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FREE

# Rescue group finds those lost from the skies

## Wings of Hope uses drones in search for missing Wisconsin Rapids woman

**SIRENA MANKINS**  
 EDITOR

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -- Falling temperatures. A storm rolling in. And time slipping away.

In mid-March, first responders were searching for a 59-year-old Wisconsin Rapids woman who had gone

missing. They had been searching for about two hours on foot, Wisconsin Rapids Police Department officers scrambling to find her ahead of an incoming winter storm. But they were coming up empty.

That's when they called in Wings of Hope. "I fly recovery drones, search and rescue drones," said Daniel Reis, a volunteer with the organization. "They filled me in with what they had done for searches, where they

were at, and it had gotten dark and they'd had no luck." The nonprofit was started in 2018 by Brad Smith of Medford. Reis, Smith and three others work with police and fire departments, and even the FBI, to find missing people using drone technology throughout the Midwest.

They took that expertise to the skies in March to find

See **RESCUE** page 8

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# Hub City Times welcomes new editor

### CITY TIMES STAFF

MARSHFIELD – The Hub City Times has named veteran journalist Sirena Mankins as its new editor.

The Wisconsin native grew up in rural Manitowoc County, in the small town of Newton (she likes to describe it as 50 people and 5,000 cows). From a young age, she has been fascinated by the news.

“My parents would wake up on Sunday mornings and find me watching ‘Face the Nation’ and ‘Meet the Press,’” she said.

“They thought I was really weird,” she added with a laugh.

It was a constant battle between Mankins and her parents over who would get the newspaper first. What started as reading the comics quickly evolved into consuming the entire paper – especially the editorial page. She has always found uncovering what motivates people fascinating.



Sirena Mankins

Mankins began her journalism career as a copy editor at the Oshkosh Northwestern in 1999, after attending the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha. Since then, she’s worked at several other publications – even getting to make the call to, “Stop the presses!” during the 2000 presidential election. She spent almost a decade in Central Wisconsin at the Wausau Daily Herald, before the economic downturn forced a contraction in the

newspaper industry.

But what could have been devastating turned into opportunity. Mankins was able to live in several other states – Indiana, followed by Texas and finally Florida – before moving back to Wisconsin to be closer to family.

“Those experiences in other states taught me that people everywhere basically want the same things: a safe community, quality schools and government accountability,” she said.

A mother of two daughters, Mankins also has 12 grandchildren, all of whom live in the area.

“Those ties to the community really drive home the importance of local news coverage,” she said. “The only place people are going to find out what their city council and school board are doing is if local journalists cover it. It’s not going to be done by Fox or CNN.”

Mankins welcomes your questions, comments and story ideas. She can be reached at smankins@mmcllocal.com.

# Marshfield Fire & Rescue responds to Forte



On March 28, the Marshfield Fire & Rescue Department was called to Forte Opening Solutions at 1401 E. Fourth St., Marshfield. **HCT staff photo**

### BY HUB CITY TIMES STAFF

MARSHFIELD – On March 28 at 5:35 p.m., the Marshfield Fire & Rescue Department was called to Forte Opening Solutions at 1401 E. Fourth St., Marshfield, for smoke and smoldering material.

“Engine 3, Engine 1, Truck 1 and Ambulance 98 responded with nine personnel,” a release from Marshfield Fire & Rescue Lt. Jason Schadt stated.

“Upon arrival, employees had evacuated and maintenance personnel stated that a bearing overheated causing their manufacturing material to start on

fire on top of a silo.

“Crews accessed the silo with the aerial device from Truck 1. Access was made to the silo and an auger where numerous hotspots were located. Water from Truck 1 and the facilities deluge system was used to extinguish the hotspots and prevent further extension.

“Damage from the fire was contained to materials used in the facility’s manufacturing process.”

No injuries were reported.

Personnel were on the scene for approximately 1.25 hours.

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# Event offers farmers tips on sustainability while remaining profitable

### FOR THE CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department is offering a free event where farmers can learn practices that promote environmental sustainability while increasing profitability.

The Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo panelists include farmers with experience in grazing, farm-to-market, precision agriculture, using drones on the farm, growing cranberries and more.

University of Wisconsin-Extension staff members will offer insight into nitrogen rate and usage recommendations for small grain forages and cocktail mixes, and the state Department of Natural Resources will discuss conservation farming from the watershed perspective.

Farmers can also learn about potential funding sources to help implement conservation practices.

Certified crop advisers who attend will earn four continuing education units.

The expo runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 30 at Mid-State Technical College’s Wisconsin Rapids campus; free lunch is included.

Registration is required by April 24 at: [www.mstc.edu/event/2025-4-30/central-wisconsin-farm-profitability-expo](http://www.mstc.edu/event/2025-4-30/central-wisconsin-farm-profitability-expo)

**To all Brooklawn Memory Gardens Cemetery lot owners and families**

Brooklawn Cemetery will be holding a meeting on April 10th at 6:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church 207 S Cherry Ave, Marshfield, WI

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Cool Whip Reduced Fat, Frozen 8 oz. ONLY <b>99¢</b>	Mozzarella Cheese Loaf 5 lbs. ONLY <b>\$1.69</b> a lb	Ranch Dressing Original 16 oz. ONLY <b>\$1.29</b>
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Beef Patties All Natural, Uncooked Frozen 32 oz. ONLY <b>\$4.99</b>	Sausage Links Original - Fully Cooked Frozen 28 oz. ONLY <b>\$3.99</b>	Coffee K-Cup Traditional Roast 28 ct. ONLY <b>\$3.99</b>
Hashbrown Oval Patties - Frozen 45 oz. ONLY <b>\$2.99</b>	Turkey Oven Roasted Sliced - Frozen 2 lbs. ONLY <b>\$1.49</b> a lb	Onion Rings Breaded, Frozen 32 oz. ONLY <b>\$1.99</b>
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**MARSHFIELD HUB CITY Times**

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# Marshfield voters OK fire referendum

## Mixed results for school district asks

SIRENA MANKINS  
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD — Marshfield firefighters will gain at least two more firefighters after voters on April 1 OK'd a referendum taking the fire department back to 2021 staffing levels.

The measure passed by more than 700 votes, with 3,566 casting ballots in favor; the "no" votes came in at 2,848.

