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# Aspirus Wisconsin Rapids facilities adopt new location names

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – To enhance patient clarity regarding their locations, Aspirus Riverview Hospital and Aspirus Doctors Clinic have now incorporated “Wisconsin Rapids” into their names. As of Feb. 1, Aspirus Riverview Hospital is now Aspirus Wisconsin Rapids Hospital, and Aspirus Doc-

tors Clinic is Aspirus Wisconsin Rapids Clinic-Peach Street. Location-based name changes have also been implemented at the other Aspirus Health facilities in the greater Wisconsin Rapids area. The changes are consistent with the naming pattern the organization is

implementing for hospitals and clinics throughout the service area. For example, Aspirus Riverview Clinic-Wisconsin Rapids is now Aspirus Wisconsin Rapids Clinic-Dewey Street; Aspirus Riverview Therapies is Aspirus Outpatient Therapies-Wisconsin Rapids; Aspirus Riverview Clinic-Nekoosa is Aspirus Nekoosa

sa Clinic; and Aspirus Riverview Clinic-Adams is now Aspirus Adams Clinic. “The new location-based names will be much clearer for our patients,” said Aspirus Southwest WI Division President Chris Squire. “The new names will be especially helpful to patients who are traveling from outside the area. Be-



cause of the excellent care we provide and some of the specialized services we offer, we have many patients, staff, and students coming to our facilities who are not from Wisconsin Rapids, so ‘Riverview’ and ‘Doctors Clinic’ can be confusing for them. The simpler, location-specific names will provide clarity.”

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## United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties now accepting Funding Applications

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties is currently accepting funding applications for programs that address Impact areas: Healthy Community, Youth Opportunity and Financial Security. Programs that receive funding in this cycle will receive a one-year grant for 2026. Programs must complete and submit an online application available at [www.uwswac.org](http://www.uwswac.org). Completed application and uploaded supporting documentation must be submitted by 4:00pm on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025. No late or paper applications/supporting documentation will be accepted. Please read the instructions and FAQs before beginning. If your organization is applying for multiple programs, you must complete the online application for each program. Please complete each page before beginning the next. For any questions about the funding application, please contact Ben Eberlein. You can reach United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties at 715-421-0390.

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## Nekoosa School District launches food pantry to combat food insecurity

**FOR CITY TIMES**

**NEKOOSA** – The Nekoosa School District has launched its new Food Pantry initiative, aimed at addressing food insecurity among children and families in the community. This initiative is part of the broader effort supported by the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) grant awarded to Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Health Advancement (CCHA).

The WPP grant, is dedicated to improving food security for children and families in rural northern Wisconsin. The grant supports the Feeding the Whole Child, Whole Family, and Whole Community through Civic Engagement initiative, which focuses on the four pillars of food security: availability, access, knowledge, and stability of diet.

The Food Pantry has already seen significant community engagement. Through a food drive feud between middle school grades, the club has collected approximately 470 items in donations. A similar food drive feud at the high school also collected items for the pantry. The club is also exploring innovative ways to maintain a steady flow of donations to ensure the pantry remains well-stocked.

The Nekoosa School District Food Pantry offers

free monthly food packages for families to pick up at the club's location. These packages include resource guides, recipes, and a list of upcoming events in the Nekoosa and surrounding areas to keep families engaged in their communities. The club is also working on providing delivery services for families who lack transportation access.

Families interested in receiving food packages can fill out an application, after which a program representative will contact them to confirm their information and schedule a pick-up or delivery. While the club is still determining how many families it can consistently serve, any additional families will be placed on a waitlist until they can be accommodated.

The Nekoosa School District is committed to combating food insecurity and supporting the health and well-being of children and families in the community. The club will continue to expand its efforts and looks forward to sharing more updates as the Food Pantry grows.

For more information about the Nekoosa School District Food Pantry or to make a donation, please contact Nikki Stearns at [Nikki\\_Stearns@Nekoosa.k12.wi.us](mailto:Nikki_Stearns@Nekoosa.k12.wi.us).

# SkillsUSA Wisconsin announces results for Stevens Point Regional Competition

**FOR CITY TIMES**

**WOOD COUNTY** – SkillsUSA Wisconsin, a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce, announced the results of its regional competition held on Friday, Jan. 17, at Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point, WI.

