



Wausau

Times

Buyers' Guide

U.S. Mailed to Kronenwetter, Mosinee, Rib Mountain, Rothschild, Schofield, Wausau and Weston

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# Prevail Bank is collection site for Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive • Feb 23 - Mar 16



Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>

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Prevail Bank is happy to share that six of its branches are collection sites for the 33rd annual Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive (from February 23 – March 16, 2025), an event organized by The Family Radio Network

to assist local crisis programs. All donations remain in the communities where they are collected. They help make it possible for these local homeless coalitions and other crisis agencies to focus their limited financial resources to providing qualified staff, safe housing, nutritious food, education, and counseling to those they serve.

One crisis agency representative shared that one of the greatest unmet needs of crisis clients is hygiene products: laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, and toothpaste. Other urgently needed items include bathroom tissue, cleaning supplies, deodorant, diapers/baby care, face/bath soap, feminine care, paper towels, razors, textured hair care,

and trash bags. Financial donations are also welcome. Visit one of the following Prevail Bank branches (listed in alpha order by location) Eau Claire, Marshfield, Medford, Owen, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids to drop off your hygiene and cleaning supply contributions. For more information go to: TheFamily.net or call 800-236-9364.



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# Close Calls but House Saved



## MERRILL FIRE DEPT

Just after 5:15 PM on February 13th, the Merrill Fire Department (FD) was dispatched to a detached garage fire in close proximity to the house at 606 Cottage St. in the City of Merrill. Engine-61 responded immediately to the scene with only 2

personnel. The remaining 3 on duty staff members were on a separate ambulance call with a patient that they had just revived and transported to Wausau Hospital. Upon arrival of Engine-61, they found heavy smoke and fire coming from behind the house in the detached



garage. With assistance from law enforcement officers on scene, hoselines were deployed to try to prevent the spread of the fire to the nearby house. Mutual aid was requested from Corning, Pine River, Russell, and Wausau Fire Departments along with Tomahawk EMS. Initial fire operations were very difficult due to limited FD personnel, water supply issues, weather, and unruly bystanders. During those same initial operations, emergency personnel had a close call with a downed powerline and two police officers ended up being evaluated at a local hospital for smoke inhalation.

Fortunately no other injuries were reported and the police officers were released that night. While the garage and the contents inside were a total loss, the fire was contained to the garage and the house only received exterior heat damage. Due to loss of power to the house, occupants were put up at a local hotel for the night. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but at this time it does not appear suspicious. Two bystanders were arrested for interfering with firefighting operations. Wisconsin Public Service and Merrill Street Department also assisted at the scene.

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## PUBLISHER’S LETTER

### Grave Thoughts From The Graveyard

Dear Reader,

Today, I visited a graveyard to pay respects to a recently departed family member. The cemetery was vast, and we found ourselves lost amidst rows of unfamiliar headstones. After wandering both on foot and by car, weaving past names unknown to us, we finally reached the gravesite.

Standing there, I couldn't help but think about this place—where those who were once so visible and vibrant in life are laid to rest, becoming part of the quiet, unremembered landscape. The sun beat down with hardly any shade, and the graves seemed tightly packed, which made me wonder about the business side of burial plots—how every inch is planned, sold, and filled.

But more than that, my mind wandered to the fate of the souls. After death, where do they go? Surely, they don't linger here. While the dead no longer have a care or say in their resting place, there's an undeniable finality to it. They are gone from the world we know; and at an immediate or lingered point in time, their bodies become the forgotten invisible. After all of their toils, they are buried away somewhere out of sight, and out of mind.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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



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by Patrick Wood

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# Practical Wisdom for Everyday Life



## COMMUNITY SUBMISSION: LORETTA ULMSCHEIDER, C.P.K.

There's nothing more practical than understanding more about what is true. Like a good map, it makes it easier to get where we want to go. Life's challenges can help us grow in wisdom. What gems of wisdom have you gained from life experiences? Would you enjoy exploring new gems? If so please consider attending a series of presentations/discussions at the Institute of Kinlein, 408 Third St., #300, Wausau. For more info, call 715-842-7399 or go to [www.kinlein.org](http://www.kinlein.org)

### The Joy of Listening

Listening is a way to respect the dignity and inherent worth of each person. Being willing and open to receive the meaning in the words of a stranger, friend, family member or someone we disagree with is work. This class will explore the many processes involved in fully listening to others. Much joy can be found as our hearts set aside opinions, judgements and making a reply, as we listen without interruption to a unique human being. Thurs., 2/27 10:30 - Noon; OR 6 - 7:30 pm

### Caring-with People

What is the nature of caring in many different kinds of relationships? What helps us sustain ourselves as we give from our hearts? Come and explore: the dignity, power and responsibility of every human being; principles that provide a roadmap for harmonious living; and the paradigm shift of caring-with others. Thurs., 3/6 10:30 am - Noon; OR 6 - 7:30 pm Instructor: Loretta Ulmschneider, C.P.K., Practice of Kinlein for 40 yrs., assisting clients as they build on all that is good, strong and beautiful within them. Faculty member of the Institute of Kinlein.