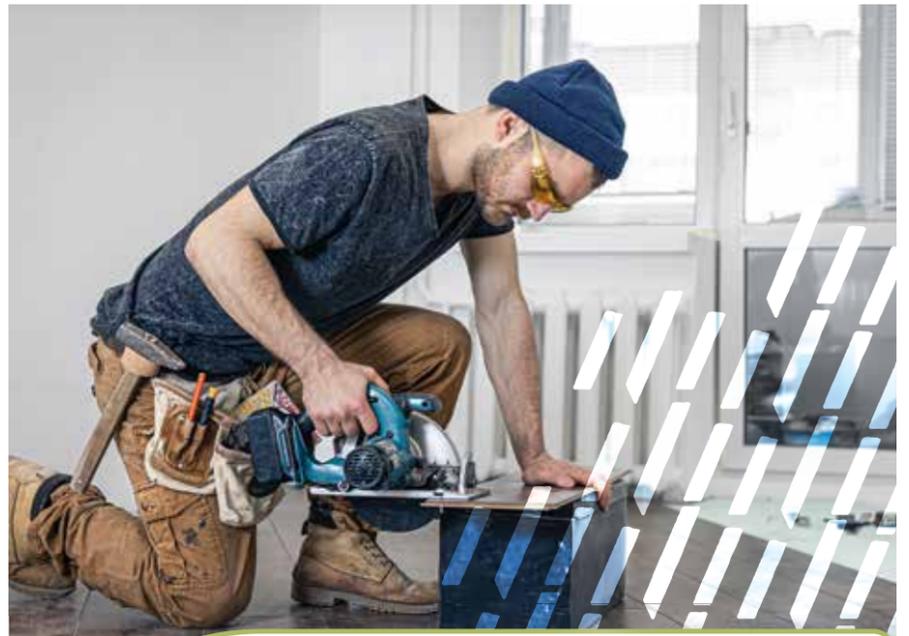
With the referendum's passage, Marshfield will have 12 firefighter-paramedics.

To fund that change, the city said it will now be able to raise the tax levy by 1.63%, starting in 2026. That's expected to bring in an additional \$257,000 from property taxes, costing residents an additional \$13.28 each year for every \$100,000 of property value.

In a release, city officials said Marshfield Fire & Rescue has seen a 48% increase in service calls since 2000 — and that almost 20% of those calls are coming in at the same time. That has left the department struggling at times to respond effectively.

Fire Chief Everett Mueller added the city is at

See **VOTERS**  
page 6



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<b>BAKERY DEPT.</b> <b>Glazed or Sugar Donut Rings</b> <b>5/\$5.00</b> <b>Rib Cookout!</b> Thursday, April 17th 10am-6pm <b>Full Rack \$15</b> <b>1/2 Rack \$9</b>	<b>PRODUCE DEPT.</b> <b>Russet Potatoes</b> 5 Lb. Bag <b>2/\$5.00</b>	<b>LIQUOR DEPT.</b> <b>Sunny D Seltzer's</b> 4 Pack • Strawberry or Pieapple <b>\$5.00</b>	<b>Register To Win These Great Prizes!</b> <b>Weber Charcoal Grill</b> includes a bag of charcoal and 4 Ribeye Steaks • Lynn Dairy Cheese & Cracker Gift Basket • Wind Chime • Stratford Family Foods Hooded Sweat Shirt	

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# OBITUARIES



## JEANETTE KOLLROSS

Jeanette Alice Kollross, 94, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 31, 2025 at the home of Renee and Doug Peplinski, in Milladore; where she had resided since June 2021.

The family welcomes relatives and friends for visitation on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 from 4:00-8:00 pm at Rembs Funeral Home in Marshfield. The family will lead a Rosary Prayer at 7:00 pm with a time for open sharing to follow.

Friends are also invited to A Mass of Christian Burial, on Wednesday, April 16th at St. Kilian's Catholic Church in Blenker, WI at 11:00 am. Visitation will precede the service at 10:00 am. Father Irudayaraj Angisamy and Father Peter Raj will officiate. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery. The Funeral Mass will be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/rembsfuneralhomes](http://www.facebook.com/rembsfuneralhomes)

Jeanette was born April 6, 1930 in Sheboygan, to George and Anna (Breunig) Eberhardy. She lost her mother at the age of 2 and it was very hard times during the Great Depression. In 1936 her father moved Jeanette and her brother, Robert, to the Hewitt area where George had grown up on a dairy farm. In 1942, Jeanette, gained a stepmother when her dad married his second wife, Catherine Gonwa of Milwaukee. Jeanette graduated from Marshfield High School in 1948. After high school, she moved to Milwaukee, to work as a key puncher while living at Saint Clara's. There she enjoyed life in the big city for a few years, before moving back to Milladore, to marry her sweetheart, James Kollross, on August 31, 1952. Jeanette and Jim lived most of their life in the Arpin / Auburndale area where they worked hard together, farming and raising a large family.

Jeanette was a gracious daughter, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She had a humble and loving spirit and she led by example. Jeanette was dedicated to serving the Lord Jesus, her family, and being an active member of St. Mary's Parish. Jeanette found peace and solitude in prayer, gardening, and working outside. She was an excellent homemaker. She loved going to dances and listening to polka music, and she like many people in her generation met her husband at a Sunday evening polka dance. Jeanette enjoyed spending time with her husband and their multiple friend groups, especially their card club and snowmobiling friends. It has been said that Jeanette could drive a snowmobile just like the men. She had an adventurous side that loved to learn, study maps, and travel whenever she and Jim could find a "milker." Jeanette was unfortunately preceded in death by her loving husband in 1997. Jeanette bravely carried on as a widow, in their retirement home in Marshfield; always setting an example of perseverance, positive attitude, and gratitude in all things. She made many new friends at the YMCA, Seniors on the Move, and later at Wildwood Regency. She was fortunate to enjoy several exciting trips with new friends and family during her retirement years.

Jeanette is survived by her six sons: Joseph (Lauri) Kollross of Marshfield, John (Phyllis) Kollross of Arpin, Robert (late-Patti, and Debbie) Kollross of Onalaska, Edward (Mary Lou) Kollross of Auburndale, Michael (Susan) Kollross of Milladore, Thomas (Kathleen) Kollross of Auburndale; and three daughters: Ann(Doug) Haupt of Casper, WY., Renee (Doug) Peplinski of Milladore, and Karen (Daniel) Demmerly of Rexford, MT.

Jeanette's beloved grandchildren include (in the order of their parents above): Lucas Kollross of Weston, Marcus (Molly) Kollross of Niceville, FL, and Brant Kollross of Marshfield; Mikayla Kollross of Stevens Point, James Kollross of Arpin, Julianna Kollross (Paul Pundsack) of Madison, Paul Kollross of Madison; Nick (Taylor) Kollross of Moorhead, MN; Tanya (Kevin) Krings of Arpin, Lee (Val) Kollross of Arpin; Megan Arel of Denver, CO, Troy Kollross (Morgan Nicholson) of Milladore, Mason Kollross of Edwards, CO; Aaron (Allie) Kollross of Asheville, NC, Alyssa Kollross (Jace Jackson) of Marshfield, Anna Kollross (Brian Wallace) of Eau Claire; Neil Ott of Marshfield, Jackson Ott of Pullman, WA, Sydney Ott of Marshfield; Jeanette Peplinski (Luke Heller) of Schofield, Jacob Peplinski (Aria Horswill) of Stevens Point; Benjamin (Laurie) Demmerly of Rexford, MT, William Demmerly of Milladore, Joshua Demmerly of Kalispell, MT, Caleb (Mia) Demmerly of Whitefish, MT, Nathanael Demmerly of Rexford, MT, Grace Demmerly of Rexford, MT, and Elizabeth Demmerly of Rexford, MT; and 18 great-grandchildren. Jeanette is also survived by her only sister-in-law, Nancy Eberhardy of Hartland, and her five children, Jim, Mary, Barb, Margie, and John. Jeanette will be greatly missed, but her family will strive to carry on her legacy and character in their lives.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband James Kollross, her parents, George, Anna, and Catherine Eberhardy, brother Robert Eberhardy, and daughter-in-law Patti Kollross.