**CO2 Dragster**

First Place: Lily Leonard, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School  
Second Place: Keane Steeb, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School

**Computer Programming**

First Place: Casey Haugen, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School  
Second Place: Dagmar Beckel, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School  
Industrial Robotics  
First Place: Bryce Blaubach, Trynn Verstegen, and Ian Whaples, Wausau West High School

**Job Interview (High School)**

First Place: Chelsea Kubiaczyk, Antigo High School  
Second Place: Marty Bauer, Antigo High School

Third Place: Sheldon Stransky, Marshall High School

**Job Interview (Middle School)**

First Place: Annabelle Parizek, Antigo High School  
Second Place: Lily Leonard, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School

**Precision Machining Technology**

First Place: Samuel Schumacher, Wausau West High School  
Second Place: Nicholas Davis, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School  
Third Place: Emma Schumacher, Wausau West High School

**Prepared Speech (High School)**

First Place: Benjiman Romatowski, Lincoln High School (Wisconsin Rapids)

**Prepared Speech (Middle School)**

First Place: Olive Kaminiski, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School

**Team Engineering Challenge (High School)**

First Place: Camren Raduechel, Eli Schuett, and

Kingsley Tessmer, Wausau West High School  
Second Place: Kylie Kurth, Emme Tetzlaff, and Gavin Wasmundt, Wausau West High School  
Third Place: Evan Fournier, Keegan Obst, and Wyatt Witte, Stevens Point Area Senior High School

**Team Engineering Challenge (Middle School)**

First Place: Jessica Quade, Jaxson Schider, and Clayton Schultz, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School  
Second Place: Atticus Khan, Maddyx Malsom, and Miles Morehead, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School

**Welding**

First Place: Nash Sullivan, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School  
Second Place: David Hoehn, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School  
Third Place: Devon Holub, Lincoln High School (Wisconsin Rapids)

**Welding Sculpture (High School)**

First Place: Brice Kaiser, Wausau West High School  
Second Place: Hunter Helms, Clintonville High

School  
Third Place: Faith Weso, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School

**Welding Sculpture (Middle School)**

First Place: Milayna Groh, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School  
Second Place: Achilles Prantalos, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School  
Third Place: Bella Rumpel, Wittenberg-Birnawood High School

Those who placed advance to participate in the 52nd SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Leadership and Skills Conference in Madison, Wis. on Tues., April 1 - Wed., April 2, 2025. State competitions will occur at the Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, and Madison Area Technical College (MATC), 1701 Wright St.

The 2025 State Leadership and Skills Conference will feature more than 1,750 middle, high school, and college/post-secondary students, over 200 teachers, and more than 300 industry volunteers working in over 75 competitions.

## Local student makes President's List at Western Technical College

Allie Gessert, Wisconsin Rapids, Graduate of John Edwards High School, Port Edwards makes Western Technical College fall President's List while enrolled in the Nursing program.

To be eligible for this academic honor, a student must have earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.5.

Effective February 1st, Aspirus Riverview Hospital and community clinics have changed their names.

As always, Aspirus Health's team of health care providers and staff look forward to serving you and your family.

- Aspirus Riverview Hospital is now **Aspirus Wisconsin Rapids Hospital**
- Aspirus Riverview Clinic – Adams is now **Aspirus Adams Clinic**
- Aspirus Riverview Clinic – Nekoosa is now **Aspirus Nekoosa Clinic**
- Aspirus Doctors Clinic is now **Aspirus Wisconsin Rapids Clinic – Peach Street**
- Aspirus Riverview Clinic Wisconsin Rapids is now **Aspirus Wisconsin Rapids Clinic – Dewey Street**
- Aspirus Cancer Care – Wisconsin Rapids will remain **Aspirus Cancer Care – Wisconsin Rapids**
- Aspirus Heart & Vascular is now **Aspirus Heart Care – Wisconsin Rapids**
- Aspirus Clinic – Marshfield will remain **Aspirus Clinic – Marshfield**



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# United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties' 211 recognizes the vital community hotline on National 211 Day

## FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Feb. 11 (2/11) is National 211 Day – an annual observance celebrating the go-to, 24/7 three-digit (2-1-1) resource that helps millions of people in the U.S. and Canada – including those in Wood and Adams Counties. The three-digit service connects information about resources and services available in one's community.

Based on the latest 211 Impact Survey Data, 211 triaged over 20 million requests, and in Wisconsin Rapids, responded to 5,110 calls and helped people in the community access help for immediate or long-term challenges.

211 is a vital resource leveraged by Wood and Adams Counties residents who need assistance with disaster, food, health care, mental health, insurance, stable housing, utility payment, veteran services, childcare, and other related needs.

Other key facts about 211: 211 is 24/7, free and confidential, and accessible in every county in Wisconsin.

211 is offered in over 180 languages.

211 specialists offer empathetic, non-judgmental care - and these trained specialists connect individuals and families to a range of available resources to meet their underlying needs, not



Wisconsin Rapids Mayor Matt Zacher recently proclaimed February 11, 2025 "211 Day." Pictured here are Danie Schalk, 211 Program Director and Mayor Zacher.

just the one that prompted the call, text, or email.

"211 is an unmatched, critical, go-to service that provides connection and support to those who need help for a range of needs," said Danie Schalk, 211 Program Director. "During 211 Day we aim to express appreciation to the call resource specialists who provide support to help our community members and celebrate this lifeline that is helping thousands here in Wood and Adams Counties."

In Wisconsin Rapids, Mayor Matt Zacher has officially proclaimed Feb. 11, 2025 as "211 Day." During 211 Day, United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties encourages residents in Wood and Adams Counties to:

Call, or text (898211) if they or someone they know needs help.

