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Friends of MCPL to host next members-only book sale on April 19



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of MCPL are hosting their next sale exclusively for members on April 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Marathon County Public Library's Wausau Headquarters, 300 N. First St., Wausau.

The sale will feature a wide variety of items up for sale, including hardcover and paperback books, audiobooks, music CDs, TV series and movies on DVD, works of art, and even a wide selection of board games and puzzles, all donated by the public or removed from the library's own collection.

This sale is only open to members of the Friends of the Marathon County Public Library. To join, folks can download, fill out and mail in an application prior to the sale, or non-members can join on-the-spot prior to entering the sale. The cost of a yearly membership is just \$10 per person, or \$15 per family, and is good for all of 2025!

For more information, please call 715-261-7200.

Gov. Evers Proclaims Money Smart Wisconsin Week

DFI COMMUNICATIONS



The Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) today announced Gov. Tony Evers proclaimed April 5 – 12, 2025, as Money Smart Wisconsin Week to raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy education and financial wellness.

"Financial education empowers folks by equipping them with the knowledge to make informed financial choices and achieve their personal goals and aspirations," said Gov. Evers. "Understanding financial principles can significantly improve both personal well-being and overall financial stability, and it is crucial in fostering inclusivity within our financial system, ensuring that everyone can participate fully. I encourage all Wisconsinites to take proactive steps in enhancing their own financial literacy and to also lend a hand to others on their personal finance journeys as well."

Money Smart Wisconsin is

a financial literacy awareness and education campaign. It is the highlight of April being National Financial Literacy Awareness Month, a collaborative effort by state and federal agencies and private-sector groups working to raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy. In Wisconsin, the Governor's Council on Financial Literacy and Capability, in partnership with the DFI, is spearheading the Money Smart Wisconsin campaign along with many volunteers and organizations throughout the state.

"The Money Smart Wisconsin campaign promotes personal financial literacy and awareness through financial education classes, activities, and opportunities for Wisconsinites by bringing together different organizations and facilitating the sharing of expertise, leveraging limited resources, and expanding community participation in financial education efforts," said Governor's Council Chair and SecureFutures President Brenda Campbell.

The Governor's Council convened on April 2 in Milwaukee to kick off the

Money Smart Wisconsin campaign. Following the meeting, DFI Secretary-designee Wendy K. Baumann read children's books with essential financial concepts to young students at Bay View Montessori in Milwaukee. The book reading was part of "The Big Read," a statewide effort where adults at dozens of locations will read books with personal finance lessons to children in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade throughout the month of April as part of the Money Smart Wisconsin campaign. Through these stories, children will be introduced to the fundamental principles of managing money, saving, and budgeting in an accessible and relatable manner.

"The Big Read" nurtures a foundational understanding of financial responsibility and fosters an early appreciation for lifelong financial well-being. We have distributed more than 1,000 children's books with personal finance lessons across the state to help local libraries, museums, and community organizations host special activities and events that are geared toward financial

See MONEY page 4



HOLY WEEK

at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish

113 West Kort Street • Rothschild, WI

Palm Sunday Vigil: April 12

Palm Sunday Sunday April 13

Communal Penance Service April 14

Holy Thursday April 17

Good Friday April 18

Holy Saturday April 19

Easter Sunday April 20

Mass 4:00pm

Masses at 8:30am & 10:30am

Blessing of the Palms and Procession to the church at 10:15am

6:30pm (8 Wausau area priests available for confessions)

Mass at 6:00pm

Stations of the Cross - 11:15am

The Passion of the Lord will be at noon

Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets 10:30am

Confession 11:00am - noon

Easter Vigil: Blessing of the Fire - 8:30pm with mass to follow

Masses at 8:30am & 10:30am

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Local Group Purchases Assets of Bull Falls Brewery

The Brewery Plans to Re-Open in Late Spring of 2025

FOR MMC
A local investor group, led by Dorchester resident Kurt Mueller and Hartford resident Jason Peck, purchased all assets of Bull Falls Brewery, located at 905 East Thomas Street, Wausau. The purchase was confirmed by Judge Suzanne C. O'Neill in late January. Per the terms of the sale, all real estate and personal property, including the brewing equipment transfer to the new ownership group. Work to re-open the brewery began immediately after the announcement of the sale, with a planned re-opening later this spring. Special events such the Never Forgotten Honor Flight fundraiser are also planned to be resumed by the new owners.