Condolences may be sent online at [www.rembsfh.com](http://www.rembsfh.com)



## PEGGY SUE MAKOVEC

Peggy Sue Makovec, age 65 of Stratford, WI, peacefully passed away at home on Sunday, March 30, 2025, after her 5-year battle with cancer.

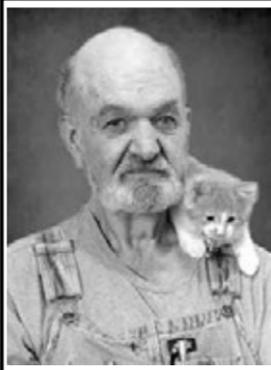
Peggy was born on November 19, 1959, in Athens, WI to David and Dorothy Bergman. She grew up in Athens with her sister Connie. Peggy was united in marriage to Gerald Stahnke on May 8, 1976. They had two boys together, David and Jason. They later divorced. Peggy worked at Tombstone

Pizza for 15 years. During that time, she met her husband, Thomas Makovec. They were married on September 22, 1984. Tom became a second father to David and Jason and later added Amanda and Dana to the family. For those who know Peggy, she loved horses and her family.

Peggy is survived by her husband of 40 years, Thomas Makovec; children: David (Lisa) Stahnke, Jason (Candace) Stahnke, Amanda Makovec (David Mirko), Dana Makovec (Robert Rudebush), sister: Connie Bergman (David "Beaner" Lemke); brother Dan (Tracy) Schultze; step-brother: Darrell Schultze; stepsisters: Hilda and Roberta, 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her father David Bergman; step-father: Robert "Buck" Schultze, and mother, Dorothy Schultze.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Cleveland Town Hall (214261 County Hwy M, Stratford, WI) on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Food and refreshments will be provided.



## RUSSEL H. BROCKMAN

Russel H. Brockman, 84 passed away on March 22, 2025 surrounded by his family after a seven month battle with MDS and hospital acquired complications.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:00pm on Saturday, March 29 at St. James Catholic Church in Vesper, WI with Father Nathan officiating. The family will welcome friends for visitation from 10am until time of service. Interment will follow in the parish cemetery.

Russ was the son of Harold and Doris (Winch) Brockman. He attended Maryheart School in Pittsville. He was united in marriage to Arlene Ashbeck, his wife of 63 years, in 1961. Russ worked for PreWay in Wisconsin Rapids for 10 years and farmed for 61 years.

Russ was a fireman with the Sherry Fire Department. He was known by the kids in Central Wisconsin as "The Train Man". Russel enjoyed wearing his striped bib overalls and engineer cap and seeing the smiles of excitement as he drove kids around in his train at various summer events with their Rainbow Fun inflatables business.

Russel is survived by his wife of over 63 years, Arlene, daughter Pam (Miles) Johns, son Dean (Sheryl) Brockman, and daughter-in-law Connie Brockman. Grandchildren: Jennie, Amber (Jason), Becca (Chris), Jodi (Ryan), Taylor (Jack), Kandy (Shawn), and Scott (Laura). His is further survived by nine great grandchildren, sisters Rachel Lamb, Mary Knuth, Eileen Shields, and Ruth Mead; brothers Duane Brockman and Kenneth (Carol) Brockman, and sister-in-law Beverly Brockman, and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his eldest son Jeffery, his parents, sister Audrey, brother Douglas, sister-in-law Kathy, Brother-in-laws Earl Lamb, Thomas McCarthy, and Cecil Mead.

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- Chicken Nuggets, 5 lbs. **\$9<sup>95</sup>**
- Canadian Bacon, 2.5 lbs. (Case of 4, \$14.50) **\$3<sup>95</sup>**
- Breaded Cheese Curds, 2 lbs. **\$6<sup>95</sup>**
- Pacific Seafood Steamers Clams Fully Cooked, 1 lb. (Case of 10, \$39.90) **\$4<sup>35</sup>**
- Salmon Portions, 2 lbs. **\$9<sup>95</sup>**
- Lloyd's Original BBQ Baby Back Pork Ribs, 2.5 lbs. **\$9<sup>95</sup>**
- Ricks Cheesy Bread, 9.67 oz. **\$1<sup>55</sup>**
- Hershey's 100% Cocoa, 8 oz. (Case of 12, \$28.05) **\$2<sup>55</sup>**
- Kretschmar Sliced Mild Cheddar Cheese **\$2<sup>75</sup>/lb.**
- Philadelphia Cream Cheese 2 pk., 1 lb. (Case of 18, \$48.70) **\$2<sup>95</sup>**
- Flour Tortillas, 12 ct., 20 oz. (Case of 12, \$14.85) **\$1<sup>35</sup>**
- UTZ Party Mix, 60 ct., 60 oz. **\$11<sup>95</sup>**
- Nescafé Instant Coffee, 7.06 oz. **\$6<sup>95</sup>**
- Hershey's Reese's Assortment 21.8 oz. **\$3<sup>95</sup>**
- Reese's Cups Dark Thins, 7.37 oz. **\$2<sup>35</sup>**
- Rolo Dark Salted Caramel 10.1 oz. **\$2<sup>75</sup>**
- Hershey's Milk Chocolate Kisses 10.8 oz. **\$2<sup>75</sup>**
- Cherry Tootsie Roll Pops, 12.6 oz. **\$2<sup>95</sup>**
- Jolly Rancher Very Berry Gummies, 13 oz. **\$2<sup>35</sup>**
- Twizzler's Strawberry Twists 1 lb. **95¢**
- Twizzler's Licorice Twists, 1 lb. **\$1<sup>75</sup>**
- Hershey's Nuggets Assortment 15.6 oz. **\$3<sup>75</sup>**

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## BARBARA MUELLER

Barbara Ann Mueller, a passionate force of nature whose likeness and energy is emblazoned in her beloved children and granddaughters, died March 28 at Marshfield Clinic Hospital in Wisconsin surrounded by her family. She was 66.

Born to Marlowe and Margaret Moehnke on April 10, 1958, in Minneapolis, Minn., she moved to Eyota after her father graduated from Dunwoody College.

Barbara graduated from Dover-Eyota High School in 1976, marrying her high school sweetheart Greg in 1977. The two have been inseparable since. Barbara graduated from St. Paul Barber College and started her first career as a master barber in Rochester. In that period, she and Greg welcomed their two children, Andrew and Jennifer, the lights of their lives.

In 1986, the family moved to Houston, Texas, when Greg was transferred with IBM, a computer technology company. Barbara returned to school to pursue her true passion of nursing, earning a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

She was a born caregiver. Over the years, she has worked as a diabetes educator at St. Joseph Medical Center in Houston, a nurse manager at Houston Methodist St. John Hospital, and at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, Wis. Her most treasured position was her last one, as a nurse educator at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Time with her students brought her among the greatest joys, and she was deeply invested in their successes, recounting them passionately to family and friends.

Barbara was known for her fierce spirit, kindness, generosity, and creativity. She loved colorful scarves and an ever-present glass of iced tea (with extra ice, if you please.) She was wildly competitive, always ready to win at board games during family gatherings. She was also exceptionally artistic and took pride in her jewelry making, cooking, and couture sewing.