Share 211 widely with their neighbors, family, and friends to connect others to help and support.

Advocate to your local policymakers for the importance of and need to strengthen 211.

To connect with United Way's 211 you can do one of the following:

Dial 211 on your phone and you will be routed to the nearest contact center.

If you have trouble getting connected, call our toll-free number at 877-947-2211.

Text your zip code to 898211.

Visit a database of community resources at [uwsac.org/2-1-1](http://uwsac.org/2-1-1).

# Mid-State to offer Women in Welding event

## FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Mid-State Technical College is offering women a unique opportunity to explore careers in welding. The Women in Welding event is for women 12 years and up and takes place at Mid-State's Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship (AM-ETA™) Center in Stevens Point on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

This opportunity is free for participants thanks to State of Wisconsin Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG) funding. No welding experience is necessary.

Women in Welding celebrates women in the



welding through a night of inspiration, networking and hands-on insights. Participants will hear presentations from Welding Instructor Jessie Jelinski and current Welding and Metal Fabrication student Trina Raf-

lik. The night includes a tour of Mid-State's the state-of-the-art AMETA Center, a free dinner, and a hands-on welding activity.

Registration is required. Visit [mstc.edu/women-who-weld](http://mstc.edu/women-who-weld).

# Women's Health Education on Wheels and Round Table to hold upcoming round table talks

## FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Tomah VA Women's Program will offer a series of in person education on what matters to you and a round table. Round tables are a perfect time to have your voice heard. The Tomah VA wants to hear what you need and how we can work together to improve your healthy living goals. Each

of us has the power to impact our well-being. The Women's Health Education on Wheels (WHEoW) and Round Table offer different topics and times to talk about what is important to you.

• Feb. 26, 2025, at La Crosse VA Clinic - Mental Health and Happiness

• April 23, 2025, at Wisconsin Rapids VA Clinic -

Financial Health  
• May 28, 2025, at Wausau VA Clinic - Stress Reduction and Movement

• Aug. 27, 2025, at La Crosse VA Clinic - Environmental Health

For more information, or to request an appointment, please contact the Women Veterans Program Manager: 608-372-3971 or 1-800-872-8662, Ext. 66375

# 2025 Veteran Honor Walk Project prepares for another year

## FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -The mission of the Veteran Honor Walk Project is to place banners honoring veterans, living or deceased, who have served in any branch of the United States armed forces, on every banner hanger in the village of Rudolph and the city of Wisconsin Rapids.

The Veteran Honor Walk

Project is proud to offer you the opportunity to recognize the servicemen and women who have bravely served, or who are currently serving their country. Any veteran may be sponsored on a banner, making it a great way to honor the special people in your life who have served in any branch of the military, during peacetime or conflict.

The "Tour of Duty" for each banner is from Memorial Day in May until Veterans Day in Nov.

To sponsor a veteran, or get more information about the Veteran Honor Walk Project for the village of Rudolph or the city of Wisconsin Rapids, call Rich Cournoyer, Commander of the Rudolph American Legion Post #485 at 715-435-3662.

# The Grace Theater presents How I Met Your Mummy

## FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Grace Theater Team is deep into preparations for their annual community fundraising theater production of "How I Met Your Mummy" by Todd Wallinger. In this hysterically witty, spine-tingly farce, the O. Howe Dulle Museum is about to unveil their latest acquisition - a mysterious mummy that has drawn a lot of attention from some questionable people. Can the museums cowardly security guard be able to stop them or will he be left taking the



Left to right: Rick Merdan, Patrick Barrett and Jennifer Smihal.

"wrap"? You can find the answer to these questions yourself Feb. 27 through March 2 by purchas-

ing your tickets at Grace Lutheran Church, 1531 Whitrock Ave. Wisconsin Rapids - 715-423-2330.



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# The Krakens take third place at Divisionals, and advance 34 swimmers to Conference Championships

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Central Wisconsin Swim Conference is set up with East and West Divisions. The Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club (WRSC) is part of the East Division. The following clubs make up the East Division: Lakeland Swim Club, Rhinelander Swim Club, Merrill Aqua Jays Swim Club, Antigo Penguins, Tomahawk Swim Club, and Wisconsin Rapids Swim Club.

The East Divisional Meet was held on Feb. 1-2 at the Lakeland Community pool in Minocqua. WRSC placed third in the East Divisional and are sending thirty-four swimmers to the Conference Championship. The top six finishers in each event move on to the Championship. Lakeland Swim Club took first with 4472.5 points, Rhinelander Swim Club finished second with 3342 points, and WRSC was in third place with 1300.5 points.

Rapids had 42 swimmers competing on this day, setting



Janessa Rucinski

18 new club records and 84 personal record times. "Our swimmers came to compete today," said Dave Kontz, Head Coach. "The Krakens were in every race right to the very end."

