



South Wood County Historical Museum to host Laura Ingalls Wilder, WPCF exhibits

FOR THE CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS Step back in time and experience the world of Laura Ingalls Wilder, one of America's most beloved authors.

On April 1-30, the South Wood County Historical Museum will host a special

exhibit dedicated to the life Little House series. and legacy of Laura Ingalls Wilder, one of America's most beloved authors.

The traveling panel exhibit will showcase the journey of the pioneering writer, who captured the essence of frontier life in her

The Laura Ingalls Wilder House and Museum in Mansfield, Mo., provides this display.

The perimeter of the traveling exhibit has nature and bird photographs by local photographer, Joe Riederer of Big Bluestem

The traveling exhibit will be complimented by a 20-year review of the Wisconsin's Prairie Chicken Festival (WPCF), and also honors The Hamerstrom Legacy.



Ingalls-Wilder

The history of the festival would not be complete without honoring the late Dr. Frederick & Frances Hamerstrom's early contributions to helping save the Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus (Greater Prairiechicken) from extirpation in Wisconsin.

Fran (pronounced Fron) authored numerous books about birds and nature and her titles are also exhibited, along with articles and correspondence from their extraordinary lives.

The WPCF & Ham-

erstrom Legacy exhibition was curated by Mary "Casey" Martin, Fran's literary agent the last 10 years of her life.

The public is invited to view the exhibits the entire month of April at South Wood County Historical Museum, 540 Third St. South, Wisconsin Rapids.

For a complete schedule of Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival events, April 7-13, visit www.wisprairiechickens.org or email wisconsinprairiechickenfest@gmail.com.

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New entrance opens

BY CITY TIMES STAFF

WOOD COUNTY - Wood County Sheriff Shawn Becker said that on March 22, the Wood County Sheriff's Department moved those incarcerated at the old Wood County Jail to the new facility.

"The process took several hours, and we would like to thank all of our staff who worked hard to make this happen. As a result of careful planning the move took place without any incidents. Our next step will be to move all inmates back that are being housed out of county," Becker said.

"The next phase of the project will be demolishing the old jail along with developing parking around the courthouse. Please to be patient with the process."

On March 24, the new main entrance to the Wood County Courthouse was also put into operation.

"As a result, all employees and visitors will be required to use the new entrance and the current entrance will be closed," Becker said.

"Temporary signage will be in place to direct everyone to the new location. Since this change introduces a new entrance and process, we encourage visitors to allow extra time when arriving to familiarize themselves with the new routes."



On March 24, the new main entrance to the Wood County Courthouse was put into operation. **Wood County map**



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Names released in Wood County accident

BY CITY TIMES STAFF

WOOD COUNTY - The names of the individuals involved in a Wood County accident have been re-

On March 25 at 6:36 p.m., the Wood County Dispatch Center received the report of a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Highway 186/North Road in the township of Arpin.

Wood County Deputies and First Responders arrived at the scene and initiated medical aid to four individuals.

"One individual involved in the crash was medflighted via Life Link to Marshfield Medical Center (MMC). Another individual involved was transported via ambulance to MMC," a Wood County press release stated.

An initial on-scene investigation was conducted.

"From this investigation, it was determined one of the vehicles involved in the crash failed to yield the right of way from North Road while crossing State Highway 186. The other vehicle involved was traveling westbound on State Highway 186 when the crash occurred."

Wood County was assisted by the Arpin Fire Department, Pittsville Ambulance Service, Life Link Air Medical Transport and Dave's Tow Service.

The driver of the vehicle crossing State Highway 186 on North Road was later identified as Lori Ann Trierweiler, 48, of Arpin.

Kyla Jean Evans, 18, of Hewitt, was traveling west on State Highway 186 with two passengers — Lakota Lynn Marcott, 18, of Auburndale, and one juvenile.

The condition of the drivers and passengers has not been released.

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Women farmers on the rise in Wood County

FOR THE CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – As Women's History Month highlights the contributions of women across industries, a quiet transformation is unfolding in Wood County agriculture.

Female farmers are taking on a larger role in shaping the future of farming, contributing to both local economies and national food production.

Recent data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture reveals a steady rise in the number of women involved in farm decision-making and management.

From small family farms to large commercial operations, women are increasingly present in agricultural leadership.

As this shift continues, certain parts of the country stand out for having a higher concentration of female farmers.

This report, conducted by food and beverage software provider Trace One, examines where women are making the biggest impact in agriculture, analyzing the states with the highest share of female producers and female-operated farms.

Over the past two decades, the share of female farmers in the United States has steadily increased.

According to data from



Female farmers are taking on a larger role in shaping the future of farming, contributing to both local economies and national food production. **Stock photo**

the most recent Census of Agriculture, women now make up more than a third of all agricultural producers, a notable rise from 26.9% in 2002.

A key turning point came with the 2017 Census of Agriculture, which expanded the definition of producers to provide a more comprehensive picture of the people involved in farm decision-making.

As a result, the recorded number of female producers increased significantly from 969,672 in 2012 to 1,227,461 in 2017, in part due to this broader definition.

Despite this change in methodology, the data also shows a clear long-term trend: the number of male producers has been declining since 2007, when it peaked at 2.3 million.

By 2022, that number had fallen to 2.15 million, continuing a downward trajectory.

Meanwhile, the share of female producers has grown consistently across every Census—from 30.0% in 2007 to 30.5% in 2012, even before the definitional change in 2017 pushed it higher to 36.1%.

In Wood County, female producers make up 35.8% (581 of 1,621) of the county's farmers, and female-operated farms make up 58.4% (531 of 909) of the total in the county.