25 Years of Hoarding Fun

Artwork by local artist Dan Biesel.

## Evercon Gaming Convention

## COMMUNITY SUBMISSION: BRENT ZASTROW

This year is the 25th Anniversary for the event in the Wausau area. It starts 11 am Friday, February 28th and ends 5 pm Sunday, March 2nd at Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center. This event brings in over 1500 attendees for the weekend. It's not the stereotypical D&D convention that people may perceive it to be.

This is an entertainment convention. Every year, Evercon tries to build on the past year for attendees to enjoy over 3 days. This year, Evercon is adding Breaking into Broadway - Improv group. Evercon has the 2nd largest video game museum in Wisconsin located in salon C with tournaments and live video game themed music performances. Frontline Pro wrestling and The Saber Legion in salon A.

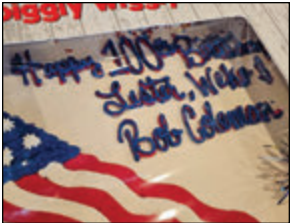
Full entertainment/gaming vendor hall in salon B. Artist alley is located along the hallway outside of the salon rooms with area artists and crafters. In the Grand ballroom you can find open gaming (friends can check out board games from the game library to play), game tournaments and demos. Stage events - Cosplay, Improv, Trivia, Guest speakers and more.

The Stateroom off of the Grand ballroom will have organized board games, role-playing games, and tabletop miniature games. Well over 300 total events are scheduled for the weekend. Silent charity auction run by the Everest gaming club with 100% of the proceeds going to this year's charity Autism Society of Central Wisconsin. All of this is available for attendees with the admission fee.



# WWII Veterans turn 100 years old

STORY COURTESY OF  
MIKE HEILMANN



The Veterans Weekly Cup-of-Coffee group at Denny's in Rothschild celebrated and honored two of its WWII veterans 100th year birthdays on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Lester Weko's birthday was on Monday, Feb. 3.

Bob Coleman's birthday will be on Monday, Nov. 3.

Lester Weko enlisted in the Army-Air Force at the age of 17. He served honorably during World War II from 1943 to 1949. He served two years in Hawaii and three years in the reserves. He was a T-4 Technical Sergeant and worked in the Army Motor Pool.

Lester recently celebrated his 100th birthday with his family and friends at Immanuel

Baptist Church in Rib Mountain. He also received special recognition as a Centenarian Veteran for reaching the 100-year milestone with a framed letter from the Secretary of Veteran Affairs in Washington.

Lester is a past Chaplain of the "Veterans Weekly Cup-of-Coffee" group and the Wausau American Legion Post 10. He also served as Senior Pastor at four churches in Wisconsin. Including Immanuel Baptist Church in Rib Mountain. Lester is a master joke teller and he captivates our entire audience each week at the Cup-of-Coffee meetings.

Bob Coleman served in the Navy during World War II from 1943 to 1946. He served six months aboard the Destroyer USS Wipple DD217 in the Caribbean escorting freighter convoys through U-Boat waters. Bob also served aboard the LST 804 on D-Day in Okinawa.

Upon completion of his service, Bob went to college and became a teacher. He

taught 9th grade English and American Literature for 48 years with the last 31 years at D.C. Everest. He also was a JV wrestling and football coach. Bob was the Commander of Rothschild-Schofield-Weston VFW Post 8895 and is currently a member of the Mar-Lin VFW Post 10203 in Hamburg and Rothschild American Legion Post 492 where he worked with Joe Kelbley



Bob Coleman is seated on the left, Lester Weko is on the right.

to raise funds for the Gold Star Mothers Memorial Statue in the Rothschild Veterans Park.

## Aspirus Emergency Department Nurse Reflects on Her Be the Match Experience

You're giving someone a second chance at life, it makes you feel really good and it's rewarding.

### ASPIRUS HEALTH

Observed every year on February 14, National Donor Day is a time to focus on all types of donations – organ, eye, tissue, blood, platelets and marrow. It's a day designed to help save and heal more lives by sharing information about the importance of donation.

As an Emergency Department (ED) Nurse at Aspirus Langlade Hospital, Kristie Falk exemplifies the spirit of selflessness and compassion of the nursing profession. Beyond her daily commitment to patient care, she extended her dedication to saving lives by participating in the "Be The Match" (BTM) program.

"We were made aware of this program seven to eight years ago when a

member of my son's hockey team was diagnosed with leukemia," said Falk. "As they were considering treatment options, they shared information on the 'Be The Match' program and I signed up with the thought of possibly helping someone someday."