Some meet highlights: Travis McMahon won five events and added the 50yd and 100yd Breaststroke to his growing list of state qualifying events. Travis also set three new club records. Tretton Delaney won five events and set three new club records. The senior boys went 1,2,3 in the 50yd Freestyle and 100yd Backstroke. The 1-2 punch came in the senior boys 200yd



Addison Borek

Freestyle, 50yd Butterfly, 50yd Backstroke, and 100yd Breaststroke. Mason Ironside placed second in the 100yd Backstroke and set a new club record. Chris Carlson set four new club records (CR) in the 50yd and 100yd Freestyle and Backstroke. Aubrey Knoll set five PR's, Payton Kraklow set four PR's, Gavin Bernette had three PR's, and Jameson Bernette had one.

First place winners: Travis McMahon, 50yd (State Qualifier) and 100yd (State Qualifier) Breaststroke, 50yd Butterfly, 50yd and 200yd Freestyle, 50yd Backstroke; Tretton Delaney, 50yd, 100yd, and 200yd Freestyle, 50yd and 100yd Breaststroke; AJ Plummer, 50yd Butterfly, 100yd Backstroke, 100yd Individual Medley, 100yd Butterfly; Joey Doebereiner, 50yd Backstroke.

Second place winners: Mason Ironside, 100yd Backstroke; Joey Doebereiner, 200yd Freestyle, 100yd Back-

stroke; Tretton Delaney, 50yd Butterfly; AJ Plummer, 50yd Freestyle, and 100yd Breaststroke; Addison Borek; 50yd Breaststroke.

Third place winners: Nigel Schultz, 100yd Freestyle; Travis McMahon, 500yd Freestyle; Addison Borek, 50yd Butterfly, 100yd Individual Medley; Gavin Knoll, 100yd Backstroke; Mason Ironside, 50yd Backstroke; Anna Gunz, 50yd Backstroke; Joey Doebereiner, 50yd Freestyle.

Fourth place winners: Mackenzie Miloch, 50yd Backstroke, Elyza Peck, 50yd Breaststroke; Chasten Delaney, 50yd Breaststroke; Ellie Graumann, 200yd Backstroke; Addison Borek; Emry Jennings, 50yd Backstroke, 50yd Freestyle; Milo Jennings, 50yd Freestyle; Abbie Graumann, 50yd Backstroke; Nigel Schultz, 50yd and 100yd Breaststroke; Jameson Bernette, 100yd Freestyle; Joey Doebereiner, 100yd Freestyle;

Maddie Graumann, 200yd Freestyle; Anna Gunz, 25yd Backstroke.

Fifth place winners: Anna Gunz, 50yd Breaststroke; Milo Jennings, 100yd Freestyle; Jameson Bernette, 50yd Freestyle, 100yd Breaststroke; Gavin Knoll, 50yd Freestyle; Ellie Graumann, 50yd Backstroke; Lilly Reetz, 50yd Backstroke; Vivian Zacher, 100yd Breaststroke, 200yd Freestyle.

Sixth place winners: Nola Woller, 100yd Butterfly; Mya Marquard, 200yd Backstroke, Vivian Zacher, 50yd Freestyle; Elyza Peck, 200yd Individual Medley; Vivian Zacher, 100yd Breaststroke; Anna Gunz, 25yd Freestyle; Reese Koch 200yd Freestyle, 50yd Butterfly; Chasten Delaney, 200yd Freestyle; Maddie Graumann, 100yd Backstroke; Jameson Bernette, 100yd Individual Medley; Mason Ironside, 50yd Freestyle; Milo Jennings, 50yd Backstroke.

The morning session was completed with the age group relays. The girls 200yd Freestyle "A" Relay, placed sixth with Abbie Graumann, Kensington Lercher, Anna Gunz, and Jenessa Rucinski. The "B" Relay placed seventh with Annabelle Graumann, Rhiannon Zabawa, Aubrey Knoll, and Emma Kay. Girls 200yd Medley "A" Relay, placed sixth with Emma Kay, Kensington Lercher, Anna Gunz, and Jenessa Rucinski.

The boys 200yd Freestyle Relay placed fourth with Travis McMahon, Noah Gross-

kopf, Nigel Schultz, Mason Ironside. The 100yd Freestyle Relay placed fifth with Milo Jennings, Cole and Cody Graumann, and Brody Slabosheski.

The afternoon session was completed with the middle and pre-high school group relays. The pre-high school 200 Medley Relay placed third with Mackenzie Miloch, Addison Borek, Ellie Graumann, and Vivian Zacher. The pre-high school 200yd Freestyle Relay placed third with Mackenzie Miloch, Addison Borek, Reeses Koch, and Vivian Zacher. The 200yd Medley Relay, middle school, placed seventh with Nola Woller, Clairra Jennings, Mya Marquard, and Kyndel Borek. The 200yd Freestyle Relay, middle school, placed sixth with Mya Marquard, Clairra Jennings, McKenna Anderson, and Kynel Borek.

The senior girls 200yd Medley Relay placed fifth with Lilly Reetz, Allyson Coates, Elyza Peck, and Maddie Graumann. The senior boys 200yd Freestyle and Medley Relays placed second with AJ Plummer, Joey Doebereiner, Gavin Knoll, and Tretton Delaney.