That results in a 19.5% rise in female producers and 14.2% rise in female-operated farms in the last 10 years.

Data was sourced from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Census of Agriculture, specifically the most recent 2022 edition, which was released in 2024.

Researchers at Trace One analyzed the data to determine the states and counties with the highest representation of female farmers.

This was measured in two ways: the proportion of total agricultural producers who are women and the percentage of farms classified as female-operated.

According to the USDA, a producer is defined as any individual actively involved in making decisions for a farming operation. A female-operated farm, meanwhile, is one in which at least one producer is a woman.







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BAR BEATS

The Swing Doctors 4/10· Bullseye Golf Club, Wisconsin Rapids. 16-piece jazz/ swing. 7 pm. 715-423-2230

EVENTS / SPECTATOR SPORTS

St. Lawrence Cod Fish Fry · Fridays 3/28-4/11, St. Lawrence Church, 530 10 th St N, Wisconsin Rapids. Carry out menu includes fried or bakedfish, potato salad or French fries, baked beans or pasta salad, coleslaw, bread, tartar sauce, dessert. Starts at 4 pm. \$13 adult, \$8, \$13 dining room & carry outs, \$2 dining room dessert. 715-424-5683

Vietnam Vets Brat Fry · Sat. 4/5, West Grand IGA, 1021 W. Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10 am. 715-600-0401

Monthly Vet Breakfast · Mon. 4/7, Grace's Restaurant, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 9 am. 715-600-0401

Game Night with the Legion · Sat. 4/12, American Legion Hall, Rudolph. Cards & board games for all ages. Coffee, punch & popcorn provided. Starts at 6 pm. 715-435-3662

Christian Women's Connection Ladies Brunch · Wed. 4/16, Elk's Club, Wisconsin Rapids. Writer & professional Hula dancer, Cindy O'Halloran will present: "From Victim to Victorious". Wood County Horticulturist, Janelle Weir, will provide the special feature. Reservations are essential. Starts at 9:30 am. \$20 includes meal, tip and program. 815-994-1317 or 701-741-5905 for reservations by 4/8

Pioneer Cooking 101 · Sat. 4/26, Historic Point Basse, Nekoosa. Learn all about how the pioneers cooked: Basic Fire Building, Cast Iron Cooking, Primitive & Open-Hearth Cooking. Best of all, you get to eat & sample it all. Starts at 9 am. \$15 to cover materials. Class size 15 or less. historicpointbasse.com

Ongoing

Celebrate Recovery · Every Tuesday, hosted by Love Inc. at St. Lawrence Church basement, 530 10 th St N, Wisconsin Rapids. Come share adult Fellowship through hurts, hang-ups & habits guided by the Beatitudes in a 12 step format. Non denominational. Starts at 6:30 pm. 715-424-5683 for questions

OUTDOORS

Mascot Skate · Tues. 4/8, hosted by WI Prairie Chicken Festival at South Wood County Recreation Center, 2711 16 th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Boomin' Bob, the Greater Prairie Chicken & his friends are inviting you to a meet & greet on the ice. Open skate. Bring your camera. Starts at 6pm. Free admission. \$3 skate rental. facebook.com/ WIPrairieChickenFest

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 1 pm-4 pm. http:// alexanderhouseonline.org/

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

South Wood County Historical Museum · 540 3 rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. Museum opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays from 1pm-4 pm Office will be open Tues.-Thurs. from 10am-3 pm. http://www.swch-museum.com/

Laura Ingalls Wilder, Hamerstroms & WI Prairie Chicken Festival · 4/1-4/30, 540 3 rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. This exhibit will showcase the journey of author Laura Ingalls Wilder, who captured the essence of frontier life in her Little House series. There will also be nature & bird photographs on display by local photographer, Joe Riederer. There will also be memorabilia, photos & articles on display for the Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival & when available, the costume of WPCF's mascot, Boomin' Bob, will be showcased. http://www.swch-museum. com/ or wisprairiechickens.org for WPCF events from 4/7-4/13

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South Wood County Humane Society Pet of the Week: Max

Meet Max, a lovable pup searching for his furever home! Max is a playful guy who adores playing fetch and is always ready for a fun game.

Max loves giving kisses and enjoys long walks but he would be a pro at cuddling up on the couch as well.

He loves to chew on his toys so hard bones are his best friends. Due to his past, he would do best as an only fur-baby in the home as - well as no small children (under 12). If you're looking for a friendly and energetic buddy, Max is ready to bring joy and love into your life!

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

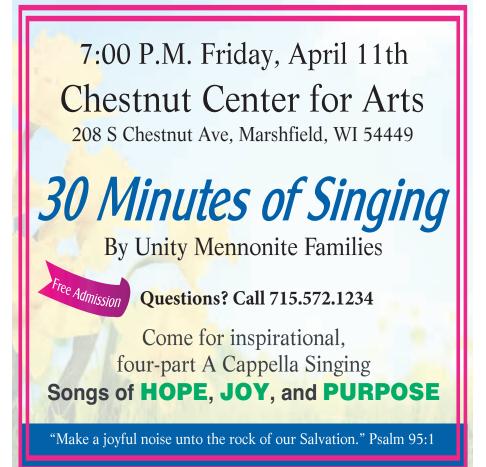
South Wood County Humane Society can be reached at office@swchs. com or 715-423-0505, and is located at 3621 64th Street N. Wisconsin Rapids.



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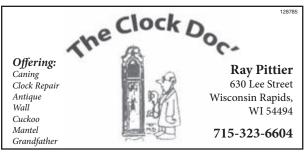


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Showstopper: From shoe business to show business

BY KRIS LEONHARDT MMC SENIOR EDITOR

Continued from previous week

A great number of German Catholics settled in the profitable Milwaukee region. Among them was Christopher Adler, who settled in the Germantown area — just north of Milwaukee — purchasing a farm at the end of Holy Hill Road.

