

Check out our **PELLET STOVE** ad on the back page!

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 and nonprofits, 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.

See **HEALTH** page 4

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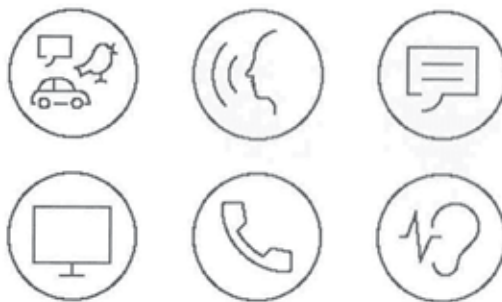
NORTH CENTRAL REAL ESTATE

5 Facts About Hearing And Hearing Loss



- People who hear well can communicate better
- Hearing loss can affect people of all ages
- You never stop hearing - even when you're asleep at night
- Our ears are an essential part of our balancing system
- Hearing aids help the brain to continue to process sounds normally

Warning Signs of Hearing Loss



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- Sounds and speech sound muffled
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- TV volume
- Difficulty understanding phone conversations
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- Trouble following conversations without visual cues
- Tinnitus

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In Advance Physical Therapy Associates Office
WAUSAU 2620 Stewart Ave. • Wausau, WI 54401 *US Bank Building*
COLBY 1122 N. Division St. • Colby, WI 54421 *In Forward Financial Bank*
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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.

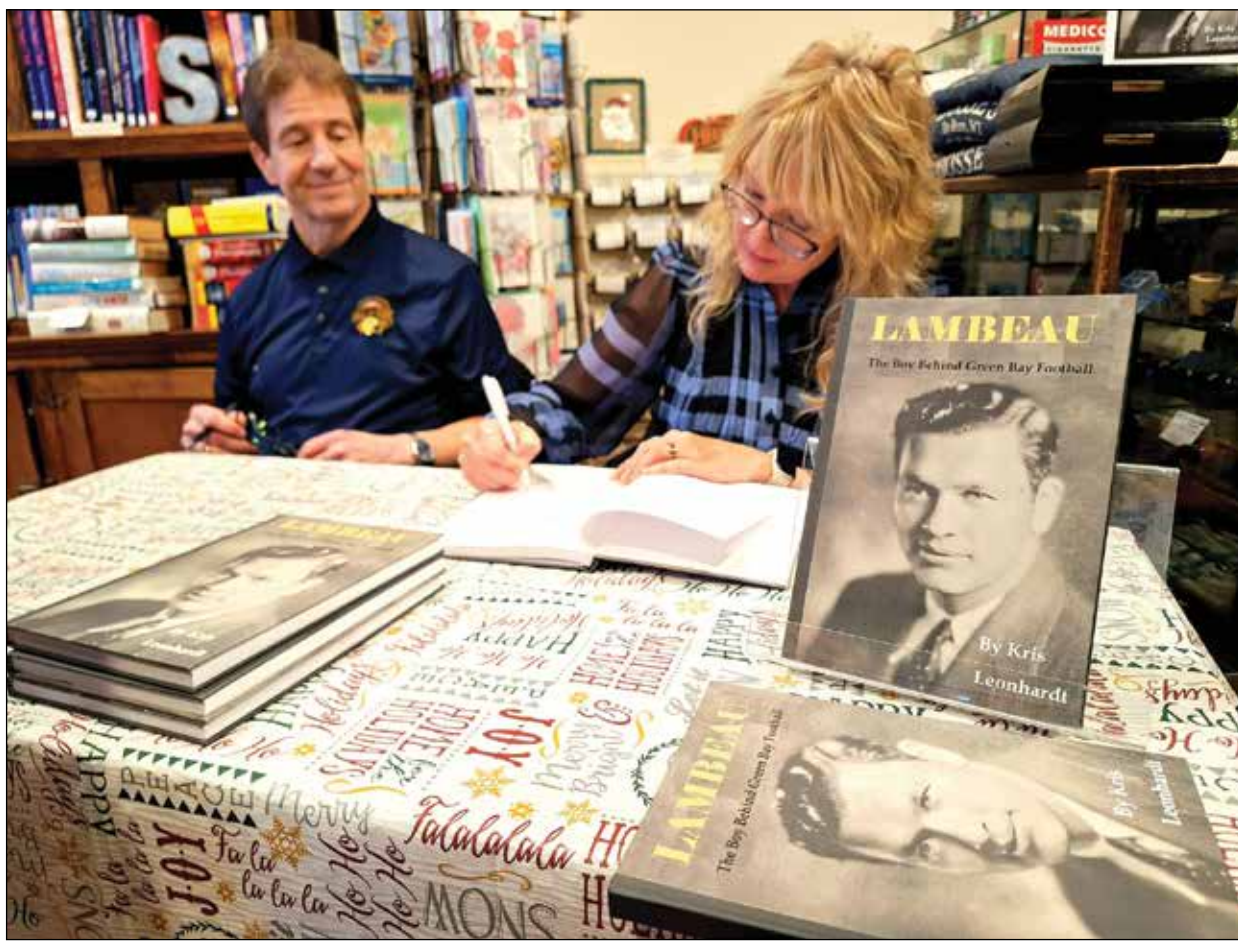
Lambeau - The Boy Behind Green Bay Football chronicles Lambeau's life from birth through death and includes photos supplied by Green Bay area archives, including the Neville Public Museum, UW-Green Bay Archives and Packers Hall of Fame, Inc.