After Greg bought a Harley Davidson, she was thrilled at going on motorcycle trips across the country with her love. She also enjoyed antiquing and interior decorating and spending time with her "girls" at their monthly breakfast date at what they lovingly nicknamed the "wrinkle room."

But what brought her the greatest joy was being a grandmother. She cherished her granddaughters, Coco and Halina, spending time with them baking, throwing tea parties, and spoiling them with treats.

They were Grammy's girls. And the adoration was mutual. She is missed more than words can say, but the family is grateful that she is no longer in pain.

Barbara is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, Greg; children Andrew and wife Tracy; Jennifer and husband Scott; grandchildren Halina and Cordelia; sisters Nancy Hammel (Tony) and Carla Brunsvold (Scott); sister-in-law Nancy Hansen (Dave); and brothers-in-law Dan Mueller and John Mueller. She is preceded in death by her parents Margaret Moehnke and Marlowe Moehnke.

The family is incredibly grateful to the medical team at the Mayo Clinic and the Marshfield Clinic Hospital ICU and palliative care for their exceptional care and support.

Services for Barbara will be held at Rembs Celebration Center, 250 S. Oak Ave, Marshfield, Wis., on Friday, April 25 from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be directed to the National Kidney Foundation at <https://kidneytribute.rallybound.org/barbaramueller> Condolences may be sent online at [www.rembsfh.com](http://www.rembsfh.com)

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Ben Bauer, executive director of Exclamation Services at Simplicity Credit Union, holds the two Diamond Awards the organization won at the Marketing, PR & Development Council's annual competition for marketing excellence. **Submitted photo**

## Simplicity Credit Union earns top awards at national competition

**FOR THE HUB CITY TIMES**  
AUSTIN, Texas – A local credit union earned two top awards for marketing excellence at a recent national competition.

Simplicity Credit Union was among 180 credit unions nationwide named as winners of the prestigious Diamond Award, the Marketing, PR & Development Council's competition for marketing excellence.

Simplicity CU received a Diamond Award in the Logo category for RISE Account branding, and another for its "How will you RISE?" campaign in the Complete Campaign category.

"I'm beyond excited that, with the incredible creativity of our marketing team, Exclamation Services, we've earned these Diamond Awards," said Nick Faber, Simplicity's CEO. "It's proof that when passion meets purpose, great things happen."

Credit unions, advertising agencies and associations submitted 1,400 submissions for the awards. In all, 180 organizations from 42 states were selected as winners.

"We are truly thrilled to celebrate Simplicity CU and the other Diamond

Award winners with such a prestigious recognition," said Lesli Bishop, co-chair of the Diamond Awards and chief marketing officer at Family Savings Credit Union in Gadsden, Ala. "These credit unions not only reflect the core values of the credit union movement, but they exemplify the forward-thinking and innovative strategies within our industry."

For more than 30 years, the Diamond Awards have celebrated the excellence in credit union marketing.

Headquartered in Marshfield, Simplicity CU serves more than 27,000 members throughout

Central Wisconsin. It has been honored for the last seven consecutive years as a Best Credit Union to Work For by American Banker magazine.

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

### Little Bursts Of Happiness

Dear Reader,

In a world bustling with deadlines, distractions, and the unrelenting hum of routine, it's easy to overlook the extraordinary in the ordinary. Yet, it's in those fleeting moments—at the checkout line, on a flight, or in a quick business transaction—where we hold the power to create something profound: a little burst of happiness.

It doesn't take much. A smile, a kind word, or a genuine question like, "How's your day going?" can transform an interaction from transactional to meaningful. Sometimes, though, a small token—a physical reminder of goodwill—can spark a ripple effect of positivity. My favorite? A \$2 bill.

The \$2 bill is iconic, rare enough to feel special but common enough to be accessible. Handing it to someone with a simple message—"This is for luck, and I hope it brings you good fortune"—does more than exchange paper. It says, I see you. You matter. I've passed them to retail clerks who look weary from hours of scanning barcodes, to pilots who ensure our safe passage through the skies, and to business associates navigating the grind.

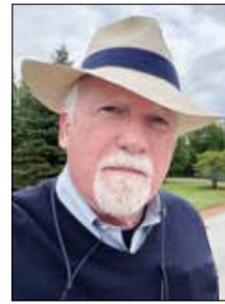
The reactions vary—some are puzzled, others light up with surprise—but almost always, there's a smile.

What happens next is where the magic begins. That \$2 bill becomes a conversation starter, a keepsake, or maybe even a nudge toward dreaming bigger. It's not about the monetary value; it's about the gesture, the reminder that hope and good fortune are still within reach. The beauty of these small acts is how they inspire us to try harder, be better, and dream more. They remind us that life, for all its unpredictability, holds space for kindness. And perhaps, with enough of these little bursts of happiness, we can create a world where the ordinary feels extraordinary.

So, the next time you find yourself face-to-face with someone in the course of your day, take a moment. Pass along a smile, a kind word, or even a \$2 bill. You never know how far that spark of hope might travel or how brightly it might shine.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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



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# High school seniors invited to Mid-State's Admit Day celebration

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Mid-State Technical College is inviting all high school seniors in its district to its annual Admit Day celebration event 9 a.m. to noon May 2 on the Wisconsin Rapids Campus.

Admit Day is the symbolic beginning of a student's college career and a celebration of their decision to enroll at Mid-State. At the event, students will receive a certificate of admission, tour campus, meet with their adviser and get to know their program instructors.

"We are so excited to host these new students and their families at our fifth-annual Admit Day and officially welcome them to the Mid-State community," said Jackie Esselman, dean of Recruitment and Admissions. "Our Admit Day event is held each year at the beginning of May to align with National College Decision Day. Deciding on a college after high school is a major life decision that deserves to be celebrated."

More than 1,500 local high school seniors were automatically accepted to Mid-State through its Direct Admission program in 2025. The effort is a partnership between Mid-State and local high schools to remove college admission barriers and further Wisconsin's 60 Forward initiative.

Learn more about Direct Admission and RSVP for Admit Day at [mstc.edu/direct-admission](http://mstc.edu/direct-admission).



Area high schoolers attend the 2024 Admit Day at Mid-State Technical College, along with the college's president, Shelly Mondeik, and the school mascot, Grit. This year's event will be May 2. **Submitted photo**

## VOTERS from page 3

a "pivotal moment." "As the city continues to expand its limits with limited infrastructure to support public safety, it is critical that we return to our 2021 staffing levels to ensure we can meet increasing demands and maintain effective emergency response," he said.

### Mixed results for school referendums

Wood County voters were split on area school referendums in Tuesday's election. In Auburndale, it was a split decision, with voters overwhelmingly supporting one referendum, but narrowly defeating the other. The first question – and the one that passed 1,331-627 – allows the school district to issue up to \$4.5 million

in general obligation bonds for district-wide renovations. Those changes include classroom updates, roof replacement, changes to heating-and-cooling systems and more.

It also will allow the high school to replace its track, which district officials say is "unsafe" to run on, which makes it impossible to host events.

The other question asked voters for up to \$9 million for improvements to the middle and high school, including expanding the main entrance to better monitor and control visitor access. It also would have expanded the cafeteria and auditorium space, among other renovations.