As his farm prospered, Christopher and his German-born wife, Margaret, welcomed five children: Peter, Jacob, Clara, Mary, and then Philip. With the rich, opulent ground to work, a hard-working wife and a growing family to aid him, life in America would be grand.

In 1854, an early growing season gave way to an unseasonable hay crop. Margaret, pregnant with their sixth child, worked along with her husband harvesting their hay. Losing her footing on the hay wagon, Margaret fell to her death. The unborn baby, named Elizabeth, survived just



Phillip Adler

four days.

Left alone to raise a young family, Christopher struggled for three years before meeting and marrying his second wife, Anna. The following year, the couple welcomed another

As the family continued to expand, eventually adding eleven new children, Philip, Adler's youngest from his first marriage grew restless. Taking an opportunity to apprentice under a Milwaukee shoemaker, he headed to the big city at an early age.

In Milwaukee, Philip spent the following years mastering his skills as a

In his early 20s, he moved to Chicago to open a shoe store, where he met and married Margaret Hoff-

As the couple started their family, they looked hard at the city that surrounded them. Rebuilding after a massive fire, the city continued to flex and grow, welcoming new dangers and a multitude of competi-

The Adlers learned of an emerging city in Wisconsin's northern pineland. The city was a regular stop on the Wisconsin Central Railroad's Chicago schedule and was attracting the attention of several railways due to its central location.

The Adlers arrived in Marshfield in 1880, where Philip promptly opened a shoe store.

Taking his profits from the store, he began to buy and sell land to the pioneering families arriving in the area.

In 1882, Philip's father Christopher and his family followed them to the area, purchasing and clearing 140 acres of cheap cutover land leftover from the harvested pines.

Financial independence afforded Philip the ability to invest in a myriad of businesses.

Operating under the pretense that if you could find a need you should fill it, he entered into various enterprises.

Philip's most important contribution to the city and the region came about in 1887. As he welcomed his seventh child, he made plans for a new building. That building became a precursor to a development that would propel him into an industry that would bring Hollywood center stage for many generations to come.

To be continued

This series, which will continue through upcoming editions of our publication, is a chronicle of the Adler family history in Wood County as relayed by J.P.'s daughter, Bette, and used with permission by the author.

United We Can is June

FOR THE CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties and the Healthy Community Coalition will support local food programs and raise awareness of hunger with the 13th annual United We Can food sculpture contest at Witter Field on June 17.

The event will feature sculptures built entirely from non-perishable food and basic need items, which have been donated to support local food programs.

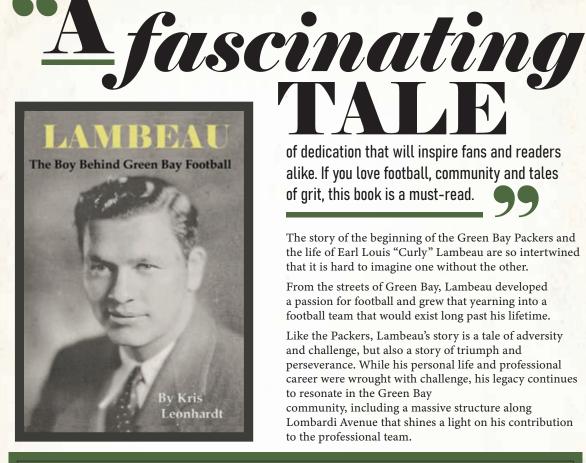
The sculptures will be on display during the evening's Rafters game.

You can also help strike out hunger by attending the Rafters' 6:35 p.m. game against the Traverse City Pit Spitters the evening.

Attendees who bring a non-perishable food or basic need item donation will receive a free ticket to the game.

Since 2013, United We Can has brought in over 78,000 pounds of food donations.

Register a team to build a sculpture on June 17 at uwswac.org or drop off non-perishable food items or cash donations at Witter Field that day, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., or during the game.



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

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

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

Like the Packers, Lambeau's story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay

community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Inside In or the Outside Out

Dear Reader,

When I was young, love seemed like something you could measure in glances. I wanted a pretty girl—the kind that turned heads and made other guys envious. I'd walk into a room with her, and the looks we'd get felt like a raised eyebrow and a quiet "Wow, buddy, how'd you do that?" In my mind, I'd sow to everyone wething, "Fet.



I'd say to everyone watching, "Eat your hearts out."

How shallow that seems now.

Time has a way of showing you what really matters. It took years—and some heartbreaks—for me to realize that beauty on the outside pales next to the beauty within. Now, as I look back, I treasure the richness of the life I share with someone who knows me at my core. She is not just my partner but my most trusted friend, the keeper of my past, and the compass for my future. She embodies the familiarity of family, the comfort of shared memories, and the strength of shared virtues.

I almost missed it. I was so busy casting for the surface that I nearly overlooked the depth. But by some miracle of fate—or grace—my last cast in the pool connected me to the love I didn't even know I needed.

Now, I wake up each day beside her, and the morning sun shines a little brighter. The stars twinkle a little more at night. She makes the world go round. Not with the kind of beauty that fades but with the kind that grows richer, deeper, and more radiant with every passing year.

To anyone still searching or holding out for the "wow" factor, I say this: Look deeper. True beauty isn't something you show off to the world; it's something that wraps itself around your heart, fills your soul, and makes life worth living.

PATRICK J. WOOD

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BE OUR GUEST

MREA will not host 2025 Energy Fair

FROM THE MIDWEST RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION

After careful consideration, the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) announces that it will not host The Energy Fair in 2025.