Kris Leonhardt

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 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://shopmmclocal.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

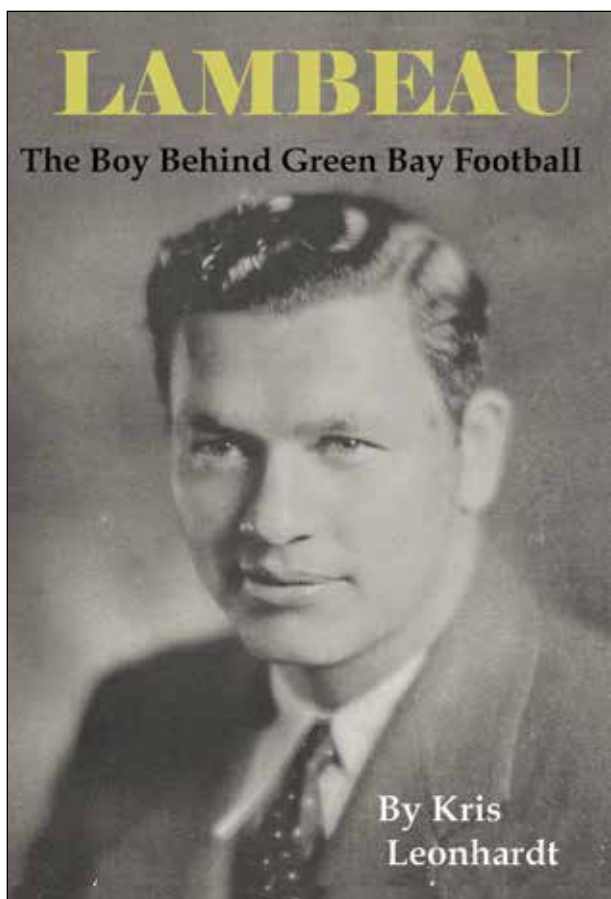
working in a family business, and joined MMC full-time in 2016.

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



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 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,

See COURT page 3



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Sausage Patties Maple - Fully Cooked Frozen 9.6 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Cheddar Cheese Mild 5 lbs. ONLY \$2.49 a lb	Snack Crackers Original, 18 ct pack 61 oz. ONLY \$8.99
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Greenwood Police Department looking to add officer

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--The Greenwood Police Department is looking to fill a vacancy in the department.

Qualified applicants must be a U.S. citizen, have a high school diploma, 60 college credits, and eligibility for Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board certification. Applicants must also be able to perform the essential functions of the position, have the ability to possess a firearm and have no domestic abuse or felony convictions.

To apply, please submit DJ-LE330 (with section 6), resume and City of Greenwood employment application. (All documents available on City of Greenwood website.)

Application Deadline: Feb. 21, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. Contact: Andrew C. Kohnert, Chief of Police 101 W. School St., P.O. Box D, Greenwood, WI 54437 715-267-6215 akohnert@greenwoodwi.com <https://greenwoodwi.com/>



Kayla Schar

Sex Offender Release

FOR CITY TIMES

Noah P Vetterkind had previously been convicted of possession of child pornography. Mr. Vetterkind will be residing at 613 East 2nd ST Owen WI 54460 effective Jan. 21, 2025.

Mr. Vetterkind will be supervised by agents specializing in intensive supervision. He is to have no unsupervised contact with minors, not to consume any drugs. He is to comply with the standard sex offender rules, cooperate with GPS monitoring, and is required face to face contact with law enforcement, in addition, to comply with all requirements and life time registrant of the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry. If you have any questions please contact Sheriff Kerry Kirn at 715-743-5358.



Name: Noah P Vetterkind
Age: 46
Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 219
Hair: Sandy
Eyes: Blue

Marshfield Rotary receives \$4,506 to Fund Ronald McDonald House Meals



FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--The Marshfield Rotary received \$4,506 this holiday season through Prevail Bank's Holiday Matching Funds campaign to help cover the costs of the Ronald McDonald House meals that the Rotary provides. Monetary donations were accepted from the public (Nov. 12 - Dec. 6) and then doubled by Prevail Bank, up to \$1,000. Lang Equipment pledged the same. Prevail Bank and Lang Equipment contributed \$1,000 each to the grand total.

Pictured are Marshfield Rotarians accepting the big check presented by Prevail Bank professionals and fellow Rotarian members; Tammy Schueller, Branch Manager, and Paul Sweningson, Consumer Loan Underwriter.

Bank-wide, a remarkable \$20,885 was gifted between the public and Prevail

Bank, supporting nine local nonprofits. The benefiting organizations were: Sauk County Children's Giving Tree \$2,070, Eau Claire County Department of Human Services' Children's Giving Tree received 149 gifts totaling approximately \$2,160, Marshfield Rotary \$4,506 in support of the meals they make for the Ronald McDonald House, Taylor County Supportive Housing homeless shelter \$482, Owen-Withee Food Pantry \$3,095 with a special acknowledgement going to the Owen-Withee Lions Club that contributed \$1,000, Loggers United Booster Club (Phillips) \$1,020, Operation Bootstrap \$842 to support the Portage County Holiday Basket Project, Children's Wisconsin Child Advocacy Center (Wausau) \$2,420, and the Wisconsin Rapids Family Center \$2,290.

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 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.

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.

COURT

from page 2

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 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,



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Former MLB Hitting and Chicago White Sox Scout host baseball camp for scholarships supporting underserved youth

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – The KS Octave Foundation announced a one-day Baseball Camp on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, at Greenheck Field House in Schofield, Wisconsin, beginning at 8:00 AM. This event will offer young athletes in grades 5-12 the rare opportunity to train with the latest Major League Baseball technology and coaching techniques, with all proceeds benefitting scholarships for underserved youth, providing access to both educational and athletic opportunities.

Led by New York based Kedeem Octave, a former hitting coach for the St. Louis Cardinals, and Stephen Octave, an area scout for the Chicago White Sox, the camp will deliver unmatched professional instruction. Together, the Octave brothers bring decades of combined experience to the event, offering participants a unique insight into the methods and tools used at the highest levels of baseball.