The Central Wisconsin Swim Conference Championships was held Feb. 8-9 in Tomahawk. Some of the Kraken's top swimmers will be attending the USA Swimming Northeast Regional meet held on Feb. 21-23. The State Championships are held in different locations depending on the age group.

## Business DIRECTORY

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## Community Calendar

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To submit calendar events, please email information to [entertainment@mmclocal.com](mailto: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**  
Bachelors of Broadway: Gentlemen of the Theatre · Thurs. 2/20, Performing Arts Center of Wisconsin Rapids, 1801 16th St S, Wisconsin Rapids.

Enjoy Broadway favorites performed by three singers & a 9-piece band. Starts at 7:30pm. \$49 adults, \$10 students. [savorthhearts.com](http://savorthhearts.com)

**EVENTS/SPECTATOR SPORTS**  
Ruby's Pantry Mobile Food Distribution · Sat. 2/15, hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church at Pitsch Early Learning Center, 501 17th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Food bundles available from 8am-9:15am. \$25 per bundle. [rubyspantry.org](http://rubyspantry.org)

Wakely's Winter Feast · Sat. 2/15, Nekoosa Community Center, 416 Crestview Ln, Nekoosa. This sumptuous feast offers donated wild game, cooked & prepared by expert chefs along with two domestic meats. Sides include appetizers, vegetables, potatoes, homemade relishes & pickles, sausage stuffing, desert & more. All you can eat. Gathering starts at 4pm. Dinner starts at 4:30pm. \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Family Natural Foods, 910 W Grand Ave, Wis. Rapids, Daly Drug, 3215 8 th St S, Wis. Rapids and Beavers, 410 Market St, Nekoosa. [historicpointbasse.com](http://historicpointbasse.com)

**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

**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. Opens 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 · Thurs. 2/20, McMillan Library, 490 E. Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10am. [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

## Police Calls

On Jan 31. at 2:32 a caller reported their eBay account had been hacked as they learned items they ordered had been shipped to a different address.

On Jan 31. at 3:32 in the afternoon a Marshfield caller reported that someone had taken over his computer and attempted to transfer \$50,000 from the caller's accounts. However, the bank froze the accounts and no money was taken.

On Jan. 31 at 3:49 in the afternoon a caller in Port Edwards described that a female told her power company that she would be shutting off her own power. It was reported that the female had been living with space heaters and broken pipes, resulting in black mold to grow inside the residence.

On Feb. 1 a caller in Hewitt reported their storage locker had items stolen from it, with the lock cleanly cut.

On Feb 1. at 11:42 in the evening a caller described a vehicle that had been following them for some time. The caller pulled over to the side of the road and the vehicle following pulled up right beside the caller, sat in the vehicle for ten seconds, then sped off. The caller provided dispatch with the car's make and plate number.

On Feb. 2 at 8:42 in the evening a caller reported hearing gun shots coming from a marshy area.

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## Sip, savor & support at wine & beer tasting fundraiser for Boys & Girls Club

**FOR CITY TIMES**

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS** – The Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area invites you to an evening of fine wine, craft beer, and community spirit at their Toast to Great Futures, Wine, Beer & Spirits Tasting Fundraiser on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Ridges Golf Course & Banquet Facility.

Sip, Savor & Support at this upcoming event from 7:00PM to 10:00PM. Guests will indulge in a curated selection of wines, craft beers, and spirits from local breweries and top vendors. Included are complementary heavy appetizers, desserts, and a vibrant atmosphere. Each ticket also includes a keepsake event wine or beer glass. Tickets are available, in a limited amount, for \$75 each or through sponsorship options.

Proceeds from the event will directly support the Boys & Girls Club's mission of providing safe spaces, supportive mentors, and life-enriching programs for local youth. By attending, you'll help empower children and teens to achieve their full potential.

Thanks to the generosity of the Legacy Foundation of Central Wisconsin, all donations this year will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Your support goes twice as far in aiding youth development and creating brighter futures for the children



in the community. Sponsors for this event include WoodTrust Bank, Bell Family Foundation, Solarus, StrongBridge Wealth Advisors, Legacy Foundation of Central Wisconsin and United Way of South Wood & Adams County.

The Boys & Girls Club is

also seeking raffle basket donations to add excitement to the event. From gourmet treats and art supplies to themed experiences, your contribution will help make the evening even more memorable.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or to donate

a raffle basket, please contact Katie Johnson, Marketing & Special Events Director at the Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area at [kjohnson@bgcwra.org](mailto:kjohnson@bgcwra.org), 715-818-6126 or visit [www.bgcwra.org/a-toast-to-great-futures](http://www.bgcwra.org/a-toast-to-great-futures)

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2025

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### Enrollments 2025-2026

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Wisconsin Rapids

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**St. Luke's Preschool/4K**

Enrollments 2025-2026

2011 10th Street So.  
Wisconsin Rapids  
715-423-5990  
[preschool@stlukeslutheran.com](mailto:preschool@stlukeslutheran.com)