Voters, however, narrowly defeated that initiative, 989-934.

The Nekoosa School District referendum also was defeated, 2,053-1,792. School officials had asked residents if they could exceed revenue limits by \$2 million each year for the next five years. The referendum would have had an estimated property tax impact of 2 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

### Changes come to school boards

Voters in three Wood County school districts had their say in who will direct those districts in the coming year, with one incumbent losing his seat.

Dana Duncan was defeated in a three-way race for two open seats on the Port Edwards School Board, earning 433 votes. The vote tallies for the other candidates – incumbent Kathy McGrath and newcomer Krystal Sievers – were 791 and 449, respectively.

Meanwhile, Marshfield will see one new face – Dan Griesbach – while welcoming back incumbent Cathy Gorst. The seat Griesbach will occupy opened up when Dale Yakaites decided not to seek reelection.

The vote tallies in that race, with two open seats, were:

- Dan Griesbach, 4,360
  - Cathy Gorst (I), 3,725
  - Dominic Pernsteiner, 3,563
  - Coleman Grosbier, 3,102
- Wisconsin Rapids also saw some of its members stepping down. Julie

Timm did not seek another term on the board; Jaime Sparkes will now take her place after claiming more than 6,000 votes. Incumbent Troy Bier maintains his position after defeating two other challengers.

- Results in that race:
- Jaime Sparkes, 6,010
  - Troy Bier (I), 4,932
  - Craig Manka, 3,939
  - Steven Wasmundt, 2,957

### New faces on Marshfield Common Council

The Marshfield Common Council will see one new member after District 6 Alder Russ Stauber decided to not seek reelection.

Jan Delis will claim that seat after defeating Charles Norton, 274-215, in Tuesday's election. In a Facebook post, Delis thanked her supporters, adding she hopes she can "make them proud."

In District 10, incumbent Andrew Reigel will stay on after beating back a challenge from Debbie Katona, 262-216. Reigel first won that district in 2023 by just two votes. Both races this time were also tight, with less than 60 votes separating the candidates.

In Marshfield, alderpersons serve two-year terms, with half of the seats up for election each year. This year, the even-numbered districts were on the ballot. But the only two contested seats were in districts 6 and 10.

- The other alders retaining their seats are:
- District 2, Derek Wehrman
  - District 4, Council President Brian Varsho
  - District 8, Rebecca Spiros

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# Registration open for annual Paws for Brittany fundraiser



People walk the route during the 2024 Paws for Brittany fundraiser for the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter. This year's event will be May 10. **Submitted Photo**

### FOR THE CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Seventeen years ago, on April 2, 2008, the Marshfield community mourned the loss of Brittany Zimmermann, a cherished daughter, friend, and compassionate advocate. In remembrance of her legacy, the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS) invites the community to participate in the annual Paws for Brittany event on May 10.

Paws for Brittany is more than just a walk/run; it's a heartfelt tribute to a remarkable individual who touched the lives of many. This year's event will be held at Wildwood Park, providing a scenic backdrop for participants to gather, celebrate Brittany's life, and support her passion for animals.

Online registration is open at [www.marshfieldpetshelter.org/pawsforbrittany](http://www.marshfieldpetshelter.org/pawsforbrittany). Early bird registrants who sign up before April 23 will receive a 2025

event T-shirt. After April 23, the registration fee will be \$40.

Same-day registration will be available, beginning at 8 a.m., followed by the walk/run at 9:00 a.m. Participants of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join for a day filled with community spirit, remembrance and support for a cause that was so important to Brittany. Adding to the event this year, a photo booth hosted by Lifeline Event Services will be available from 8 to 10 a.m.

Proceeds will directly benefit the rescued animals at Marshfield Area Pet Shelter, a cause that Brittany held dear to her heart. Donations also can be made in Brittany's memory on the shelter's website, [www.marshfieldpetshelter.org/pawsforbrittany](http://www.marshfieldpetshelter.org/pawsforbrittany)

For more information and to register, go to the shelter's website.

## MARSHFIELD AREA PET SHELTER PET OF THE WEEK



Hi, I'm a beautiful and silly girl named Buddy! I came to the shelter when my previous family could no longer care for me so I need a new home. I'm a mixed breed gal (possibly husky and retriever?) and I'm about 2 years old. I LOVE people and playing with other dogs. I didn't have much training before coming to the shelter so I'll need someone to teach me. I am an energetic girl at around 55 lbs so a big yard to play in with a dog friend would be great! I'm a total sweetheart who'd do great with any new family! If interested in meeting me complete an application and come for a visit!

Every dog, cat and child will react differently to a new pet, so proper and safe introductions are always important for a smooth and successful transition.

My adoption fee is \$225.

Marshfield Area Pet Shelter does not have open hours for public viewing of adoptable animals, rather are by appointment only.

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

Online application can be found at: [www.marshfieldpetshelter.org/adoption-application](http://www.marshfieldpetshelter.org/adoption-application)

Marshfield Area Pet Shelter can be reached by call or text at 715-486-5140.

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

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# Statewide tornado drills mark Severe Weather Awareness Week

**FOR THE CITY TIMES**

MADISON – Spring brings the blooming of flowers, the return of migrating birds and an increased risk of severe weather.

These storms can develop quickly, and knowing what to do when severe weather comes can keep everyone safe. To encourage preparation for tornadoes, thunderstorms and flooding, Wisconsin observes April 7-11 as Severe Weather Awareness Week, along with holding statewide tornado drills on April 10.

“It is essential people take time during this important week to ensure each Wisconsinite knows what to do when a tornado warning or severe storm is in their area,” said Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Greg Engle. “During Thursday’s tornado drills, we encourage families, businesses, and schools to spend a few minutes going over their plans and identifying where to seek shelter.”

Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes each year. In 2024, the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed 45 tornadoes in the state, the third highest documented number of tornadoes. This includes 22 in May, 18 of which touched down May 21.



To stay safe during severe weather, ReadyWisconsin encourages people to do the following:

- Create an emergency plan and practice it.
- Know where designated shelters are located at home, work and school. Be ready to go there when a tornado warning is issued.
- Have multiple ways to receive alerts about approaching severe weather. Outdoor warning sirens, NOAA Weather Radios, local media and mobile devices are all important tools. Don't rely on any single source for important life-saving information.
- If you have a mobile device, make sure it is enabled to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). On many devices, that option is available in the settings menu. Find out more about WEA at <https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/be-informed/be-alert/>.
- Stay weather aware by checking the daily forecast for your area.
- Create an emergency kit for your home. Find tips for making a kit at <https://readywisconsin.wi.gov>.

Wisconsin's annual statewide tornado drills will take place at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. April 10, offering an opportunity to practice your tornado sheltering plans. Schools, businesses and homes are encouraged to practice going to their nearest tornado shelter during the drills, as if there were an actual tornado warning in effect.

Ideal tornado shelters can include a basement, a ground floor interior room of a building, or a specially constructed safe room designed to withstand high winds and falling debris.

During the drill times, Wisconsin's NWS offices will conduct NOAA Weather Radio tests that can be heard if you are actively listening to those devices or have one programmed to activate on test alerts.

Local media outlets may also participate on the air or over social media. Some communities may also choose to test their outdoor warning sirens during the drill times. Check with local emergency management offices for information on siren testing schedules.