Since its launch in 1990, the fair has been a beacon of sustainability, innovation and community.

However, due to rising costs and declining participation, the MREA and its board of directors have decided to put the event on pause to ensure the longevity and impact of its other programs.

For over 30 years, The Energy Fair brought together thousands to explore sustainability, clean energy, and practical solutions for a greener future. It began when a group of friends, inspired by Home Power Magazine, organized the first event — an overwhelming success that led to the MREA's founding.

The Fair served as a vital hub for education, collaboration, and community-building among those passionate about sustainable living.

Though the fair will not happen in 2025, the MREA's

mission continues.

The organization will continue its efforts in:

- Accredited renewable energy training
- Industry networking and professional develop-
- Affordable solar group buy programs
- Solar training scholarships for underserved communities
- Solar grant opportunities for Wisconsin public schools
- Midwest consumer re-

Additionally, the MREA will continue to support its dedicated members with

trusted educational content, transparent policy updates, and expert guidance on renewable energy solutions.

The MREA extends its deepest appreciation to the volunteers, attendees, sponsors and partners who made the fair an unforgettable experience over its many years.

The MREA will continue to exemplify the spirit of the Fair through its mission of advancing clean energy education, energy efficiency and sustainability advocacy.











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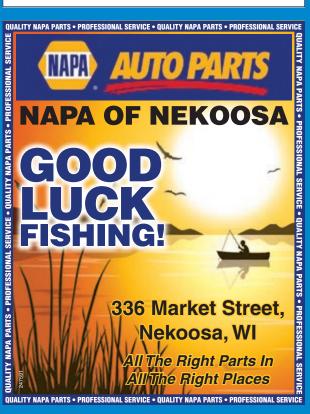






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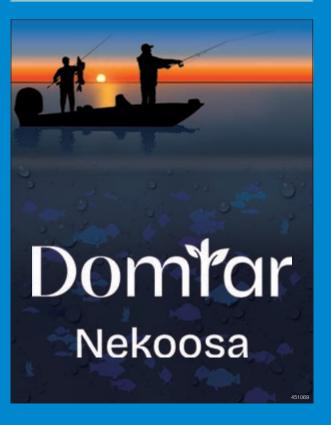


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Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Kronenwetter

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Rummage Sales Upcoming

Nekoosa: Thursday, 4/10,8 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, 4/11,8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Saturday, 4/12,8 a.m.- 12 p.m. LARGE RUMMAGE SALE Nekoosa UCC 205 Market St

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Antiques & Collectables: Red Wing Crocks & Jugs, RW Cheryband Pitcher & Bean Pot With Ádv, Glassware Of All Kinds, Ro seville Jardinière, Bottle Collection, Blue Jars, Glass Churn, Old Kitchen Items, Adv Tins, 31 Day Wall Clock, Brass Regulator School Bell, Fluter Iron, Cos tume Jewelry, Sleigh Bells tume Jewelry, Sleigh Bells Large Butternut Wardrobe Washstand, Butternut, Drop Front Desk With Bookcase Kitchen Cupboard, Old Farn Tools, Kraut Cutters, Spice Cabi net, Áladdin Lamp, Oil Lamps Cruet Set, Spinning Wheel Hummel Plates & Figurine, Sil verware, Butter Molds Victoriar Chairs Vintage Records, Old Books, Children's Books, Quilts, Large Wood Mallet, Old Sleds, Wooden Skis.

Sewing Items: Bernina Activa 210 Sewing Machine, Janome Sewist 509, Elna 3007, Totes Full Of Fabric & Yarn, Batting, Household & Garage Items Step & Ext Ladder, Workbench Some Tools, Fishing Tackle, Lawn & Garden Tools Outdoor Decor, Older Lift Chair Kitchen Cookware & Bakeware Roasters, Wing Back Chairs, Grandfather Clock, Chests Of Drawers, New Twin Size Bed & Mattress, Board Games, Vacu ums, Loveseat, Large Selection of Hardcover Books, and Sc Much More!!

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Some basic mechanical knowledge & boat driving skills a plus but not necessary - will train

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Merrill, WI. Seeking Director of Youth & Family Ministry, Part Position(20 Hours Pe Week). The position strives to foster Christian community through building relationships with young people and thei families and pursuing ways to bring all generations together to participate in God's mission for this church. Call 715-536-5813.

Person to help run balloon game on carnival. Housing provided or commute on weekends possible. Call Jim 920-290-1049

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advertise

Another season of growth

BY HALEI HEINZEL 77TH ALICE IN

DAIRYLAND

BE OUR GUEST

The migratory birds are returning, the lakes, rivers, and fields are starting to thaw and bits of green are popping up through what remains of winter.

As I traverse the state in "Tassie," I notice the signs of spring everywhere I go.

Whether you're raising animals, planting crops on hundreds of acres, growing specialty crops in greenhouses or fields, or gardening in the backyard, spring brings different changes.

As spring arrives, so do many of our baby farm ani-

For grazing animals like sheep and goats, a spring birth means there's plenty of fresh green plant growth for ewes and does to have a plentiful milk supply.

Plus, those plants will still be ready to be munched on when the lambs and kids are ready to begin brows-

Cattle are pretty impressive when determining the timing of giving birth.

The Farmer's Almanac shares "University of Arkansas scientists report that spring calves tend to be born when barometric (air) pressure is high.'

High air pressure discourages rainfall, which means the calves usually have a few days to dry off and acclimate to their new world before facing springtime storms.

For large-scale crop farmers and backyard gardeners alike, one of the earliest steps in the spring is working on the soil.