BTM, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, is a global leader in facilitating bone marrow and stem cell transplants. The organization connects patients with life-threatening blood cancers, such as leukemia and lymphoma, to potential donors. Joining the registry involves a simple cheek swab, but the decision to donate is profound, requiring both physical and emotional commitment.

What started as a desire

to make a difference beyond her immediate environment of working in the ED, Kristie already understood the critical need for donors, especially for patients without matching family members.

"We give blood to people daily and it comes from people like us. If people don't donate, patients don't get it and I would tell those who are on the fence about being a donor to go for it," said Falk. "You're giving someone a second chance at life, it makes you feel really good and it's rewarding."

Kristie's donor journey took another turn last August.

"I was told, 'you're a match for a 47-year-old

See **ASPIRUS** page 5

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OUT & ABOUT

MORE OUT & ABOUT ADS  
ON PAGE 5

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 8:15 AM – 3:00 PM

Marathon County HCE Presents

Crafty Learning Day

16 Classes to choose from. Take 3 classes.  
Includes lunch for \$45

Place: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
930 Edgewood Rd. Wausau

Registration Form: <https://wahceinc.org/marathon-county-hce>  
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~ Upcoming Events ~

March 23rd, 2025

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Luncheon Show - WEST SIDE STORY

April 2nd, 2025

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May 8th, 2025

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Luncheon Show - LOONEY LUTHERANS

"It Could Be Worse"

May 17th, 2025

Memories Theater • Cost \$100.00

Luncheon Show - DRINKING HABITS

BREWERS GAMES

Cost \$85.00~Includes Box Lunch

Sunday, April 6th ~ Cincinnati Reds

Sunday, May 18th ~ Minnesota Twins

Wednesday, June 11th ~ Atlanta Braves

Sunday, June 29th ~ Colorado Rockies

Sunday, July 13th ~ Washington Nationals

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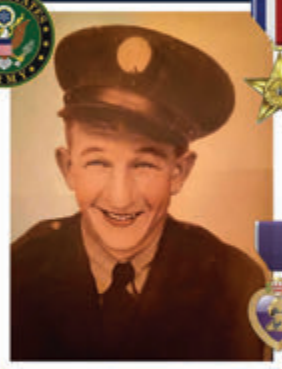
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1967 COMM SQRDN

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# Announcing the "Avenue of Honor Banner Program"

STORY COURTESY OF  
MIKE HEILMANN  
POST 10 PUBLIC  
RELATIONS/HISTORIAN

The Wausau American Legion Post 10 is now accepting applications for the annual 2025 "Veterans Avenue of Honor Banner Program". You can honor and thank a family member,

friend or company employee with a banner. With the help of our community Post 10 has flown 50 Veteran banners on Grand Avenue in Wausau. Banners have been flown for the past six years between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The banners offer a way for you to salute our men and

women who have honorably served America in times of war and peace.

Please contact Past Commander Bob Weller for complete details at 715-571-3476 or email him at [pastcmdbob@wausaupost10.com](mailto:pastcmdbob@wausaupost10.com), a registration form can be found on the Post's website

[www.wausaupost10.com](http://www.wausaupost10.com)

- Fill in the form, sign it and mail or email it to the Wausau American Legion Post 10, 1001 Golf Club Road, Wausau, WI 54403 or [pastcmdbob@wausaupost10.com](mailto:pastcmdbob@wausaupost10.com) You will receive booklets and the banner when it is taken down.

# 2025 Nomination Period Open for Ginseng Board of Wisconsin

DATCP is accepting nominations through March 28, 2025, for two seats on the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE,  
TRADE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION

DATCP will mail nomination forms to eligible growers. Nomination forms must include signatures from at least five eligible

growers other than the nominee. Growers must sign and mail completed nomination forms by March 28, 2025, to Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Market Order Program, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI, 53708-8911.

Growers who have not received a nomination form by March 15, 2025, or who have other questions about the nomination process, should email DATCP Market Orders Program staff at [DATCPMarketOrders@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPMarketOrders@wisconsin.gov).

DATCP will conduct the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin election from May 12 through June 16, 2025. Elected growers will serve three-year terms beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

**About the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin**

The Ginseng Board of Wisconsin is composed of seven at-large producers who are responsible for administering Wisconsin's Ginseng Marketing Order. The board oversees the collection and use of over \$200,000 in assessment fees paid by Wisconsin ginseng growers. This funding is used to support the ginseng industry through research, education, and promotion of Wisconsin-grown ginseng.

DATCP administers elections for Wisconsin commodity marketing boards. To learn more about the boards, visit [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About\\_Us/MarketingBoards.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_Us/MarketingBoards.aspx).