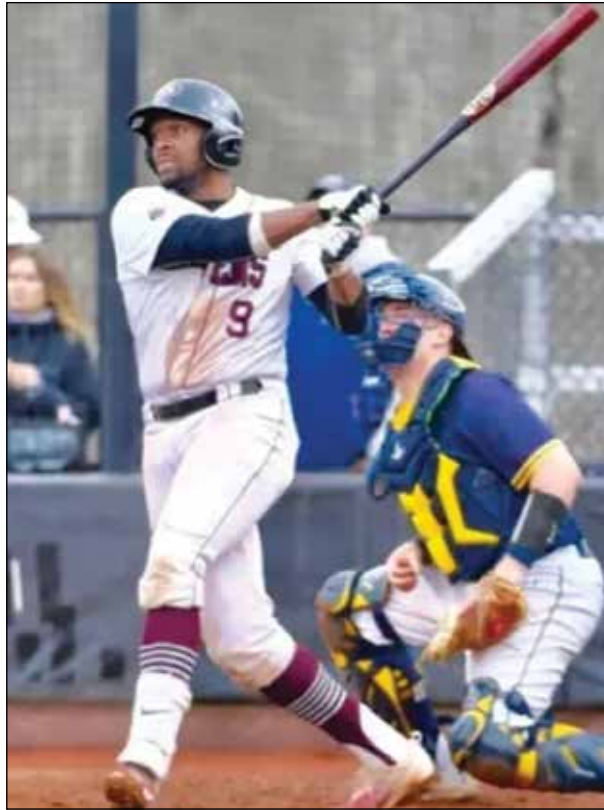
“We’re thrilled to give kids the chance to train with the same tools and technology that MLB players use,” said Kedeem Octave, Founder of the KS Octave Foundation. “We’re incorporating state-of-the-art systems like Rapsodo, cognitive function tools, and other performance technologies that provide real-time feedback, offering a training experience typically reserved for elite athletes.”

The camp will feature detailed evaluations and feedback on hitting mechanics, pitch tracking, swing analysis, and more. Participants will have access to professional-level technology to gain valuable insights into their development, helping them elevate their game to the next level.

“The mission of the KS Octave Foundation is to provide opportunities for kids in underserved communities—resources they wouldn’t typically have access to,” said Stephen Octave. “This camp is about more than just baseball; it’s about developing the mindset and discipline that athletes need to succeed in every area of life.”

In addition to skill development, the camp will focus on mentorship, instilling core values like discipline, teamwork, and dedication. All event proceeds will go toward scholarships, giving children from underserved communities the chance to pursue both athletic and academic opportunities they might otherwise miss.

Admission cost \$75.



Left: Scan this QR code to register for KS Octave Foundation’s baseball camp held on Jan. 26. For more information online: <https://ksoctavefoundation.org/>

MCPL Book Clubs: Feb. 2025

Marathon City Book Club: The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore

Mon. 2/10. 5:45 p.m. 715-443-2775. MCPL Marathon City
In 1860, Elizabeth Packard, committed to an insane asylum by her traitorous husband, becomes a champion for the many rational woman on her ward, discovering that the merit of losing everything is that you then have nothing to lose.

Edgar Book Club:

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Tues. 2/11. 12:00 p.m. 715-352-3155. MCPL Edgar
The host of The Daily Show with Trevor Noah recounts his coming of age in apartheid South Africa and its aftermath, highlighting the absurdities of modern political and social systems.

Hatley Book Club: Hidden

Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Tues. 2/11. 1:00 p.m. 715-446-3537. MCPL Hatley
A compelling account of NASA’s African-American women mathematicians, highlighting their pivotal yet unheralded contributions to America’s space program despite segregation under Jim Crow laws.

Athens Book Club: Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange

Tues. 2/11. 2:00 p.m. 715-257-7292. MCPL Athens
Tracing the legacies of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre to Orvil Red Feather’s shooting, Opal strives to hold the



February Book Clubs - February 2024.

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family together as Orvil turn to prescription drugs, and his brother, battling PTSD, performs secret blood rituals to connect with their Cheyenne heritage.

Spencer Book Club: The All-Girl Filling Station’s Last Reunion by Fannie Flagg

Mon. 2/17. 1:00 p.m. 715-659-3996. MCPL Spencer
A novel spanning decades, generations and America in the 1940s and today, centers around five women who worked in a Phillips 66 gas station during the WWII years.

Mosinee Book Club: The Good Son by Jacquelyn Mitchard

Mon. 2/17. 2:00 p.m. 715-693-2144. MCPL Mosinee
When her son is released from prison after serving time for the negligent homicide of his girlfriend, Thea is committed to helping him make amends until attempts on their lives are made, leading her to believe that those who are threatening them have something to hide.

Stratford Book Club: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

Wed. 2/19. 1:00 p.m. 715-687-4420. MCPL Stratford
In 1972, a skeleton unearthed in Chicken Hill, Pennsylvania, reveals a long-held secret, exposing the role of the town’s white establishment and the guarded lives of those on the margins of white, Christian America.

Rothschild Book Club: Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

Wed. 2/26. 11:00 a.m. 715-359-6208. MCPL Rothschild
Two lifelong friends, propelled to stardom by their legendary collaboration, soon learn that success, brilliance, and wealth can’t shield them from creative ambition or heartbreak.

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Trolls Sprinkle Bliss Cookies 20 oz..... **\$0.99**

Sliced Peaches 29 oz..... **\$1.39**

Snack Crackers 13.7 oz..... **\$0.99**

Store Hours: M-F 9-5, Sat 9-4, Sun Closed.

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

Feb. story time dates set at Marathon County Public Library



FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Each month the Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) offers story times for children and their caregivers at many of its locations. These interactive story times are intended to introduce children to literature and reading through storytelling, songs, games, puppets and fingerplays. Some even include extra activities and craft making. MCPL has numerous recurring story times scheduled throughout Feb. at most of its locations, allowing families across the county to easily attend no matter where they live.

The following story times will be held at the locations listed below:

Edgar Branch

(224 S. Third Ave., Edgar)

Children of all ages and their parents and caregivers are invited on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Edgar Branch for Family Story Time.

Feb. 4, 11:00–11:30 a.m.