Once the ground has thawed, growers will use various techniques to help aerate the soil, address nutrient imbalances, tackle any early weed issues, and



prepare the soil for a nice planting location.

Aerating the soil through tilling, broad forking, or other methods to break up the particles helps ensure water and nutrients can get to the soon-to-be-planted plants.

Many specialty crop producers and home gardeners can get a jump on the season by starting some of their seeds indoors or in a greenhouse without the worry of an upcoming freeze.

Celery, peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, squashes, pumpkins, melons, cucumbers and more can all be started early and will transplant nicely once it's warmer out.

Your local University of Wisconsin Extension Office is often a wonderful re-

Equipment maintenance is another key aspect of springtime preparations.

After sitting through winter and sometimes even longer, equipment usually needs cleaned.

Cobwebs, mouse nests, dust and leaves all seem to

find their way into nooks and crannies over winter.

Testing the functionality of all the components of the equipment comes next, even down to the seed delivery mechanisms and spray nozzles.

Just one malfunctioning part can cause many headaches down the line.

Replacing filters, fluids, checking electrical components and tires and greasing up parts that need to move can all help make spring planting easier and extend the life of equipment.

Springtime is known for being a period of rebirth, for the animals, for the plants and sometimes for the farmers.

After a cold winter, the longer days and the warmer temperatures help renew a sense of excitement for the upcoming season.

The fences can be fixed. The water lines can be repaired.

The snow finally melts away. And farmers are ready for another season of

High blood pressure: the silent threat Americans searched for most in 2024

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY - In 2024, Americans turned to Google for answers to their health concerns, with "What causes high blood pressure?" among the most searched questions.

Soliant Health, a health care job search site that analyzed 2024 Google search data, highlighted this as a top concern. This growing awareness reflects the connection between hypertension and serious conditions like heart disease, stroke, and chronic kidney disease.

"People are starting to realize you can develop high blood pressure without any symptoms," says Melissa Wendell, a nurse practitioner at Aspirus Cardiology. "They want to know what they can do to prevent it."

High blood pressure, or hypertension, develops over time and can often be prevented. Wendell explains some of the primary factors:

Unhealthy Diet: "High blood pressure is often caused by a diet high in processed foods and salt," Wendell explains. A lack of potassium-rich foods also contributes.

Obesity: Extra weight puts added strain on the heart, increasing stress on blood vessels. Physical Inactivity: "Exercise helps

your blood vessels become more pli-

disease, and sleep apnea are linked to hypertension. "If blood pressure stays high, it can lead to serious complications like chronic kidney disease,"

> Modern Lifestyle: Wendell observes, "High blood pressure is happening at younger ages due to diets high in salt and processed foods, along

Wendell.

Wendell notes.



able and can bring down your weight. with decreased physical activity." which lowers blood pressure," says Wendell emphasizes that hyper-

tension is preventable with lifestyle Underlying Medical Conditions: changes. "Simply reducing salt and Chronic issues like diabetes, kidney avoiding processed foods can help your blood pressure. Staying active also makes a big difference."

For those concerned, Wendell advises taking early action. "It's important to know your numbers. See a primary care provider to identify any underlying causes and determine whether treatment is needed. Your provider can help guide you."

Check fire conditions before you burn

WOOD COUNTY--Spring wildfire season is upon us and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is urging the public to check fire danger before conducting outdoor burning activities.

Nearly 170 wildfires have burned over 450 acres already this year, according to the DNR; four times more than a typical year at this time.

Dry weather and gusty winds are expected today and tomorrow, leading to the potential for increased wildfire activity. Burn permit suspensions will be in effect in several southern and central Wisconsin

Some minimal chances of rain are expected over the weekend, but fire officials anticipate the fire danger will be on an upward swing over the coming weeks until there is significant precipitation.

With the onset of the spring fire season and the forecasted conditions, fire officials have begun staffing

fire equipment throughout Wisconsin. Areas are especially vulnerable after the snow cover melts and prior to vegetation greening up. Northern Wisconsin still has lingering snow in the woods but it is rapidly melting with the warmer tem-

The main cause of wildfires this time of year is burning brush and leaf piles, and debris burning continues to be the No. 1 cause of wildfires in Wisconsin.

Burning permits are required in DNR Protection Areas anytime the ground is not completely snow-covered. Permit holders are authorized to burn vegetative materials, such as leaves, brush and needles and are designed so that burning is done safely with minimal wildfire risk. Permits are free and can be obtained online or by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876).

Once a burn permit has been obtained, the individual must call or go online after 9 a.m. on the day of the planned burn to check daily the legal burning hours, size limitations or if burning has been suspended for the day. Small campfires for warming or cooking do not require a burning permit.

Some areas of the state are not regulated by the DNR so it's important to check with local municipal or fire department officials for any ordinances or other burning restrictions.

Sparks from recreational equipment, campfires and hot ashes from fireplaces are also contributing fire causes. Smoldering embers can remain hot for days, even weeks. If using a wood stove or fireplace, empty the ashes into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid or dump them onto bare soil. Then, drown the ashes with water and stir until the embers are completely cold.

The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles. Before leaving the area, drown the ashes, stir and keep adding water until all heat and smoke is gone.



Check conditions before you burn - debris burning continues to be the No. 1 cause of wildfires Wisconsin DNR in Wisconsin

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Wisconsin DOJ offers resources for teens, parents amid rise in sextortion cases

FOR THE CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY - The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force is providing resources for online safety with tips for talking to kids about safe online practices as sextortion cases increase throughout the country, including in Wisconsin.