Message from the New Owners
"People ask me, 'Did you ever think you would own a brewery?'" stated Kurt Mueller, also owner of Critical Dimensions, an architectural firm. "The answer is 'no' but it would have been a real loss to Wausau's entertainment and brew pub landscape to have Bull Falls converted to something other than a brewery. The Bull Falls brand has strong loyalty and a superb line-up of beers, based on a unique German beer brewing process".

"Re-opening Bull Falls is an opportunity to preserve some of the history and heritage of Wausau and central Wisconsin. The upside is huge as we look to expand our line-up of beers, freshen up the facilities and make the entire property an entertainment destination", said Jason Peck. Recently Peck sold his interest in a HVAC company in southeast Wisconsin and plans to re-locate to Wausau. "I've been an entrepreneur much of my career. Kurt and I are so excited to tackle this challenge to make Bull Falls one of the best brewery destinations in the Midwest", said Peck.

Volunteer Opportunities for the Week of April 7, 2025

Find More Donation + Volunteer Opportunities! Go to the United Way Volunteer Connection volunteer website at unitedwaymc.galaxydigital.com.

Advocate For Mental Health! Joining the Board of Directors for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Northwoods is a powerful way to create meaningful, lasting change!

Give The Gift Of A Lift! Faith in Action is looking for volunteers to drive seniors to their doctors' visits, grocery shopping, and social appointments. Volunteers are contacted as needed, usually with about a week's notice. Commitment level is flexible. Contact Jamie at Faith in Action at (715) 848-8783 or WausauFIAinfo@gmail.com to apply.

Friendly Faces Needed! Community Center of Hope Resource Rockstar volunteers will play a key role in empowering clients by helping them access valuable resources in the community. This volunteer engages with clients, identifies their needs, and connects them with available services such as WIC, FoodShare, housing support, and more. Please contact Amy at (715) 907-2576 or director@cchope.net to learn more.

Is Your Dog Therapy Certified? Therapy dogs provide a healing presence, helping to reduce stress and anxiety. North Shore At Home Hospice patients live in their homes, assisted living communities, or skilled nursing facilities, and your visits can bring them the joy and connection they need most. Training provided. Contact Sara at (414) 885-0909 or info@nshorehc.com to join the team.

IN-KIND DONATED ITEMS NEEDED

More Donation + Volunteer Opportunities! Go to the United Way Volunteer Connection volunteer website at unitedwaymc.galaxydigital.com.

Food Items Needed! The Women's Community food pantry is accessed daily by clients who have been affected domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. Please consider donating nonperishable items such as snacks for kids, canned fruit, canned tuna and chicken, pancake mix & syrup, boxed pasta and potatoes, condiments (e.g., salt/pepper, salad dressing, ketchup), bottle juice, and oatmeal. Donations can be dropped off Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8am-4pm, at 3200 Hilltop Ave. in Wausau. Please contact Allie at allie@womenscommunity.org or (715) 842-5663 with questions.

Spring / Summer Clothing Needed! United Way of Marathon County's Community Closet serves local families by providing clothing and shoes at no cost. Warmer weather is coming, and the closet to stock up on men's casual wear, new underwear, and shoes; girls and boys shorts size 10-12+ (husky sizes appreciated); children's shoes sizes 3-5; onesies & sleepers; and new, reusable swim diapers. All donations are greatly appreciated! Donations can be dropped off at their office, 705 S. 24th Ave Suite 400B in Wausau, any time during business hours.



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SAMANTHA SALAZAR,
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Registration is now
open for Mosaic's 32nd



Annual Women of Vision Luncheon. The Women of Vision Luncheon is an inspiring event to hear and celebrate the stories and visions of the 2025 Women of Vision Honorees and the aspiring 2025 Scholarship recipients while enjoying a nice sit-down lunch at the Holiday Inn in Rothschild. Mosaic is excited to have Justice Ann Walsh Bradley as the 2025 Keynote Speaker! We welcome back Melissa Langbehn as our emcee for the program. Early Bird pricing is available until April 28th.

Central Wisconsin Children's Theatre Presents The Enchanted Bookshop Musical

Join us for an unforgettable journey where books come to life, adventure awaits, and the power of storytelling takes center stage!