Feb. 18, 11:00–11:30 a.m.

Marathon City Branch

(515 Washington St., Marathon City)

Children of all ages and their parents/caregivers are invited to Marathon City for story time each Thursday.

Feb. 6, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Feb. 13, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Feb. 20, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Feb. 27, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Spencer Branch

(105 South Park Street, Spencer)

Children of all ages and parents/guardians are welcome to this 30-minute program at MCPL Spencer.

Feb. 18, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Stratford Branch

(213201 Scholar St., Stratford)

Children of all ages and parents/guardians are welcome to this 30-minute program at MCPL Stratford.

Feb. 5, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Feb. 12, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Feb. 19, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Feb. 26, 10:30–11:00 a.m.

All story times are free and open to the public, with no registration required. For more information, call your local MCPL location or visit <https://mcpl.us/events/story-time>.

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| SPORTS |

Columbus boys basketball takes the win against Owen-Withee



MARSHFIELD--In a close game of basketball, Columbus Catholic secured a win against Owen-Withee with a final score of 63-50. The game was tied 26-26 at halftime.

Owen-Withee Scoring:
Colin Fritz 6, Sam Wells 11, Mason Gay 4, Dominic Sherwood 4, Colton

Paczkowski 5, Brett Baehr 6, Jack Wendler 14.

Columbus Catholic Scoring:
Mac Konieczny 30, Cole Wallace 2, Cade Jansen 1, Mason Edwards 2, Ben Weiland 18, Kaleb Hingemann 5, Carter Sommer 5.



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**

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 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.

See UECKER page 12

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."

See PACKERS page 12



Green Bay Packers Quarterback Jordan Love said he is proud of his team's efforts this season and looks forward to seeing them recover over the next few months for a healthier 2025 season.



Packers Head Coach Matt LaFleur said that though he was disappointed in how their final game of the season played out, he is anticipating witnessing the growth of the Packers team in the offseason. **Photos by Tori Wittenbrock**

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Cedar Rail Apartments offer convenient on-site laundry facilities, a lounge area on each floor, private courtyard, pool table/game room, and a large community room. A caretaker is moments away during weekends, weekday evenings, and early morning hours. Cable television and internet are available at a reduced rate, and kitchen appliances are furnished.

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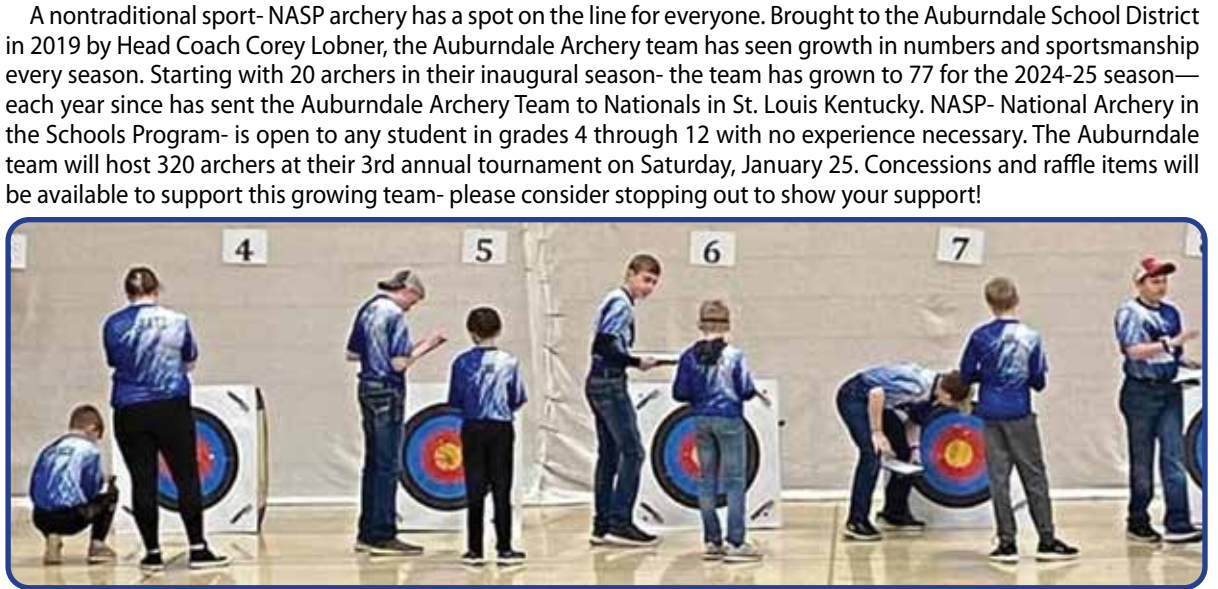
AUBURDnale AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS



Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) ran its annual Pet Shelter Drive from December 2nd through December 16th. They raised money and donations for the shelter thanks to the support of students, staff, the community, and local businesses.

HOSA also conducted a Feminine Hygiene Product Drive to place in the bathrooms around the school. Great support was seen from the community in all of their efforts.

On Friday, January 10th, the Auburndale Middle School hosted their annual Geography Bee. Nine students from the 6th through 8th grades competed in the trivia style challenge that featured a series of demanding questions related to geographic terms, places, and concepts. After eight rounds of competition, two students advanced to the championship round to vie for the title of school champion. At the conclusion, Kaylan Snodie, representing the 8th grade, edged Emily Peterson, representing the 6th grade, as the Middle School Champion. A hearty congratulations to Kaylan for winning as well as Emily for making the championship round, and a job well done by all of the other competitors. Readers, test your geography knowledge, let's see if you can correctly answer the winning championship question. The question was: A large rodent, the nutria, which was imported from South America, can destroy marsh vegetation. This rodent's destruction of the Chesapeake Bay wetlands is a problem in which state? The answer... Maryland. Thank you to all the parents and families who attended, as well as those who watched the live stream of the event.