Sextortion is a form of sexual exploitation where offender receives sexually explicit material from the victim and then threatens to release the compromising material unless the victim sends money, gift cards, and/or additional sexual content, or engages in sexual activity. Children are particularly vulnerable to this type of crime. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has seen a dramatic increase online enticement, which is a broad category that includes sextortion cases, being reported to the CyberTipline. Financial sextortion, where the offender demands money from the person, is becoming more prevalent, and teenage boys have been the most common targets in these recent cases. Sextortion can have tragic consequences for victims including mental health crisis and suicide, although the data is not tracked nationally.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, the National Suicide Hotline is 988. You can call or text to reach a mental health professional.

In 2025 so far, the Wisconsin ICAC Task Force has received 103 cybertips related to sextortion. In 2024, the task force re-

ceived 237 cybertips related to sextortion, up from 176 in 2023. These numbers do not include cases reported directly to local law enforcement agencies.

"Sextortion is a heinous crime targeting teens around the country," said Attorney General Josh Kaul. "By learning how to help prevent this crime and how to respond effectively when it occurs, members of the public can help keep kids safe."

Tips for teens who may be victims of sextortion

- · Remember, it's not your fault!
- · Even if you made a choice you regret, it's never too late to get help.
- · Tell a parent or trusted adult right away.
- · Do not pay money or comply with the blackmailer's requests.
- Report the account through the platform's safety feature.
- · Block the suspect, but do not delete the messages or your profile.
- Report the crime to law enforcement or at Report.CyberTip.org.

What Can Parents/ **Guardians Do To Protect Their Kids?**

The following tips are informed by NetSmartz and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Get involved

- Actively participate in your children's digital
- Regular check-ins about online interactions should be the norm.
- Set online and offline behavioral expectations.
- Remind your child that if they are a victim

of sextortion, that you are a trusted adult and it is never too late to get help.

Talk about relationships

· Have regular discussions about your family's expectations and values regarding relationships. Discuss the characteristics of healthy relationships, such as having and boundaries respecting and practicing consent. Explain that both pressuring someone and being pressured into uncomfortable or unsafe sexual behaviors is not okay. Help children understand that they should never forward sexts they may receive from others, as limiting the image's spread reduces the risk of it falling into dangerous hands.

Empower your child

• Provide resources that vour child can reach out to, such as NCMEC.org and CyberTipline.org.

Teach your child how to report someone.

Remind them that sextortion is a crime, it is not their fault and you are here to help them.

If you or someone you know has information on potential child exploitation, you can report it to NCMEC online at report. cybertip.org/ or by calling 1(800)843-5678. Reports can also be made through Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO), a 24/7 statewide confidential reporting system run by DOJ's Office of School Safety. Reports can be made online at speakup.widoj.gov/, by calling 1(800) MY-SUSO-1, or by texting "SUSO" to 738477.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Narrow piece of wood 5. African desert
- 11. Waxy covering on birds' beaks
- 12 Sour
- 16. Infrequent
- 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
- 18. Policemen wear one
- 19. Out of the question
- 24. Used to chop
- 25. Symptoms
- 26. Not moving 27. Folk singer DiFranco
- 28. Comedian Armisen
- 29. Quantitative fact
- 30. Incline from vertical 31. Scottish musician
- 33. Rooney and Kate are two 34. Positioned
- 38. A very short time
- 39. Tropical American shrubs
- 40. Yemen capital 43. Spanish municipality
- 44. Medical professionals
- 45. Fibrous material
- 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 50. Without covering
- 51. "Mad Men" honcho Don
- 53. Hockey position
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Fertile spots in a desert
- 58. They precede C
- 59. "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared 60. Try a criminal case
- 63. Liberal rights organization 64. Spoke
- 65. Insect repellent

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Unshaven facial hair
 - 2. More thin
 - 3. Show up
 - 4. Seethed 5. Ancient Greek city
 - 6. Poisonous plant
 - 7. Hello
 - 8. College sports official 9. Monetary unit of Russia
 - 10. Wings
 - 13. Take too much of a
 - substance
 - 14. A citizen of Uganda
 - 15. Most appealing
 - 20. Atomic #18 21. Global investment bank
 - (abbr.)
 - 22. Jewish calendar month 23. Popular sandwich
 - 27. Swiss river
 - 29. Incorrect letters 30. Popular entree
 - 31. Foot (Latin)

32. A driver's license is one

- 33. Extinct flightless bird
- 34. Appetizer
- 35. After battles
- 36. It neutralizes alkalis 37. Beverage container
- 38. Partner to "Pa"
- 40. Gray American rail 41. Salt of acetic acid
- 42. Canadian province
- 44. Dish made with lentils
- 45. Narrative poem of popular
- 46. For each one
- 47. Come to terms
- 48. Test 50. More dishonorable
- 51. Unit of loudness
- 52. The Ocean State 54. Monetary unit in Mexico
- 55. Lying down
- 57 Thus
- 61. Where LA is located 62. Western State

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The 2025 Spring Lincoln-Nekoosa-Port Edwards-Adams/Friendship High School Trap Team, back row from left: Jordan Larson, Gabe Hauke, Blake Hafeman, Carson Bender, Brayden Weis, Hoyt Koch and Wyatt Koch; front row: Lee Ross, Keegan Lau, Charlie Michalsen, Jon Duerr, Erik Michalsen and Rhett Tranel. Absent from photo: Ashton Hayes, Lucas Inhof and Jerrett Nieman.

Wisconsin High School Clay Target League kicks off spring season

BY CITY TIMES STAFF

ROME - The Wisconsin High School Clay Target League recently started its spring 2025 season.

"Athletes who shoot during the spring season have a state event where all athletes are welcome to compete for individual and team awards," a team release stated.