If there is a threat of severe weather in Wisconsin on April 10, the statewide drills will be postponed until April 11. The drills will go on in all other conditions, including non-severe weather (clouds, rain, dark sky, scattered thunderstorms, etc.).

If severe weather is also expected on Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Notification of the drill status will be posted at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov> by 10 a.m. April 10.

“Staying safe from severe weather is everyone’s responsibility,” Engle said. “While the statewide drills provide a coordinated time to practice what they should do during a tornado, the most important thing people can do is exercise their plan when they can safely do so, even if it needs to be at a different time.”

For more information on emergency preparedness and advice on creating your own emergency plan, visit <https://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. You can also follow ReadyWisconsin on Facebook, X, Instagram, and Bluesky for tips on emergency preparedness throughout the year.

## Nominations open for Cranberry Board



MADISON –The state Department of Agriculture is accepting nominations for three seats on the Wisconsin Cranberry Board. Producers who grow and sell cranberries in Wisconsin are eligible to nominate themselves or other producers.

Forms can be requested by emailing [DATCPMarketOrders@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPMarketOrders@wisconsin.gov). All nominations must include the signatures of five eligible cranberry growers other than the nominee and must be mailed by May 30 to DATCP Market Orders Program, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911.

Elections run July 10 to Aug. 15, and elected growers serve three-year terms on the seven-member board beginning Sept. 1.

The board oversees about \$546,000 in fees paid by growers to support industry research, education and promotion of Wisconsin-grown cranberries.

## RESCUE from page 1

the missing woman, who was suffering from several health issues. Officials told Reis she recently had had a stroke, which had made her disoriented.

“We also found out she’s diabetic,” Reis said. “Getting that person quickly and getting their medications that they may need was really, really important.”

Without medication to stabilize her blood sugar, the woman potentially could have faced a diabetic emergency, including coma or even death. But, with proper treatment, the Mayo Clinic says the coma can be reversed.

Reis formulated a search area then launched his drone, which uses thermal imaging to detect body heat, especially useful in wooded areas and in the dark. But time was running short.

“I had about 45 minutes before the storm was going to hit,” Reis said.

He cleared each grid methodically, moving to new areas when nothing was shown on his screens. But then he got a positive hit. While it was a woman, she wasn’t the person they were searching for.

He kept looking, returning to an area officials had already searched on foot.

About five minutes after that first encounter, his persistence paid off.

“With the equipment we use I dropped a pin on her,” Reis said. “That gave police a GPS coordinate where they could go. Within minutes they had her.”

Reis first met Nick Wayerski, owner of Marshfield Drones, in 2012 at the Central Wisconsin State Fair, where Wayerski had a display of 3D-printed drones. But it took about another year before Reis met Brad Smith, co-founder



Dan Reis displays one of the drones he uses to search for missing people. Reis is a member of Wings of Hope, a nonprofit that volunteers in search-and-rescue efforts.

**Peggy Sue Behselich / Hub City Times**

of Wings of Hope. They all worked together to form the nonprofit.

“The first time we found a gal up in Medford, and she was alive where by morning she would have been dead, that was a huge win for us,” Reis said. “Brad was literally jumping up and down, running up and down the road, he was so excited.”

And while Wings of Hope’s main mission is to find missing people, they do have bills to pay.

“Most of the time we spend searching for stuff, it’s not people,” Reis said. “We’re looking for lost dogs, we’re looking for deer, all kinds of stuff, which really keeps us on top of our equipment.”

For those searches, they do charge a fee. There are also the startup costs. Drones that use thermal imaging can cost thousands of dollars.

“Most (police departments) don’t have a budget to purchase the particular equipment we have because it’s very expensive,” Reis said.

So far, he said he’s invested more than \$40,000 in equipment.

Reis and the other Wings of Hope volunteers all are licensed commercial drone pilots. That means that they can fly for-hire, are insured and know the laws. For instance, the Federal Aviation Administration requires drones to stay below 400 feet. Pilots also must keep the drone in sight and avoid other aircraft.

While Wings of Hope doesn’t do it for recognition, they do want to get the word out to other first responders that they’re here to help – no matter the time, or the weather.

“Storm or not, I would have continued to fly until I had located her or exhausted all possible areas that she was at,” Reis said.

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# Area veterans prepare for Never Forgotten Honor Flight

### FOR THE CITY TIMES

WAUSAU – More than 100 area veterans will make their way from Central Wisconsin to Washington, D.C., on April 14 for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight.

The veterans – 103 of whom served during the Vietnam War, and 1 who served during the Korean War – will see the memorials that honor their service. It will be the organization's 51st flight since the first Never Forgotten Honor Flight took place April 27, 2010.

Accompanying the veterans on the one-day round trip will be 69 guardians. The flight departs Central Wisconsin Airport at 6:30 a.m. and is scheduled to return at about 10 p.m.

The public is invited to the Central Wisconsin Airport to welcome veterans home Monday night, and Honor Flight officials recommend arriving no later than 8:30 p.m. Free parking for those welcoming these veterans home will be provided. Never Forgotten Honor Flight (NFHF) veteran alumni are encouraged to wear their NFHF-issued clothing (hat, shirt or windbreaker) for the welcome home ceremony.

After Monday's trip, the Never Forgotten Honor Flight will have flown 4,977 veterans to Washington, D.C. All veterans that served prior to May 7, 1975, are encouraged to submit an application. The only criteria for veterans to qualify for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight is to have served (active duty, reserves or national guard) prior to May



7, 1975, regardless of where they served.

Veterans receive a free round-trip flight, and guardians pay \$500 for the opportunity to accompany one, two or three veterans on the trip. Veterans and guardians interested in taking a future Honor Flight must complete an application online at [www.neverforgottenhonorflight.com](http://www.neverforgottenhonorflight.com) or by calling (715) 573-8519 for a mailed copy. Those applications, once completed, can be mailed to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, 225780 Rib Mountain Drive, #234, Wausau, WI 54401.

The veterans are selected based upon the order in which their applications are received and the

conflict they served in. Priority is given to World War II-era veterans, then Korea-era veterans, followed by Vietnam. Veterans who are terminally ill, regardless of when they served in those three eras, are given top priority.

Guardians should be 18-69 years old and able to lend physical assistance to the veterans. Guardians cannot be a spouse or significant other.

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight Hub based in Wausau serves veterans in 13 counties: Marathon, Portage, Wood, Clark, Taylor, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas, Iron, Barron, Price and Rusk.

## CLARK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PET OF THE WEEK



**M  
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Meet Maximus, the CCHS Pet of the Week! Maximus came to CCHS earlier this March from a local farm where there were too many dogs. This handsome Mixed Breed guy is about 10 months old (estimated DOB 5/24/24) and weighs 20.6 pounds currently. He is estimated to be a mix of Heeler and Pomeranian, although we really can't say for sure. He is a very handsome with his soft and fluffy coat that is golden red with some white highlights. Maximus is a little firecracker! He has a ton of personality to spare, just needs a furever family to show it off to. Maximus is incredibly smart and would love to spend his time learning new tricks with you! He's now been vaccinated, neutered, dewormed and microchipped, so he's ready to go to his new home any time. With any rescue, training and socialization are incredibly important to the success of the pup. Apply for Maximus today!