Auburndale High School is hosting the Marawood Conference Art Competition and Exhibition in Wausau this year. The Marawood Conference Art Specialists from area schools will each be entering six select student artworks for judging and exhibition. A student immersion day as well as the judging and award recognition will take place at the Center for the Visual Arts in the Loft Gallery on February 19, 2025.

The Conference Art Exhibit will run from February 19 - March 15 in the Loft Gallery at the Center of Visual Arts in Wausau. <https://www.cvawausau.org/loft-gallery>



Competitors in the Auburndale Middle School Geography Bee from left to right: Levi Hilgart, Madden Meissner, Noah Wellach, Alana Cherney, Kaylan Snodie, Emily Peterson, Ellie Budtke, Thomas Krings and August Jinsky.



On Monday December 16th the Auburndale Bands and Choirs put on their Winter Concert. The Concert started with the debut of the 5th Grade Band as they performed for the first time ever!

They were followed by the 6th grade and Middle School Band as well as the 6th grade and Middle School Choirs. The evening continued with the High School Choir and

concluded with the High School Band. The students put on an amazing concert that both Mr. Wegner and Ms. Koerner were extremely proud of! The Band continued their tradition of performing the classic Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson and featured the signature "Slap Stick" but in varying sizes! The Choir also continued their tradition of performing "Carol of the Bells" by Mykola Leontovych

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

PITTSVILLE AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS



Pulseras Project: Service in Action

As part of the Global Scholars Program, Kat K. is bringing the Pulseras Project to Pittsville Schools for two weeks! Pulseras are bracelets hand woven from Central American artisans primarily in Nicaragua and Guatemala. The Pulsera Project (pulseraproject.org) buys them and partners with schools in the US to sell them. The money we raise supports schooling, university scholarships, housing programs, healthcare, and disability rights advocacy in the communities in which the artisans live. Their projects are guided by the philosophy of empowerment. The Pulseras Project empowers the community with the skills and opportunities that allows them to provide for themselves and their communities. Pulseras will be for sale during lunch and at home sporting events from Monday, January 20th to Friday, January 31st.

PES Christmas Shop Donates to Community



Pittsville Elementary School is thrilled to announce the success of Pittsville Elementary's 7th annual Christmas Shop, which took place from December 2-6. This year, we raised an impressive \$2000, which was donated back to our community. Of this amount, \$500 supported Providing for Panthers, our in-school pantry, and \$1500 went to PANS, the local food pantry. This accomplishment was made possible by the unwavering support of local businesses (Pittsville Family Foods, Associated Bank, Event City Design, Illusions), organizations (American Legion, Pittsville Lions), and many dedicated volunteers. From donating items for our sale, money to help ensure all kids could shop or helping children shop or wrapping the MANY gifts! Thank you for your commitment to serving our community!

PHS Creative Writing Contest Winners

For the month of December, students in the high school Creative Writing Class had their 100-word short stories anonymously published in the local newspaper, and at the community library for readers to vote on. The three winners each received a gift card and candy, and saw their stories printed once again, but this time with their names attached. The students received votes from over 120 people, and reached readers from Washington to Connecticut. Here are the winners:

First Place tie

Unopened Messages
By Kaylee Jacobson, Senior
Messages untouched, plans unmade. Death is weird. In the middle of the day on random Saturday the person you've known the entire life, spent everyday seeing, is no longer in your math class sitting next to you able to help you with your assignments. They are no longer there to wave to you and say hi as you carry your books to your

next class. You can text them but the number of days left unopened grows longer and longer. As the days all mush together and life starts to separate from before and after. The unopened messages still linger.

First Place tie

The Death that Saved Your Life
By Rilynn James, Junior
You barely knew your neighbor, but the impact his death had was immeasurable. There was always something off about him; something suspicious, something strange - right down to the note in his pocket with your name attached to it the night he was murdered. Detectives only tell you about the note the next day, but refuse to elaborate, leaving you with crumbs of curiosity and fear. The night after it happened, you sneak around the caution tape and carelessly break into his home, only to find that your demise was living only twenty yards from you. Suddenly, you're glad he's gone.

Second Place

Sunshine Dies
By Nora Kremer, Sophomore
I've never thought about losing you. I thought we'd grow old together. There hasn't ever been a reason for me to think of your death - nothing, until a few months ago. Life without you - just thinking that makes me want to cry. I've never known life without you. I imagined that we would drink tea on our porch swings when we grew old and die together from age. But never would I have thought this day would come. You, here in my arms. Tears streaming down both our faces. My heart, wrenching, yet I sing you this song, our song.

Third Place

The Last Message
By Peyton Leigh, Junior
December 1961, Heart pounding out of his chest, Chester sprinted through the tight squeeze, his breath trailing behind him from the cold winter air. Footsteps pounded and echoed behind him growing closer. He quickly glanced back to see two guards gaining on him. With a quick burst of energy, he leaped over the moat. The spotlight glinted off the barbed wire fence and without hesitation, he made the leap of faith. The wall was the last thing standing in the path of freedom; there was nothing to be done with the approaching guards. "Standing man" murmured Chester, time is up.

Quiz Bowl Teams Start the Season Strong!

The Quiz Bowl teams have kicked off their season with an impressive start, showcasing their knowledge and quick thinking. Both teams are currently holding a solid 2-1 record, a testament to their hard work and dedication.

This season promises to be an exciting one as students continue to demonstrate their mastery of trivia across a wide range of topics, from history and science to pop culture and literature. Their success is a point of pride for the school and community.

Congratulations to the Quiz Bowl teams on their early victories—here's to a season full of achievement and fun!

Go Panthers!

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¡Saludos desde la clase de español! (Greetings from Spanish class!)

Our 6th grade and 7th grade Spanish classes have been very busy this holiday season! They spent a day learning the basics of salsa dancing with our very own band teacher, Mr. Petry. Mr. Petry is a trained ballroom dance instructor and helped lead this fast-paced latin dance.