The state event is held at the Wisconsin Trapshooting Association Homegrounds in Rome, June 7-8.

"There is also a national event that student athletes must earn an invitation to by shooting in the top of their class during the spring season," the release added.

in Mason, Mich., July 9-13.

This event brings 1,800 of the top individual shooters and 240 of the top teams from all of the states that participate in the USA High School Clay Target League to shoot for the No. 1 spot in the nation.

"The Lincoln, Nekoosa,

The national event is held Port Edwards, Adams-Friendship High School Trap Team is a very competitive team of young shooters who participate in the shotgun sport called trap. It is offered to high school students within the school districts previously listed," the release added.

"Middle school students,

if interested, should see one of the coaches at your respective school district."

Interested students must have a valid Wisconsin DNR Hunter Safety card prior to team registration.

"Spring training is currently underway and coaching staff is working with new and returning

athletes to hone their skills before the competition season starts. The competition part of the league runs from the end of March to our State shoot in early June. Competition is held one day a week at the Wisconsin Trapshooting Association Homegrounds, our home field, in Rome."

Three take first place honors at Wisconsin State Gymnastics Championship

FOR THE CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS Russell Gymnastics, Levels 6-10, participants competed at the Wisconsin State Gymnastics Championship, March 22-23, held at Verona Area High School in Verona.

Three individuals garnered first-place finishes at the event.

Sophia Kinsella, of Plover, Level 7, took first on floor with a score of

Bryleigh Keith, of Wisconsin Rapids, Level 8, tied for first on beam with a score of 9.300

Arianna Ostrum, of Wisconsin Rapids, Level 10, took first on floor with a score of 9.675.

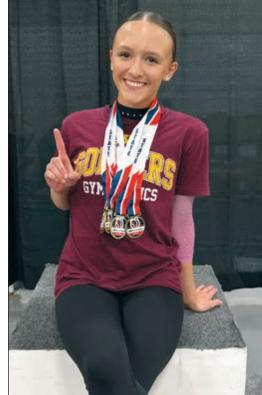
Ostrum also took first on bars with a score of 9.800, first on vault with a score of 9.450 and had a first place all around score of 38.150.



Kinsella



Keith



Ostrum

Assumption track teams kick off season

Thomas takes first in 60-meter dash

BY CITY TIMES STAFF

WISCONSIN RAPIDS The Assumption Royal girls track team opened its season on March 21 at the SPASH invite in Stevens Point.

All divisions came together with no separation between small school or large school.

Assumption Junior Bella Thomas won the 60-meter

dash with a time of 7.78 just .02 ahead of Neenah's Celia Gentile.

Senior Brooklyn Schoenick took ninth in the 1600 meter at 5:45.71. Neenah's Mazi Olkowski took first at 5:24.17.

The Assumption Royal boys opened their season on March 22.

Freshman Reed Hartjes

placed eighth in the 1600 meter at 4:48.54. Pacelli's Luke Eiden took first at 4:33.66

The 4x400 meter relay team of freshman, Cullen Thomas; sophomore, Aiden Daliege; and seniors, Joe Johnson and Owen Hagan placed 10th at 3:50.66.

Neenah's 4x400 meter relay team took first at 3:43.04

Wisconsin's high school graduation rates reach new high

WOOD COUNTY - New data published from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction shows high school graduation rates in the state are at an all-time high. For the

2023-24 school year, 91.1 percent of Wisconsin high school students graduated on time, marking the highest rate since the four-year adjusted cohort was introduced in 2009-10. Data released shows

chronic absenteeism rates fell to 17.7 percent for the 2023-24 school year, while attendance rates climbed to 92.4 percent, marking the lowest and highest levels, respectively, since the 2020-21 school year.

Local sports online. **WRCityTimes.com**

Early Literacy Program helps build strong foundations for children

WOOD COUNTY - Reading is one of the most powerful tools for a child's development, helping to build language skills, improve cognitive function, and strengthen emotional bonds with caregivers. According to Reach Out and Read, families participating in the program are 2.5 times more likely to read with their children, leading to improved school readiness and communication skills.

To support early literacy and child development, Aspirus Health has partnered with Reach Out and Read, a national initiative that provides free books to children during well-child visits. The program encourages families to make reading a regular part of their daily routine, helping children develop essential skills for future learning.

"Reading strengthens language development and creates meaningful connections between parents and children," said Lisa Falduto, Program Director for Reach Out and Read Wisconsin. "These early experiences play a critical role in a child's future success."

Aspirus pediatricians incorporate book distribution and literacy education into checkups, reinforcing



the importance of reading at an early age. "This program makes reading a positive part of health care visits and provides books to families who might not otherwise have access," said Dr. Joseph Novak, a pediatrician at Aspirus.

From birth through age five, children experience rapid brain development, and regular exposure to books can significantly enhance their ability to learn. Research has shown that children who read regularly demonstrate stronger literacy skills and perform better academically later in life. Encouraging early reading habits helps set children up for long-term success in school and bevond.

Beyond cognitive benefits, reading together fos-

Community news online.

ters emotional security and family bonding. "The other piece that a lot of people don't think about when reading is the bond that happens between parent and child," Falduto added. "That connection is crucial for literacy development, emotional health, and brain development."

Aspirus Health continues to support programs that enhance childhood development and promote literacy. By working with Reach Out and Read, Aspirus helps make books and literacy resources more accessible to families, giving children the opportunity to develop a love for reading early in life.

For more information about Reach Out and Read www.reachoutandread.org.