BRENTON KNISS,
DIRECTOR OF THE
ENCHANTED BOOKSHOP
MUSICAL

The Central Wisconsin Children's Theatre (CWCT) is thrilled to present The Enchanted Bookshop Musical, directed by Brenton Kniss, on April 11-13, 2025, at the Veninga Theater at the UW Center for Civic Engagement at 625 Stewart Ave, Wausau. This delightful production brings books to life in a toe-tapping, heartwarming way that will captivate audiences of all ages.

Based on the enormously popular children's play, The Enchanted Bookshop, this musical adaptation transforms an ordinary

used bookstore, A Likely Story, into a magical world where beloved literary characters come alive each night, thanks to a spell from the Book Fairy.

Audiences will follow the adventures of classic book characters—Dorothy, Robin Hood, Pollyanna, Sherlock Holmes, Heidi, and Tom Sawyer—as they secretly try to help Margie, the store's scatterbrained owner, save her struggling shop. When a pair of bungling smugglers arrive



in search of a stolen necklace hidden inside one of the books, the book characters must make a very

difficult decision: Are they willing to risk their own existence to protect the bookstore?

Featuring additional appearances by iconic literary figures such as the Queen of Hearts, Long John Silver, and Doctor Doolittle, The Enchanted Bookshop Musical will delight audiences with a lively score featuring jazz,

march, and pop-infused tunes that will have audiences humming along. "This is one of those rare musicals that the whole family will love," said director, Brenton Kniss. "From the variety of musical styles to the larger than life characters, this show is full of laughter and heart."

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

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- UTZ Party Mix**, 60 ct., 60 oz. **\$11⁹⁵**
- Nescafé Instant Coffee**, 7.06 oz. **\$6⁹⁵**
- Hershey's Reese's Assortment** 21.8 oz. **\$3⁹⁵**
- Reese's Cups Dark Thins**, 7.37 oz. **\$2³⁵**
- Rolo Dark Salted Caramel** 10.1 oz. **\$2⁷⁵**
- Hershey's Milk Chocolate Kisses** 10.8 oz. **\$2⁷⁵**
- Cherry Tootsie Roll Pops**, 12.6 oz. **\$2⁹⁵**
- Jolly Rancher Very Berry Gummies**, 13 oz. **\$2³⁵**
- Twizzler's Strawberry Twists** 1 lb. **95¢**
- Twizzler's Licorice Twists**, 1 lb. **\$1⁷⁵**
- Hershey's Nuggets Assortment** 15.6 oz. **\$3⁷⁵**

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There has Always Been Something to Worry About

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.

LOUANN SCHULFER

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 worrying 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 1970's and early 1980's, 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 9/11 terrorist 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.

Security Health Plan wins customer service awards from Service Quality Measurement Group

FOR MMC

SecurityHealthPlan
Promises kept, plain and simple.

Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc., has been honored with three awards from the Service Quality Measurement (SQM) Group. SQM annually conducts over 1.5 million surveys with customers who have used a call center, email, website, interactive voice response, chat or site contact channel service.

Security Health Plan received 'Call Center World-Class First Call Resolution' certification for the ninth consecutive year. The criteria used for 'Call Center

World Class FCR Certification' is 80% or higher of customers getting their contact resolved on the first call to the call center for three consecutive months or more.

"Achieving this certification is a testament to the incredible empathy, dedication and expertise of our customer service team. Every interaction is an opportunity to not only resolve issues but to truly connect with and support our members," said Security Health Plan Director of Customer Service Contact Center Jessica Nagel.

"This recognition reflects our

unwavering commitment to delivering excellent service and ensuring every caller feels heard, valued and taken care of from the very first conversation."

In addition to receiving this certification, Security Health Plan was recognized for excellence in other key areas. Awards include 'Highest Customer Service Award for the Health Care Industry' and 'Highest Customer Service Award for the Non-Profit Sector.' These awards reflect the ongoing efforts to exceed the expectations of members and employees.

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@MetroCreative

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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Forerunner: Lambeau gets jump start on Draft process

KRIS LEONHARDT, SENIOR EDITOR

“In the early 1930s there was no Draft system. It was pretty much a free-for-all, as far as free agency goes,” said Packers Hall of Fame Curator Brent Hensel.