Theme for the year is:  
"On Track with Jesus"

**5 Day 4K with 3 Day Option and 2 Day 3K Classes**

We welcome children of all race, religion, and ethnic background.  
Nationally Accredited & State Licensed



# Classifieds

## Estate Sales 7208

**JR's Estate Services**  
**Feb. 15 Sat. 9:00-3:00**  
**Feb. 16 Sun. 10:00-2:00**  
**3420 Rosewood Drive,**  
**Plover, WI 54467**

This home located near St. Brons may look small from the street, but it is quite spacious inside and packed with items both vintage and modern. Many items are still brand new in the package. We are still uncovering items daily! Small sample of items includes: **Jewelry:** 10k & 14k gold rings, sterling silver, vintage lapel pins, costume, **Furniture:** 43" 4K Samsung TV, Vintage Trunks, Lane Cedar Chest, claw foot swivel stool, End Tables, Inc. some MCM, vintage record album cabinet, Bookshelves, Antique circa 1880's White Treadle sewing machine **Decor:** Wall Art, Decorative Pillows, many wildlife figures, birds, vintage and antique B & W photos, several new rugs, faux flowers/plants, collector spoons & bells, Holiday/seasonal items **Kitchen:** Tupperware, kitchenware, bakeware, many cookbooks, small Frigidaire chest freezer, utensils/gadgets **Household:** Shark vacuum, Kirby vacuum w/attachments, Guitar, many bed linens (most Queen and Full), Ladies shoes sizes 9-10 - some NIB, ladies clothing sizes S-XL, Mens clothing - some vintage - sizes L-2XL, Jackets, Hunting wear, health/beauty products, sewing & craft items/supplies, Exercise equipment, seated walker, Elementary Teacher materials, Green Bay Packer items, office supplies, **Garage/Outdoor:** Husqvarna chainsaw, older Craftsman riding lawn mower w/bagger - untested, gun cases, yard decor, power tools, hand tools, Lynx battery operated weed wacker, MANY storage bins, lawn/garden tools, and much more. **Special Notes:** Numbers will be handed out starting 30 minutes prior to the sale on Saturday only. Numbers determine order of entry when sale opens. All items are sold AS IS with no guarantees. Sales tax will be applied to all purchases per Wisconsin State Statute. **For updates and photos follow our Facebook and Instagram page - JR's Estate Services.**

## Guns 7264

**GUN SHOW**  
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**Community Center**  
 201 S Oak Ave  
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# Letter to the Editor

The Town of Rome will soon be voting for Town Board Chairperson and Town Board Supervisors and I'd like to share my thoughts on two candidates, Carl Hasdal and Vito Giardino.

As a past elected member of the Rome Town Board, I have had the honor of working with Carl Hasdal on several Town Board committees. Carl has an impressive background of management and finance experience. Since his retirement, Carl has chaired many committees and runs very organized, considerate

meetings. Carl is the Chair of the Tri Lakes Management district that

includes Lake Camelot, Lake Sherwood, and Lake Arrowhead. Carl has been an advocate for Fire Wise to help prevent fires that can cause major damage to Rome properties. Carl will bring

needed structure to the Rome Town Board and provide leadership that is efficient and effective.

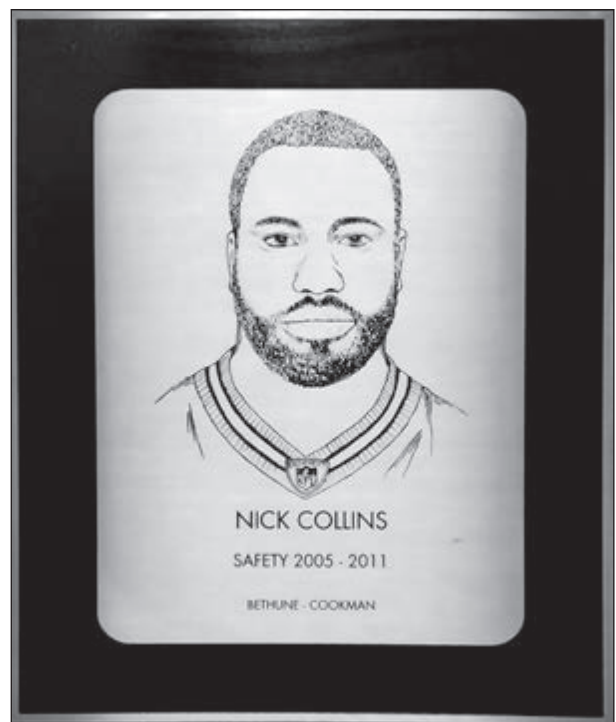
Vito Giardino is a candidate running for Town Board Supervisor. He is a retired police officer with the Cook County Sheriff's Department in Illinois. Vito serves

as a member of the Rome Police and Fire Commission as well as the Board of Appeals and as a board member for the Rome Library. When Vito learned that I was diagnosed with prostate cancer over a year ago, he volunteered to take me to my required appointments. I'm so proud to call Vito my friend and I highly recommend him for a Supervisor position on the Rome Town Board. Vito will represent all Rome Township citizens. A vote for Vito is a vote for integrity and transparency!

