventeen club records and forty-three personal records.

“On this day, we competed against the two top teams in the conference in Rhinelander and Minocqua. The Krakens captured fifteen first places,” said Head Coach Dave Kontz. “The Rapids swimmers competed like champions, setting seventeen new club records and 43 personal records PR. This is what personal and club growth looks like.”

Travis McMahon started the morning with wins in the 50yd Butterfly and 200yd Freestyle, and a second in the 50yd Freestyle. Travis set new club records in the 50yd Fly and Free. Mason Ironside placed second in

the 50yd Backstroke, third in the 100yd Freestyle, and fifth in the 50yd Freestyle. Mason set a new club record in the 50yd Back. Noah Grosskopf had a tenth-place finish in the 100yd Freestyle and PRs in the 50yd Free and Back. Gavin Bernette set PRs in the 50yd Free and Back. Finally, these Krakens combined to place first in the 200yd Medley Relay and third in the 200yd Freestyle Relay.

Anna Gumz placed second in the 50yd Backstroke, third in the 25yd Backstroke, sixth in the 50yd Freestyle and seventh in the 25yd Freestyle. All events for Anna are PRs and new club records. Aubrey Knoll placed fourth in the 50yd Backstroke and set PRs in the 25yd and 50yd Free and the 25yd Back.

Cole Graumann finished in seventh place in the 50yd Backstroke, eighth in the 25yd Freestyle and had PRs in the 50yd Free and 25yd Back. Brody Slabosheski swam in his very first meet as a Kraken. Brody placed eighth in the 25yd Backstroke and tenth in the 25yd Freestyle. Cody Graumann placed eighth in the 50yd

Backstroke and PRs in the 25yd Free and Back.

Annabelle Grumann placed second in the 100yd Backstroke. Janessa Rucinski swam to a pair of third places in the 50yd Butterfly and 100yd Individual Medley PR. Emma Kay swam to an eighth place in the 50yd Breaststroke, and PRs in the 50yd Free and Back. Kensington Lercher, in her first meet as a Kraken, finished ninth in the 50yd Breaststroke and nineteenth in the 50yd Freestyle. Finally, to end the morning session, the girls combined to swim to a seventh place in the 200yd Freestyle Relay.

The afternoon started with a big bang as the Senior Krakens had a “one-two” finish in the 50yd Freestyle by Tretton Delaney and AJ Plummer, respectively. In the next event, Tretton and Joey Doeberiner went “one-two” in the 100yd freestyle. Finally, for the third time of the afternoon, another “one-two” finish by Joey and Gavin Knoll in the 50yd Backstroke. Tretton went on to win the 50yd Butterfly, and set a new club record in the 50yd Free. AJ won the 100yd Butterfly and Indi-

vidual Medley. Joey placed fourth in the 50yd Freestyle. Gavin finished second in the 100yd Backstroke and fifth in the 50yd Freestyle. The four boys combined to win both the 200yd Medley and Freestyle Relays. Maddie Graumann was the only member of the Senior women's team to compete. Maddie finished with a fourth in the 200yd freestyle and eighth in the 50yd Freestyle.

Mya Margard finished in fifth and had a PR in the 50yd Freestyle. She also had a seventh in the 100yd Breaststroke and ninth in the 100yd Backstroke. Mackenzie Miloch finished fifth and set a new club record in the 50yd Backstroke, sixth in the 50yd Freestyle, and eleventh, with PR and a new club record in the 100yd Individual Medley. Reece Mathews finished tenth in the 50yd Backstroke and a PR in the 50yd Freestyle. McKenna Anderson set PR in the 50yd Freestyle and 100yd Individual Medley. Payton Kraklow finished sixth in the 50yd Backstroke. Nola Woller finished eighth with PR in the 50yd Butterfly, and finished in the top 20 in the 100yd Free-

style and 50yd Breaststroke. The Krakens finished fourth in the 200yd Individual Medley Relay with Payton Kraklow, Reece Mathews, Nola Woller, and McKenna Anderson. They had a third in the 200yd Freestyle Relay with Nola Woller, Payton Kraklow, Reece Mathews, and Mya Marquard. Chris Carlson was the only boy in this age group and he placed fourth in the 100yd Freestyle, fifth in the 100yd Backstroke, ninth in the 50yd Freestyle, and swam the 50yd Freestyle for the first time.