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

Phone number: 715-743-4550.

Email: [petsHELTER@email.com](mailto:petsHELTER@email.com)

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

Located at W3926 State Hwy 73, Neillsville, WI 54456

To fill out an application for Maximus head to Clark County Humane Society's website or the application can be found at [bit.ly/CCHSadopt](http://bit.ly/CCHSadopt).

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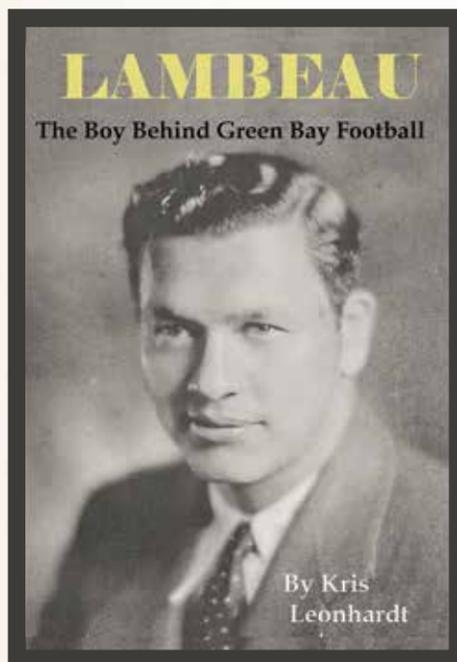
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# “A Fascinating TALE”



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

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

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

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

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Janke's Book Store, Wausau

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Amazon: <https://a.co/d/fj1A3NE>

Shop MMC: <https://shopmmclocal.com/product/lambeau>

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

# MARSHFIELD AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS



### Grant – Cereal Drive

The Grant Elementary 6th Grade Leadership team held a cereal drive and collected 687 boxes of cereal. They used the boxes of cereal to make a domino train before donating them to a local food pantry. Mrs. Meverden's class won the challenge of donating the most boxes of cereal.

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### Washington – Bounty of Love

Washington Elementary recently held a food and hygiene drive called Bounty of Love. Instead of bringing in Valentine's, students were encouraged to bring their grade-level assigned item (bar of soap, noodles, peanut butter, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.). Soup or Socks provided a list of the assigned items, allowing Washington to truly know what is currently needed in our community. Overall, Washington students collected 598 items. The sixth-grade leadership team organized and counted every item. This was Washington's 11th year working with Soup or Socks, incorporating the Bounty of Love Drive.



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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

# MARSHFIELD AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL NEWS



## Madison – Cereal Drive

Madison Elementary collaborated with the Marshfield High School (MHS) Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Student Council to collect cereal for Soup or Socks. Madison students collected more than 300 boxes of cereal. Sixth graders set the boxes up, and the school enjoyed watching the domino show.



## Lincoln – Penny War

The 6th grade Leadership Team at Lincoln Elementary organized a Penny War to raise money to build a gaga pit for the school playground. The theme of the Penny War was "Drop a Penny, Build a Pit" and raised an incredible \$1,699.80. The initial goal of \$1,000 was met in just four school days. A second goal of \$1,500 was surpassed, with an incredible \$1,699.80 raised in the two-week period, crushing both goals. A huge shout-out to our Lincoln Leadership team – Zaylie A., Cameron S., Chase T., Shia S. and Miss Heath – for planning and running the Penny War and to Lincoln Elementary for making the event a success.



## Nasonville – Holiday Shop

The Nasonville Elementary Holiday Shop was a huge success, raising an impressive \$2,460.57 for the Ronald McDonald House Charities-Marshfield. The annual event began in 2018 and is organized by sixth-grade teacher Brooke Altman. Each year, staff members nominate and select a family or organization to receive the funds. Thank you to everyone who donated items and to the amazing volunteers who made this event a success. Generosity and hard work truly make a difference.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION:** 186 Storage LLC 8039 Hwy 186, Arpin, WI 54410, will hold an on-line auction to take place at [www.bid13.com](http://www.bid13.com). Auction will start April 1st, 2025 and end April 23, 2025. Bidding is on the complete contents of the unit. Units include in sale are: Unit C14 Cory Halter of Marshfield, WI. Contents of the unit include furniture, cleaning supplies, cooler, clothes, games, holiday decorations. [www.bid13.com](http://www.bid13.com)

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**Village Wide Rummage Sale 7001**

**Richfield Area Block Sales**  
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# Utility shut-off moratorium ends April 15



**FOR THE CITY TIMES**  
**MARSHFIELD** – The end of the moratorium on disconnection of electric service for customers who have gotten behind on their energy bills ends April 15, and utility officials want people who have fallen behind on their bills to know they have options.

Marshfield Utilities has sent customers multiple notices if they are at risk of disconnection, and officials say it's important these customers contact Marshfield Utilities to set up a payment plan to get caught up on their bill to

avoid disconnection. There are also energy assistance programs that can help those who are behind. More information about those programs is available by contacting Energy Services, Community Action Agency or the Marshfield Utilities payment assistance.

MU also offers a deferred payment arrangement plan that allows customers who have gotten behind on their bills to spread their outstanding balance over several months instead of paying it all at once. Call

(715) 387-1195 for details and questions.

# Event honors first responders, 'hidden' heroes

**FOR THE CITY TIMES**

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS** – An upcoming event will honor the people who work – often behind the scenes – to keep the community safe, functional and thriving.

A Standing Ovation is a tribute to not only first responders -- firefighters, police officers and EMTs – but also the “hidden heroes” whose efforts frequently go unnoticed. These essential workers include garbage collectors, snowplow operators, school custodians and more.

“These are the people who make daily life possible,” said Jeremy Schmidt, event chairperson. “This event is about stepping back and saying ‘thank you’ in a meaningful way.”

Doors open at 4 p.m., featuring an Outdoor Hero exhibit showcasing equipment, tools and stories from first responders and hidden heroes.

A formal dinner and ceremony begins at 6 p.m., where community leaders will recognize groups and individuals for their contributions.

Among those is keynote speaker Morgan

Ferrari, owner of All Seasons Facility Maintenance Inc., whose snow removal company dispatched dozens of crews around the country to respond to this winter's unusual snowfall.

Attendance is limited to 150 guests, and tickets are expected to sell quickly.

“We're excited to host a night of gratitude, recognition and connection – and even more excited that the proceeds will directly support organizations making a difference for first responders, hidden heroes and their families,” Schmidt said.

Proceeds will go to Critical Incident Stress Management, which provides mental health and peer support services for first responders dealing with trauma; and to Families of Our Community United in Support, which helps families of first responders during times of crisis.

Doors open at 4 p.m. April 19 at Hotel Mead. Tickets cost \$50 per person and are available by calling (715) 423-1500.

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Schmidt at (715) 423-1500 or sales@hotelmead.com.

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| HISTORY |

# Showstopper: Filling a need

BY KRIS LEONHARDT  
MMC SENIOR EDITOR

*Continued from previous week*

As the city of Marshfield lay in ruins the morning of June 28, 1887, residents sat reeling from the events of the previous day.