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Level: Intermediate

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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9	5	2	8	4	1	7	3	6
3	8	7	9	6	2	5	4	1
4	6	1	3	5	7	2	9	8



**ASPIRUS** *from page 3*

female that lives in the United States, she has acute myeloid leukemia,' and that's all I knew," said Falk. After some follow-up testing and preparation, she was off to New York City to complete the donation of

stem cells which took place in a whirlwind three-day span. "I knew if I was in the same situation, I would want someone to do this for me or my family and would be eternally grateful," said Falk. Kristie's story serves

as an inspiration to her colleagues and the broader community. It emphasizes the profound impact one individual can have through acts of kindness and generosity. Her experience also sheds light on the importance of BTM and other donor programs and

the ongoing need for donors. For those interested in following Kristie's example, joining BTM is straightforward. Potential donors can visit the organization's website, complete a health questionnaire, and provide a cheek swab sample. By doing

so, they become part of a global network committed to offering hope and healing to patients battling life-threatening diseases. Aspirus Health encourages people to consider registering to be an organ, eye and tissue donor if you haven't done so already.

National Donor Day is also a day to recognize those who have given and received the gift of life through organ, eye and tissue donation; are currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant; and those who died waiting because an organ was not donated in time.

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EMPLOYMENT



**Editor Wanted**



City Pages is seeking a Full-time Editor to work in our Wausau, WI office. The Editor leads a small team of staff to produce City Pages weekly, update and maintain the website and create content for special publications throughout the year, as well as maintaining the papers social media and doing photography.

We are looking for a person who is passionate about hyper-local news reporting and is familiar with the Wausau metro area. A degree in journalism, communications, or related field of study is preferred. Ability to do photography and video editing is a plus. Must have an eye for detail, be objective, be energetic about getting out in the community, as well as familiarity with social media and website posting. The position offers a very flexible schedule with some nights and weekends possible as needed.

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Send resume and cover letter to HR Manager, Tim Schreiber at [HR@mmclocal.com](mailto:HR@mmclocal.com).





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**REPORT for Us!**



City Pages is seeking a Part-time Reporter / Editorial Assistant to work in our Wausau, WI office. This position would involve assisting the City Pages Editor in many day to day tasks including proofreading, story writing assignments, maintaining daily social media posts and website content, taking and uploading photos and videos to the website, helping with newspaper layout and more.

We are looking for the right person that is passionate about hyper-local news reporting and is familiar with the Wausau metro area. A degree in journalism, communications, or related field of study is preferred but not required. Ability to do photography and video editing is a plus. Must have an eye for detail, be objective, be energetic about getting out in the community as well as be familiar with social media and website posting. The position offers a very flexible schedule with some nights and weekends possible as needed.

Send resume and cover letter to HR Manager, Tim Schreiber at [HR@mmclocal.com](mailto:HR@mmclocal.com).





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# More Than 300 Attend Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum

## WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

More than 300 FFA members, advisors and guests from across Wisconsin attended Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Rothschild on Feb. 13.

"FFA Farm Forum provides the next generation of agricultural leaders with valuable experiences and essential leadership skills," said WFBF President Brad Olson. "We appreciate FFA members taking part, as they are not only investing in their own growth but also in the future of agriculture."

The keynote speaker was Lashawna Vogel, UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau member. Vogel spoke about how organizations like FFA



and Farm Bureau can help you find your place in agriculture, no matter your background.

"When organizations like FFA and Farm Bureau work together, it forms a stronger agricultural community because we are all working together toward the goal of bettering Wisconsin agriculture," said Vogel. "Attending conferences

and workshops hosted by FFA and Farm Bureau help us explore opportunities in agriculture."

During the one-day event, FFA members attended career-based workshops including: 'Broadcast Bootcamp' with Stephanie Hoff of Mid-West Farm Report Radio Network; 'The Sky is the Limit: Exploring the New

Technology of Ag Drones' with Grant Buwalda of Rock River Seed & Chemical LLC; 'Rooted in Safety: Growing Young Farmers with Smart Practices' with Melissa Ploeckelman of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety; 'Staying Connected to Agriculture as a Meat Scientist' with Jeff Sindelar of the University

of Wisconsin-Madison; 'Pathways to Your Future in Natural Resources' with Betsy Doolittle and Josh Odekirk of USDA-NRCS; and 'Growing Your Network and Community' with Haley Hartung Kaufman of Tractor Supply and Petals & Plows.

"FFA Farm Forum is a valuable collaboration between Wisconsin Farm

Bureau and Wisconsin FFA, fostering leadership development and career exploration in agriculture," said WFBF Director of Young Leader Programs Melissa Jacobson. "We're proud to support and inspire the next generation of agricultural leaders."

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation was established in 1988 to provide support for agricultural education and leadership programs. Through donations and other contributions, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation invests time and resources to support the next generation of agriculturists.



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