The afternoon session ended with Addison Borek placing fourth and setting new club records in the 100yd Butterfly and in the 50yd Breaststroke. Addison also finished fifth in the 50yd Freestyle. Vivian Zacher finished fifth in the 100yd Breaststroke, eighth in the 50yd Freestyle, and seventh, with a new club record in the 100yd Individual Medley. Willow Devine had the best finish of the group with a third in the 50yd Backstroke. She also PRs in the 50yd and 100yd Freestyle. Allyson Coates got fourth place in the 50yd Backstroke, tenth

in the 100yd Breaststroke, and thirteenth in the 100yd Individual Medley. The 200yd Medley Relay finished fourth and the 200yd Freestyle Relay finished second. Swimming for Rapids was Mackenzie Miloch, Vivian Zacher, Addison Borek and Willow Divine.

Jameson Bernette and Casten Delaney were the only boys in this age group. Jameson placed second in the 100yd Breaststroke, third in the 50yd Freestyle, and had a pair of fourths in the 100yd Freestyle and Individual Medley. Chasten had a pair of fourth places in the 50yd Freestyle and Breaststroke, and sixth in the 100yd Freestyle. These are all PRs for Chasten.

The Krakens will be hosting their first Home Meet at Lincoln High School on Jan. 25, starting at 9 a.m. Six teams will be coming to compete against our Kraken swimmers. There will be 50/50 raffles, raffle baskets and concessions available.

Remaining meets for the Kraken are Jan. 25 (home), Feb. 1-2 (Divisional Meet in Minocqua), and Feb. 8-9 Conference Championships in Tomahawk.

Packers look to recover in offseason

BY TORI WITTENBROCK SPORTS EDITOR

The Green Bay Packers' 2024 season came full circle with a 22-10 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles — also the team's first loss of the season in their 'home' opener in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The NFL Wild Card Round loss knocks the Packers out of the running for the Super Bowl, but will also give a physically dilapidated team a few more weeks to recover in the offseason.

Despite suffering the loss of integral players due to injury throughout the season — notably Jaire Alexander and Christian Watson — the Packers final game saw early exits for

guard Elgton Jenkins, wide receivers Romeo Doubs and Jayden Reed, as well as center Josh Meyers.

Green Bay Packers Head Coach Matt LaFleur said that he is looking forward to seeing how his team bounces back and goes to work over the next few months.

“Hopefully we can use this as fuel to have a great offseason and come back next year ready to rock,” said LaFleur.

Even though the plans the Packers had for the offseason ended prematurely, LaFleur said that he was proud of his team's efforts on the field.

“I thought our guys competed really well. It's just

that when you come into somebody else's house that is just a really good football team, you can't start the way we did,” said LaFleur.

“It was obviously too much to overcome, but I appreciate the heck out of those guys in the locker room. Those guys show up everyday with a great attitude and great energy and compete.”

One aspect of their game that LaFleur said they failed to produce on was their ability to play complimentary football.

“Defensively, I thought we played winning football — it's just offensively and on special teams we had too many mistakes.”

A fumbled opening

kickoff return by Keisean Nixon, missed field goal by Brandon McManus and three interceptions by Jordan Love left much to be desired from their offensive and special teams performance.

Packers Quarterback Jordan Love said that his performance leading the offense against a competitive and aggressive Eagles defense was not up to his expectations.

“It just comes down to executing and making plays out there and it just wasn't good enough,” said Love.

Though the season-ending loss did not play out as they had hoped, Love said that he believes that he has

seen significant growth as a professional athlete this season.

“I think there's areas that I improved on and the team improved on and there's some stuff that I'd want to clean up and be better at for sure. That's the nature of the game. It's never going to be perfect and there's always going to be things to get better at and improve on. That will be part of the offseason,” said Love.

However, knowing that he won't see the field again for the next few months has been a difficult realization for Love.

“It's tough,” said Love. “It's the end of the season when you lose a play off

game. It sucks. We've been here before and it's not fun. It's not fun being in the locker room after the game,” said Love.

According to defensive tackle Kenny Clark, the team's loss to the Eagles was not the result he was expecting based on the team's defensive performance.

“Tough loss. I don't really have the words for it. Proud of how everybody fought. We stuck together throughout the whole game, but at the end of the day we've got to be better,” said Clark. “There's so many lessons that we can take from this season going on to the next.”