Our students also learned about El Día de la Virgen Guadalupe, Las Posadas, and enjoyed a Spanish tapas party before the winter break. When they returned from break, they learned about El Día de los Tres Reyes Magos—a holiday that is celebrated throughout the Spanish-speaking world commemorating when the Three Wise Men brought gifts to baby Jesus. In Spanish-speaking countries, this is often the day Christmas gifts are exchanged (or another reason to give gifts.) As the tradition goes, children leave out their shoes, and the Tres Reyes Magos come during the night to fill the shoes with gifts. Our 6th and 7th graders made some paper shoes...and sure enough...on the 6th of January, their shoes were filled with treats. On January 6th, we also celebrated with a traditional Rosca de Reyes or a King's Ring. This is a sweet bread baked into the shape of a ring, decorated with strips of candied fruits. There are some surprises hidden inside of the bread...and the students who find those hidden surprises will be the padrinos or madrinan (godfathers or godmothers) that sponsor a party or do something special for our class. There is so much learning happening in Middle School Spanish class...and that's always a reason to celebrate!

Pittsville Shoe Drive Success

Between December 2-16, there was a shoe drive around Pittsville. During this time, community members were encouraged to bring new and/or gently used shoes to locations around the city. Soles 4 Souls is a nonprofit that collects shoes and sends them to people in need. People hit by natural disasters, war struck countries, domestic violence victims, and poverty-stricken communities. You can learn more about Soles 4 Souls at soles4souls.org.

This shoe drive was run by Kole Foltman and Autumn McDaniel, students at Pittsville High School working on a service learning project for the Global Scholars Certificate they are working towards. Through the Global Scholars Program students earn a credential from the Wisconsin Department of Instruction that shows they had a global learning experience.

Kole and Autumn brought in a whopping 250+ pairs of shoes that are going to help people all over the world.



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Aspirus offering free seminar on atrial fibrillation

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--Atrial fibrillation (AFib) is a common but serious heart condition that significantly increases the risk of stroke and heart failure if left untreated. Symptoms such as fatigue, shortness of breath, and dizziness can impact your ability to stay active and diminish your quality of life.

To help individuals better understand and manage this condition, Aspirus Heart Care is hosting a free seminar on Wednesday, Jan. 29. The event will cover the relationship between AFib, stroke, and heart failure, as well as the innovative treatment options available through Aspirus Heart Care.

The seminar will take place at The Hilton Garden Inn in Wausau from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. While the event is free, registration is requested.

Aspirus Heart Care specialists John Johnkoski, MD, Cardiothoracic Surgeon, and Andrew Myktysey, MD, Electrophysiologist, will provide insights into managing AFib. Topics include traditional and minimally invasive approaches, catheter-based



John Johnkoski

ablation techniques, and combined treatments that aim to reduce symptoms, prevent strokes, and improve quality of life.

"Atrial fibrillation not only disrupts normal heart rhythm but also significantly increases the risk of life-threatening complications like stroke and heart failure," said Dr. Johnkoski. "For patients with AFib, the risk of stroke is approximately five times higher than for those with normal heart rhythms."

"AFib arises from irregularities in the heart's electrical signals, and timely diagnosis is crucial," added Dr. Myktysey. "Without proper management,

prolonged episodes can lead to permanent changes in heart tissue and electrical function, making treatment more challenging. Early intervention is key to preserving heart health and preventing progression."

Aspirus Heart Care encourages anyone concerned about AFib symptoms or who has been diagnosed with the condition to attend this informative session and take an active role in their heart health.

To register for this event, call 800-847-4707, Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30 PM. Or visit aspirus.org/classes-events.

Cihlar named Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--Abbotsford High School senior Chloe Cihlar has been named the Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter for the second quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

Cihlar carries a class schedule which includes Calculus, Written Communication, Publishing, Employability Skills, School-to-Work, Teacher Assistant, and Choir. Her co-curricular activities include National

Honor Society, Student Senate, FBLA, FCCLA, BLAST, Safe School Ambassadors, Mathletes, Educators Rising, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Marawood Leadership Council, and Show Choir. She has participated on the Basketball team and is an All-Conference Athlete and state qualifier on the Swim and Track and Field Teams.

English Language Arts teacher, Krista Keech, highly recommended her for the Student-of-the-Quarter award. "Chloe is an exemplary student who sets the highest standards for herself and

those around her," Keech stated. "Among the many leadership positions she holds, she is on the leadership council for Educators Rising, an organization that provides high school students with hands-on teaching experience and sustains their interest in the profession through networking with other schools."

Cihlar's volunteerism attests to her belief in community service. She has been actively involved by bell ringing for the Salvation Army, assisting at Red Cross Blood Drives, Booster Club concession stands, and youth basketball camps, volunteering as a pool aide, helping students in Abbotsford School District's After School program, and participating in the Christmas Parade and



the community's Earth Day cleanup.

When asked to identify an outstanding feature of the community, Chloe applauded the Abbotsford community and school district for "encouraging students to embrace and learn from

the diverse cultures that flourish in Abbotsford, providing opportunities to explore different traditions, languages, and perspectives. Embracing this diversity helps build communication

and collaboration and encourages an inclusive environment where all can feel valued and respected."

When asked to define a major world problem, Cihlar responded, "I would confront the mental health crisis that affects millions but is so often misunderstood or even unnoticed. This issue is hard to fully solve; but imagine if there was mental health care for everyone, providing easily accessible counseling, mobile apps to provide instant help, online therapy, and programs that bring about human interaction, as well as focusing on eliminating negative stigma on mental health. Perhaps we could have a kinder, healthier society where individuals struggling with mental health might feel that it's okay to not be okay and talk about their problems."

Chloe currently works as a Lifeguard at both Abbotsford and Colby High Schools and as a Barista at The Coffee Coop. After graduation, she plans to attend a four-year WI university,

currently leaning toward UW-LaCrosse, majoring in Physical, Adapted, and School Health Education (PASHE).