Marshfield had not seen rain in three weeks. The air was dry, and the wind was heavy as the Upham lumber yard bustled with the energy that a Monday morning during the height of mill season brings.

Wood and sawdust filled the yard as 17 million feet of lumber lay awaiting its destination.

When the 11:45 a.m. whistle blew on June 27 to signal mid-day, hungry workers scattered to their homes and break areas for a rest. As the workers enjoyed their temporary respite, a Wisconsin Central train entered the city, stopping on a spur near the mill to empty its firebox.

The wind and nearby sawdust provided all that

was needed for a spark to trail from the firebox into the awaiting propellant. Soon, there was a flame.

Everett A. Upham, the mill's chief engineer, was the first to sound the alarm, and the volunteer fire department began preparing its hose cart stored on the corner of West Third Street and Chestnut Avenue.

Firemen connected the two available water lines and moved the rail cars, and the fire grew more intense as it bounced around the waiting wood and sawdust. The fire grew so hot that the firemen ran, leaving their hoses to burn in the growing blaze. As water spilled onto the ground, Upham cut the line from the pump to the hydrants and tried to protect the mill's powerhouse.

Once the fire reached the mill pond, which was then located within the confines of West Second Street, Oak Avenue, West First Street and Spruce Street,



Marshfield following the fire, looking northward from the corner of West Third Street and Maple Avenue.

Photo courtesy of the North Wood County Historical Society

the log-covered pond was set ablaze. The sky turned black with smoke as the fire then made its way through the mill and into

the business district.

Marshfield business owners and residents helplessly watched as building after building disappeared before their eyes while the city struggled to get the fire under control. By 4:30 p.m. the flames were finally contained, and by 5 p.m. the fire had been extinguished.

Experiencing the devastating loss of shelter, food, clothing, trade tools and ultimately their jobs and sole sources of income, many escaped with just the clothes on their backs. Loss from the fire was estimated at \$4 million, but not a single life was taken by the disaster.

The following day, residents looked for leadership from someone, anyone who could tell them where to go from there.

That leadership came promptly at 6 a.m. that morning as Major William H. Upham stood before his flagpole.

With each pull of the halyard, Upham placed his strength and determination. He would rebuild his factory, and he would rebuild right here.

The upright and steadfast actions of Upham — owner of the Upham Manufacturing Company and employer to many of the German Catholic families in the Marshfield

area — set a precedence for a damaged but not disheartened city.

Hearing the call, Philip Adler fell in line, laying out plans for a two-story building on the corner of South Central Avenue and Second Street, on a large parcel of property he now owned.

This building soon became home to displaced businesses and new proprietors alike, as the city struggled to raise itself out of the pile of ash and refuse.

Once the framework was in place for the numerous businesses and residences lost, the city looked to rebuild its social structure. While much of the city's entertainment revolved around the pianos in people's homes and the bars of the saloons, it also remained inside the church and fraternal organizations. In addition, the city's only amusement center, Hinman Hall, had been claimed by the destructive fire.

*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.

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| SPORTS |



# Central Wisconsin youth wrestlers shine at championships

**FOR THE CITY TIMES**

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS** – The Wisconsin Rapids Youth Wrestling club showcased its talent at the WWF Folkstyle Championships, held March 28-31 in Madison, with an impressive 17 qualifiers. Seven of these young athletes placed in the top six, including state champion Hudson Fuller at 48 pounds.

Hudson's victory is a testament to perseverance and dedication. Reflecting on his season, his father Doug Fuller emphasized the life lessons wrestling imparts.

"The greatest thing about wrestling is that it teaches you about life. When you're down, life will come down on you harder. What wrestling teaches you is how to battle through



The Wisconsin Rapids Youth Wrestling club showcased its talent at the WWF Folkstyle Championships, held March 28-31 in Madison, with an impressive 17 qualifiers. Shown are, back row from left, Bentley Goodenough, Chad Hamel, Jackson Stanton and Wyatt Fuller; and front row from left, Riley Morin, Waylon Fuller, Dalton Jackson, Declan Tritz, Braxton Bagnowski, Kobe Baltus and Levi Jaminski. **Submitted photos**



Hudson Fuller (48 pounds), left, won the state championship at the WWF Folkstyle Championships, held March 28-31 in Madison. He's shown with fellow wrestlers Greysen Ganski and Reed Akkerman.

those tough times and find it within yourself to come out of it," Fuller said. "That sums up Hudson's season. He took losses along the way, but he worked his way back. He earned it in every possible way. There is no easy way."

For Hudson, the experience was unforgettable.

"I am really proud of myself. Running out of the tunnel to the finals was amazing," he said. "I want to thank my teammates and coaches who helped me through the season, especially my dad."

In addition to Hudson's championship, Wisconsin Rapids also had two second-place finishers: Waylon Fuller (78 pounds) and Bentley Goodenough (125 pounds). The team saw three fourth-place finishes from Greysen Ganski (54 pounds), Colten DeMarco (81 pounds) and Reed Akkerman (80 pounds), while Hazel Holden (95 pounds) secured a fifth-place finish.

Coach Ben Brueggen

expressed his pride in the team's performance.

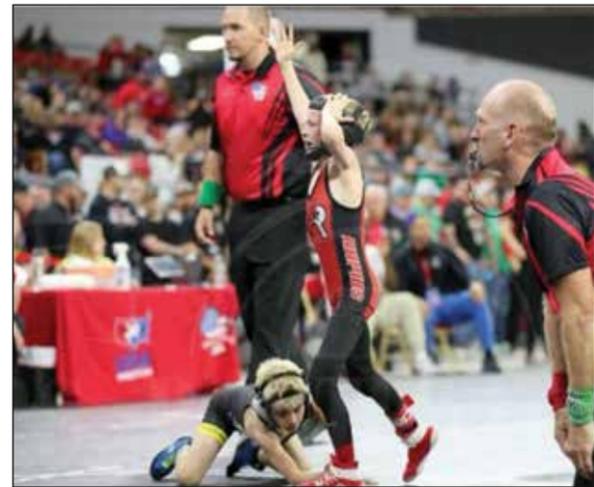
"I am beyond proud of how our athletes and coaches represented the Rapids Wrestling Program in Madison this past weekend," he said. "All of these kids put in a lot of extra work in the season and off-season, and to see it come to fruition is a truly rewarding moment for a coach."

"As a whole, all of our qualifiers had a combined record of 49 wins and 28 losses. That is truly an astounding statistic and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our kids and coaching staff."

The following wrestlers qualified for the state tournament: Hudson Fuller (48 pounds), Greysen Ganski (54 pounds), Kobe Baltus (54 pounds), Zoey Vavrina (65 pounds),

Declan Tritz (72 pounds), Levi Jaminski (73 pounds), Braxton Bagnowski (75 pounds), Waylon Fuller (78 pounds), Reed Akkerman (80 pounds), Colten DeMarco (81 pounds),

Dalton Jackson (85 pounds), Jackson Stanton (94 pounds), Hazel Holden (95 pounds), Riley Morin (95 pounds), Wyatt Fuller (100 pounds) and Bentley Goodenough (125 pounds).



Hudson Fuller (48 pounds) won the state championship at the WWF Folkstyle Championships, held March 28-31 in Madison.

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DIRECTED BY: AMANDA LEURQUIN

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