**JOHN HAUGEN**

# UNPACKING History

The Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame generously opened their vault to share pieces of Packers history with the Press Times to be highlighted each week for our readers. For more information on the hall of fame, visit [www.packershofandtours.com](http://www.packershofandtours.com). If you would like to donate Green Bay Packers memorabilia to the Packers Hall of Fame, contact Katie at (920) 965-6986 or [katief@gbphof.com](mailto:katief@gbphof.com).



Nick Collins' Packer Hall of Fame induction plaque. Nicholas Cardell Collins was selected by the Packers in the second round of the 2005 NFL Draft. The safety recorded 22 interceptions over his 102-game career. He played with the Packers from 2005 to 2011. **Photo by Katie Foust**

## Lumber 7242

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- Grove Elementary - 471 Grove Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
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- Washington Elementary - 2911 Washington Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

**BID DUE DATE 2/14/25 @ 11A**  
**PRE-BID MEETING (OPTIONAL) 2/4/25 @ 10A**  
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441459

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

### The Fragility of Life

Dear Reader,

The other day, I had a close call that left me reflecting deeply on how fragile life truly is. I was a passenger in a car, riding along on a snowy day. The roads were slick, and we were descending a steep hill when we encountered a stationary car in the middle of the road. To avoid a collision, our driver veered into a snowbank and a rock instead.

Shaken but unharmed, we got out to assess the damage. As I stood there, I saw other vehicles attempting to navigate the hill, at speeds too reckless for the conditions. I waved to warn them to stop and turn back, knowing the danger they faced. Thankfully, our car was still operational, and we managed to drive away carefully. Later that day, I learned that a massive pileup had occurred in that very spot. Numerous vehicles were involved, and I couldn't help but feel fortunate to have avoided the catastrophe.

This experience got me thinking. Life is unpredictable. You wake up in the morning with plans, but everything can change in an instant, with no warning whatsoever. Those 15 seconds as we swerved away from the stalled vehicle could have been our last moments. But it wasn't. For others, tragically, it was.

Life is so fragile. There are no guarantees, no flashing signals warning us when our time is up. One moment we're here, and the next, we're not. This realization isn't meant to instill fear but to inspire gratitude. Each day we're given is a gift—precious, fleeting, and worth cherishing.

Let's not take it for granted. Let's love fully, live purposefully, and appreciate the time we have. Because in the blink of an eye, everything can change. We can't control when or how the end comes, but we can make the moments we still have truly count.



**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
 Publisher

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



# Wisconsin DMV debuts new 'B' series of license plates

## FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – The Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will soon debut a new series of license plates that begin with the letter 'B'. After nearly eight years and 4.7 million letter and number combinations on license plates issued by Wisconsin DMV, all combinations of plates that begin with the letter 'A' have been exhausted.

"Wisconsin DMV is proud to provide Wisconsin drivers the credentials they need to safely get from point A to point B and now we're moving from A to B," DMV Administrator Tommy Winkler said. "Drivers can 'B' on the lookout for the new license plates when they begin rolling out statewide this month."

The first batch of 'B' plates will begin with BAA and will move through millions of letter and number combinations until all



combinations starting with 'B' are issued. Wisconsin DMV estimates that process will take approximately seven years through issuing new plates and automatically replacing very old plates still on the road.

Wisconsin license plates currently have seven characters but that wasn't always the case. Wisconsin plates had six characters until April 2017, when the current format of seven-character license plates beginning with the letter 'A' began. The additional character yields about 100 million combinations; the previous six-character license plates yielded about 20 million combinations. The letters 'I,' 'O,' and 'Q' are not included in the

combinations because they resemble numbers.

Each year, Wisconsin DMV issues more than 600,000 new license plates. Approximately 3.5 million vehicles have standard Wisconsin plates.

Vehicle owners looking to replace their older license plates can be among the first to order the new "B" series online at wisconsin.dmv.gov/Vreplace.

Wisconsin DMV license plates at a glance:

Wisconsin plates had a set format of six characters since 1986 and reversed from letters to numbers (WRZ-999 to 123-ABC) in 2000.

Wisconsin was the first state to stagger license plate expiration months across all 12 months of the year. This system was implemented beginning in 1946, with plates being issued to expire between June 1946 and May 1947 when people went to renew their 1945 plates.

## Join ToursMMC.com on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through Switzerland and France

Embark on a truly unforgettable adventure with ToursMMC.com, as we invite you to explore the stunning cities of Switzerland and the South of France.

From breathtaking landscapes to rich history, culture and exquisite cuisine, this 10-day tour promises to be the journey of a lifetime.

### Discover Geneva and Lyon

Your adventure begins on Nov. 3, 2025, with an overnight flight from the USA to Geneva, Switzerland. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Geneva, known as the "City of Peace," offers a picturesque setting surrounded by the Alps and Lake Geneva, with its renowned gardens, landmarks like St. Peter's Cathedral, and international influence. Enjoy a day

of leisure exploring this charming city before continuing your journey.