She is the daughter of Matt and Wendy Cihlar, of Abbotsford.

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

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Kira Allord, Semester High Honors

From Wisconsin Rapids

Alli Dewitt, Semester Highest Honors Averil 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

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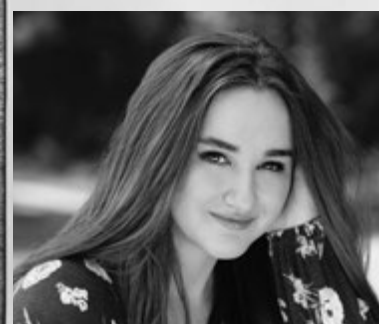
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MARSHFIELD HUB CITY Times

Katie Schimke Editor

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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 (HBIIP) (\$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.

| 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.

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PACKERS
from page 7

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."

UECKER
from page 7

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 Uecker."

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, The Press Times

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| CLASSIFIEDS |

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Announcements 7005
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

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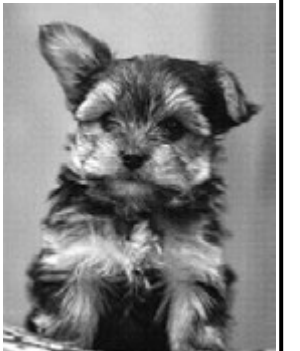
For Sale: Male Tri Cavalier King Charles, ready Jan. 19. For more info call 715-412-1708

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MARSHFIELD AREA PET SHELTER PET OF THE WEEK

Bingo



Taz



Hi, I'm Taz and I'm about 2 years old! I was transferred in from a neighboring shelter with my friend Bingo in hopes of finding a new home, arriving to Marshfield on Dec. 17. I was a bit nervous when I first arrived at the shelter, and I'm working on getting more comfortable meeting new people. Bingo and I both warm up more quickly with women, but once I make friends I'm a total goof! I love romping around with Bingo and our shenanigans are guaranteed to make anyone laugh! I will be a wonderful companion if someone is willing to give me a chance. I'm about 50 pounds so I'm a larger pup, but I love to snuggle like I'm a little lap dog. I would do best in a home with older kids. If you would like to learn more about me, then apply for a visit!

At this time, it is believed Taz will get along with other dogs, but unsure about cats. It is recommended no small children (under the age of 9). Every dog, cat and child will react differently to a new pet, so proper and safe introductions are always important for a smooth and successful transition.

Taz's adoption fee is \$225. Buy one get one adoption if adopted with friend Bingo!

Hi, I'm Bingo and I'm about 3 years old! I was transferred in from a neighboring shelter with my friend Taz in hopes of finding a new home, arriving to Marshfield on Dec. 17. I am an adorable girl working on building my confidence. I can be a little skittish when meeting new people and a bit more hesitant with men, but I'm very sweet and seem to gain confidence when I have another dog friend to show me the ropes. Once I'm comfortable, my true goofball self shines right through! I love playing with my friend Taz and tussling over toys! I will be a wonderful companion if someone is willing to give me a chance. I'm about 50 pounds and I love to give my friends a big smooch, so I would do best in a home with older kids. If you would like to learn more about me, then apply for a visit!

My adoption fee is \$225. Buy one get one adoption if adopted with my friend Taz!

Marshfield Area Pet Shelter does not have open hours for public viewing of adoptable animals, rather are by appointment only. Marshfield Area Pet Shelter can be reached by call or text at (715) 486-5140 to make an appointment.

If interested in adopting, please complete the adoption application. Once your application is approved, an appointment will be scheduled to visit with your desired pet.

Online application can be found at: www.marshfieldpetshelter.org/adoption-application

All animals are vet examined, spayed/neutered, blood tested and microchipped. If old enough, they receive routine vaccinations.

CLARK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PET OF THE WEEK

Minnow



Minnow is about as cute as they come! This adorable puppy is a mix of ShihTzu, Chihuahua and Miniature Eskimo. She is about 9 weeks old with an estimated date of birth of 11/11/24. She weighs 9.8 lbs. Minnow came to CCHS from a local farm where they had too many puppies. In fact, there are 9 more in her litter, and they are all named after fish! Minnow has now been spayed, vaccinated, microchipped and dewormed, so she is all ready to find her new forever home. Minnow has a great personality and is very sweet, playful and loveable. She is looking forward to making lots of great memories with her new family!

Clark County Humane Society can be reached during open hours of 12-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday.

Phone number: 715-743-4550.

Email: petshelter@email.com

Mailing Address: CCHS, P.O. Box 127, Neillsville, WI 54456

Located at W3926 State Hwy 73, Neillsville, WI 54456

To fill out an application for Minnow head to Clark County Humane Society's website or found at <https://www.cchs-petshelter.org/dog-adoption-application>

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 Wisconsin roads safe during winter, using more salt than needed comes at a price. In Wisconsin



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

See **SALT** page 16

| BUSINESS DIRECTORY |

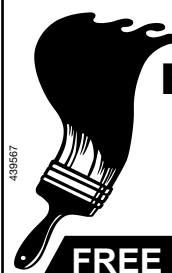


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The Marathon County Historical Society hosts Valentines Family Tea

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--The Marathon County Historical Society invites families to an afternoon of fancy fun at their annual Valentines Family Tea on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2:00 pm.

Dress your best or come as you are. Activities will include a children's tea, sweet treats, a Valentine Day craft, photo fun, story time and cookie decorating.

Truly an enjoyable and cordial time for all who attend.

Tickets are \$5 per person and children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are available at the door, no reservation required.

This event will be held at the Woodson History Center 410 Mcindoe Street, Wausau, Wisconsin. www.marathoncountyhistory.org

Granton Convenience joins U-Haul dealer network



FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD — U-Haul Co. of Wisconsin, Inc. announced that Granton Convenience LLC signed on as a U-Haul® neighborhood dealer to serve the Granton community.

Granton Convenience at N4441 City Road K will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, moving supplies, and in-store pickup for boxes.