Addressing addiction: understanding the importance of seeking treatment

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY - Substance abuse continues to be a significant concern across many communities, with alcohol, opioids, and methamphetamine use among the most common challenges individuals face. Health care professionals emphasize that addiction is a medical condition, not a moral failing, and that effective treatment options are available to help individuals regain control of their lives.

Dr. Adam Clements. Medical Director of the Office of Medical Education at Aspirus and director of the Family Practice Residency Program, believes that shifting how people view addiction is crucial. "People look at addictions like it's a character flaw, when really it's a chronic relapsing disease that there are very good treatments for," Clements said. "Addiction is no different than any other medical condition, like diabetes or high blood pressure. People deserve compassionate care and effective treatment."

Despite the availability of treatment, many individuals delay seeking help due to stigma, denial, or uncertainty about where to turn. "A significant barrier is that people often don't know they have a problem or that resources are available," Clements added. "It's vital to recognize the early signs of addiction before serious health complications occur."



Treatment options are diverse and tailored to individual needs. These include inpatient programs, outpatient services, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and counseling. Telehealth options also provide greater accessibility, allowing patients to receive care from the comfort of their homes. MAT has proven to be a lifesaving resource, reducing cravings and lowering the risk of overdose.

"Addiction care, like many aspects of health care, is a team effort," said Tiara Bonilla, Recovery Case Manager at North Central Health Care. "Seeking treatment is a brave first step. Many people don't realize help is available or how to access it. Our goal is to walk alongside individuals through the recovery process, ensuring they're connected to the right support services."

Bonilla also emphasized that recovery looks different for everyone. "Complete abstinence may not be everyone's goal, and

HEART CARE



that's okay. Harm reduction strategies can improve safety, stability, and overall well-being. We focus on helping people maintain their jobs, family lives, and personal responsibilities," she said.

Healthcare professionals recommend starting with a conversation with a primary care provider. "Having a trusted doctor who listens and can provide referrals to specialized services can make all the difference," Clements explained. "Addiction treatment is accessible, and with the right support, recovery is possible."

For those seeking support, many organizations offer services to guide individuals on their journey toward recovery. Resources range from counseling and behavioral therapies to peer support groups and medication-assisted treatments. The key message from experts: you are not alone, and help is available.

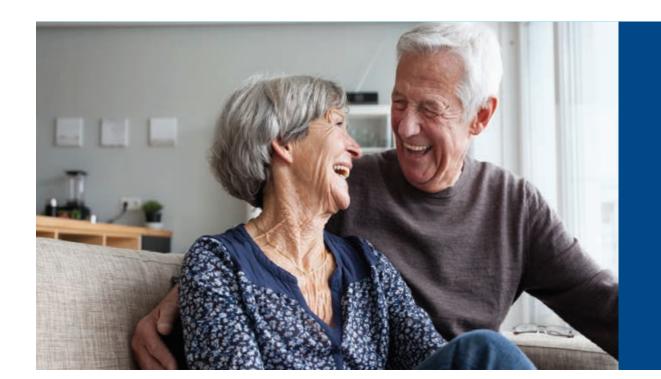
For more information about substance use treatment options, visit www. norcen.org/Recovery.



Better begins with a strong heart.

Better begins at Aspirus Health.

Trust your heart to one of the region's top cardiac programs.



For more information about Aspirus Health's Heart Care throughout **Central Wisconsin** visit aspirus.org

"The Wealth InFormation Lady": There has Always Been Something to Worry About



The Wealth InFormation Lady

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

Tariffs, trade wars, inflation, interest rates, government spending, political fighting, foreign wars, ongoing labor shortages, an aging population, social security uncertainty, and so much more. These all make for sensational headlines, reasons to worry and are the subject of many conversations. Interestingly enough though, there have always been reasons to worry, including worry-

ing about our money.

A quick look back at history reminds us of what we've gotten through as a country and financially. Two World Wars, a great depression, and an attack on American soil in 1941 with the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Consumer goods shortages in 1944, the beginning of the Cold War in 1947, the Soviets detonating an atomic bomb in 1949, and the Korean War

in 1950. The Soviets detonated an H-bomb in 1953, Castro seized power in Cuba in 1959, and the Berlin Wall was erected in 1961. The Cuban missile crisis happened in 1962 and President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. It must have been rather stressful to live through the late 1960's with the Vietnam War and in the 1970's we dealt with Watergate, an oil embargo, an energy crisis and the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. Inflation ran rampant in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and in 1981, both President Reagan and the Pope were shot. The late 1980's brought the Savings and Loan crisis as well as Black Monday on October 19, 1987 when the stock market fell

by 20% in a single day. The fed raised interest rates six times in 1994, and the end of the 90's brought the crash of technology stocks, fears of Y2K and the 9/11terrorist attacks. The subprime mortgage market melted down, leading to the great recession in 2008. Unemployment hit 10% in 2009 and we faced a "Fiscal Cliff" and downgrade of US debt in 2012. The 20-teens brought hurricanes, trade wars, and then, the infamous Covid-19 pandemic. We got through all of it.

I could tell you what a few dollars invested in the stock market would have turned into going all the way back to the beginning of worry, but most of us don't have that kind of time horizon. An interesting 10

year segment is 1968-1978, when the S&P 500 began at 96.47 and ended right back where it started, at 96.11, the epitome of a flat decade. That may lead one to worry that investing during those ten years would have gotten them nowhere. However, had one invested \$10,000 in stocks to mirror the S&P 500 during that time frame and reinvested their dividends, their ten grand would have grown to \$15,174.

A disciplined investment strategy includes remembering that when headlines sizzle and markets gyrate, we recall that there has always been something to worry about.

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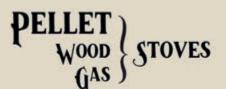
The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

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