Next, you'll board the luxurious Amadeus Provence cruise ship in Lyon, France, where you'll enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner. Lyon, a UNESCO World Heritage city and gastronomic capital of France, will captivate you with its stunning architecture and culinary delights.

### Explore the wine regions of Burgundy

The next few days are filled with adventures through the world-famous wine regions of Burgundy. Explore the quaint town of Mâcon, visit the Beaujolais and Mâconnais vineyards, and enjoy a wine tasting at the Hameau Dubouef wine museum. Optional excursions to Cluny

See TRIP page 8



## FREEDOM STOVES

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# “The Wealth InFormation Lady”: What is Wealth?



## The Wealth InFormation Lady

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

I have always wanted to build wealth. Many people do. What is your definition of wealth? How does one go about building wealth and more importantly, how do you keep your wealth?

The first wealth is health. Anyone who has been around me knows I take this seriously. Get physical exercise nearly every day. Be strong and push yourself a little more than you did the day before. Eat healthily. Drink lots of pure water. Future poor health can drain your finances much faster than you had accumulated them. Besides, you'll actually enjoy your wealth if you feel good and can live out your dreams. If you can maintain your health, you can enjoy the ultimate wealth: love of life and love of those around you.

As for money, there are two types of monetary wealth: income wealth and net-worth wealth. High-income earners can enjoy a great lifestyle, but if they don't sock away a hardy portion of their money, that lifestyle will only last as long as the high-income earner continues the grind. Conversely, net-worth wealth can be a characteristic of business owners, farmers, real-estate builders and early

investors. Many times, net worth is locked up in land and buildings, assets, a business or long-term accounts. You would not pick out one of these net-worth-wealthy people by the car they drive or lifestyle they live, because oftentimes their discretionary incomes are fully funding their businesses and long-term investments, building their net-worth. The sweet-spot is having both: income-wealth and net-worth wealth. Commonly, this comes from monetizing (selling) a portion or all of a business, farm, or real estate and/or pivoting your long-term investment accounts from accumulation focused investments to income focused funds, providing a reliable stream of ongoing passive revenue. Said another way, your money is now working for you, so you no longer have to work for money.

Wealth is maintained by keeping your health, putting positive effort forth to build relationships, and managing your financial risk. Forming legal entities for your assets can create veils of protection should something go awry. Purchasing insurance contracts transfers financial risk from you to an insur-

ance company. For example, a \$5 million liability policy transfers the risk of losing \$5 million from you to an insurance company, should you get sued and lose. A long-term care policy transfers the financial risk of needing long term care. With the insurance contract in force, the insurance company is legally obligated to pay for coverage outlined in the contract, transferring financial risk off the insured or those who are financially responsible for the insured.

One of the greatest flaws in thinking is that someone just “has” money, or any form of wealth. Wealth must be built. Wealth must be kept. This applies to all definitions of What is Wealth.

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

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This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax or legal advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific situation with a qualified tax or legal advisor.

# South Wood County Humane Society Pet of the Week

Meet Murphy, the curious and goofy cat who's as smart as he is independent! Murphy is approaching the year mark of his stay here at the shelter. With an adventurous spirit and a mind of his own, Murphy loves to explore and is always on the lookout for his next exciting discovery. Murphy is also known for his signature “bear trap” move (as seen in the comic strip photo), letting you know when he's had enough of a game or when he's just not interested in something. If you're looking for a fun, energetic companion who knows how to enjoy his own company and loves life on his own terms, Murphy might be the perfect fit for you!

Those interested in Murphy 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](mailto:office@swchs.com) or 715-423-0505

Located at 3621 64th Street N. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Sunday and Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Friday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



2 STAGES OF BELLY RUBS



### TRIP

from page 7

Abbey, Château de Pierreclos, and medieval towns like Beaune and Chalon-sur-Saône await those who want to dive deeper into the region's rich history.

### Avignon, Arles and the Rhône River

Your journey continues with visits to the historical cities of Avignon and Arles. In Avignon, explore the Palace of the Popes and the Pont d'Avignon. For nature lovers, an op-

tional excursion to the Roman aqueduct Pont du Gard awaits. In Arles, immerse yourself in the city's art and history, once home to Vincent van Gogh, and explore the Camargue Nature Reserve on an optional excursion.

### Luxurious comfort and optional extensions

Throughout the trip, enjoy all-inclusive dining on board, featuring exquisite meals and fine wines from Europe's best vineyards. For those who want to

extend their adventure, a three-night Paris Post-tour is available, where you can visit iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame.

Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to explore the beauty and culture of Switzerland and France.

Visit [ToursMMC.com](http://ToursMMC.com) today to review all the details. Email [GroupOperations@adelmandiscoveries.com](mailto:GroupOperations@adelmandiscoveries.com) or call (559) 244-6600 to reserve your spot for this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

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