Normal business hours are 9a.m.-5p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 10a.m.-2p.m. on Saturday.

Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (715) 937-2520 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Granton-WI-54436/028795/> today.

Granton Convenience owner Douglas Becker is proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-

storage to better meet the demands of Clark County.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer rental equipment to do-it-yourself movers since 1945. During these challenging times for small businesses, more than 21,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are generating supplemental income through their U-Haul affiliation. When customers rent from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their community.

Because no financial investment is required to be a dealer, these local affiliates are not U-Haul franchises. They are simply small businesses that have committed a portion of their lot space for U-Haul equipment, and a portion of their time to help meet the mobility needs of their neighbors.



Sheriff Kerry Kirn 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 investments 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 accommodate heavier loads.

More information on overweight permits can be found on the WisDOT oversize/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.



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.

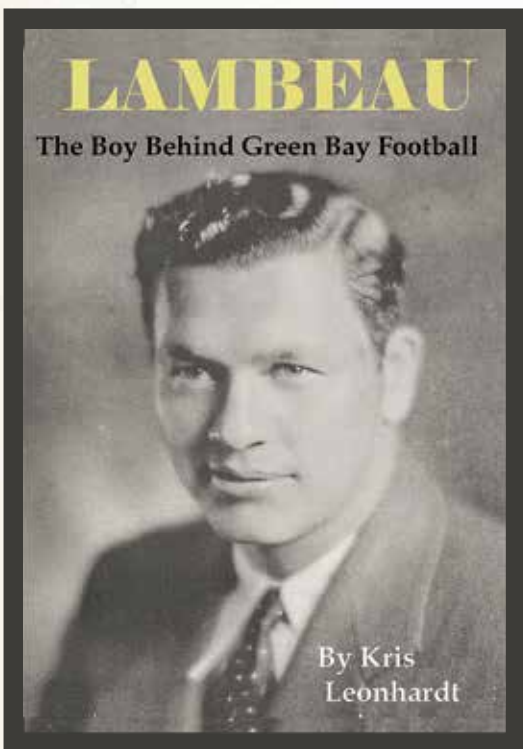
If your winter outing involves travel over a waterbody, remember that every waterbody has its own characteristics. Check if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows, is spring-fed or has currents, which can thin the ice.

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

See ICE page 16

“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

Nelson-Jameson earns Great Place to Work Certification



FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD--Nelson-Jameson, a leader in the food processing distribution industry, announced its designation as a Great Place to Work Certified company for the second consecutive year. 87 percent of employees rated the company as a great place to work.

The Great Place to Work Certification is based on employee feedback gathered through the 2024 Trust Index Survey, a global standard for evaluating workplace culture. This survey measures five key dimensions: leadership

credibility, respect, fairness, workplace pride, and a sense of belonging. Nelson-Jameson excelled in these areas, earning high marks from employees.

“Being certified as a Great Place to Work for the second straight year is an incredible honor because it reflects our employees’ voices and experiences,” said Mike Rindy, president of Nelson-Jameson. “At Nelson-Jameson, we are deeply committed to creating a workplace where every team member feels valued. This achievement reaffirms our belief that kindness and mutual respect are essential to our success.”

Survey results revealed exceptional employee satisfaction at Nelson-Jameson. 94% of employees reported feeling welcomed when they joined the company, 95% said they feel comfortable taking time off, and 94% expressed pride in the company’s contributions to the community. Additionally, 100% of full-time employees earn a living wage.

Take action to protect waters from aquatic invasive species this winter

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY--The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources asks anglers to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species while fishing this winter.

Even in harsh winter conditions, anglers can transport aquatic invasive species and fish diseases from one lake or river to another by emptying water from bait buckets and fish containers. When we add lake or river water to these containers, diseases such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia or critters like tiny spiny water fleas and zebra mussel larvae may be along for the ride.

That’s why you should drain all lake and river water from bait buckets on site before leaving. Putting used bait back into your container could also increase the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.

Wisconsin fishing regulations state that up to two gallons of water may be used for transporting minnows. As long as no lake or river water has been



Anglers can help stop the spread of invasive species this winter by following bait rules and checking gear for attached organic matter and mud. **Amanda Smith**

added to the container, minnows may be used on a different waterbody. If lake or river water was added, the minnows cannot be used at other fishing locations and should be disposed of before going to a new site. Never dispose of unwanted bait in a lake or river, and dispose of any worms in a closed container in the trash.

Minnows can only be purchased from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer. No other fish can be held in the minnow container, and

dead bait must be preserved in ways that do not require freezing or refrigeration.

Before leaving your fishing spots, remove any mud or plant material clinging to gear, including sleds used to haul supplies. Some invasive aquatic plants flourish under the ice, like curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil. Invasive critters like the spiny water flea larvae hide in the mud, and zebra mussels often hitch rides on plants.

Before and after you

drop your line, protect our fishing future by doing your part to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Remember to:

Inspect all fishing equipment for attached aquatic plants, animals or mud.

Remove all attached plants or animals.

Drain all water from buckets and containers.

Never move live fish away from a waterbody (fish out of water = dead).

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Other rules regarding bait can be found in the current Guide to Wisconsin Hook & Line Fishing Regulations. To learn more about invasive species and their impacts on Wisconsin’s waters and economy, visit the DNR’s Invasive Species webpage.

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@MetroCreative Level: Intermediate

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439812

UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield Production of

GODSPELL

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 Saturday, February 1, 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday, February 2, 2 p.m.
 Thursday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.
 Friday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20
tickets.uwsp.edu

Marshfield UW-Stevens Point

Directed by **Donna Thompson**
 Conceived and Originally Directed by John-Michael Tebelak
 Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
 Originally Produced on the New York Stage by Edgar Lansbury, Stuart Duncan, Joseph Beruh

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SALT
from page 13

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 Shannon 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 saltiness. 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 corrosion 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.

ICE
from page 14

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.

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