Hensel gave Packers Head Coach Curly Lambeau much of the credit for the foundation of the Draft.

“He was really ahead of the game in the Draft. He realized quickly, actually, probably by accident. He started scouting some of the college players in the All Star games as early as 1930, and what I mean by accident...Curly liked to head out to California, out to the West Coast, and he started going to the East-West Shrine game. Just by accident, he realized, ‘Hey, I can learn a lot about some great college players.’ He ends up drafting them and it becomes a huge advantage for him, while others really didn’t have any kind of scouting system, or (an idea of) how to look at prospects other than when they went to the Draft,” Hensel said.

“So usually on New Year’s Day, he would go back and watch several major college all-star games. In fact, in 1936, Lambeau and his second wife drove out from Green Bay to San Francisco, arriving on Dec. 26, and he would watch this East-West Shrine game and it influenced his first couple of picks.”

In the Jan. 19, 1951

edition of the San Francisco Examiner, Sports Editor Curley Grieve calls Lambeau the “smartest builder of pro football clubs.”

“As far as the pros are concerned, I discovered the East-West game. There was a time when I had it all to myself. I came out here annually and built my team. I have missed only one game since it started,” Lambeau told Grieve.

“It was back in 1925 that I signed the first of my greats—Lavvie Dilweg of Marquette. Then came a long series—players like Clarke Hinkle of Bucknell, Hank Bruder and Tiny Ingebreetsen of Northwestern, Cecil Isbell or Purdue. Whatever success I had at Green Bay was due almost entirely to the East-West game. I never heard of some of the

players who later starred for me until I saw them in action at Kezar. The Shrine game was—and still is—an All-America showcase. I owe my reputation to it.”

Hensel said that in Lambeau’s first Draft—in 1936—two of his top three choices played on the West squad.

Packers Lineman Russ Letlow—No. 1 choice and seventh overall selection in the first NFL Draft—holds the distinction of being the Packers’ first-ever draft pick.

Packers End Bernie Scherer was the second.

Leading up to the April 24-26 NFL Draft, the Press Times will feature a Draft history series, based on the findings of Packer Historian Cliff Christl and Packers Hall of Fame Curator Brent Hensel.



Packers Head Coach Curly Lambeau, actress Myrna Kennedy and Chicago Bears’ Red Grange attend an All Star game in 1933.

Packer Hall of Fame Inc. photo





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While the allure of vitamin C in skincare is undeniable, navigating its complexities requires a bit of savvy. Consumers are encouraged to do their research, consider formulations that are scientifically backed, and perhaps consult with a skincare professional.



Wisconsin Department of Revenue Reminds Taxpayers It’s Not Too Late to File Using Direct File

IRS

The April 15 tax filing deadline is right around the corner, but if you haven't completed your return yet, you can still use Direct File, the IRS's free, secure online filing program. After a successful pilot program involving 12 states in 2024, Direct File expanded to 25 states in 2025, including Wisconsin. The intuitive, mobile-friendly interface makes filing taxes quick, convenient, and hassle-free. Your federal tax data is then securely transferred to WisTax, where you can file your Wisconsin return. This saves you time and reduces the likelihood of errors and may result in a faster refund.

The IRS recently expanded coverage further, allowing Wisconsin

taxpayers with retirement income, contributions and rollovers to use Direct File. See <https://directfile.irs.gov/savingsandretirement> for more information.

Customer Feedback is Positive

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) collects feedback from taxpayers who have contacted the customer service bureau for assistance. Their response to Direct File has been overwhelmingly positive, with many callers praising the program's ease of use and speed.

“Direct File has proven to be an invaluable tool for Wisconsin taxpayers,” Secretary Designee of Revenue David Casey said. “Its user-friendly design and direct connection to WisTax have

simplified the filing process, saving our citizens time and money. We’ve seen firsthand how this program empowers individuals to confidently manage their tax obligations, and we are thrilled with the positive impact it’s having across the state.”

Learn more about Direct File and check your eligibility at <https://www.irs.gov/filing/irs-direct-file-for-free>.

Extended Call Center Hours

To assist taxpayers in the busy weeks leading up to the April 15 filing deadline, DOR will have extended call center hours on select days. Customer service representatives will be available until 5:00 p.m. on April 7–10 and April 14–15.

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