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WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 ■ VOLUME 41 ■ ISSUE 18 ■ 715.384.4440 ■ MARSHFIELD, WI

FREE

Two from central Wisconsin headed to NFL

SIRENA MANKINS
EDITOR

WOOD COUNTY – Two standout football players from central Wisconsin are getting their shot at the NFL. Spencer's Logan Zschernitz and Stratford's Easton Kilty have both signed on as free agents, Zschernitz with the New York Giants and Kilty with the New Orleans Saints. Kilty graduated from Stratford High School in 2020, earning a scholarship to the University of North Dakota. There, he started 35 straight games as a redshirt freshman, sophomore and junior between 2021 and 2023, and was

all-conference Honorable Mention in the Missouri Valley Conference as a junior. "Going into senior year at UND, I felt the NFL was a possibility," Kilty said. He said his offensive line coach had left UND, and he decided he would transfer to Kansas State. "I knew Kansas State would give me the best opportunity to show (the NFL) what I'm about," he said. The move paid off for the 6-foot-6 inch, 315 pound offensive lineman, who said he can move between five offensive line positions. "I'll play in the position wherever I'm needed on the

whole line," he said. "The only position I haven't played in a game is at center, but I'm able to learn that position. It's just having that skill set to be able to move inside or kick outside – it makes you valuable to a team." While Kilty is versatile now, he said it didn't come naturally to him. "I knew I wasn't the most athletically gifted kid, and that's where the hard work came in," Kilty said. "Just keeping your head down, not worrying about others, just worrying about yourself, pushing yourself and ignoring the outside noise."

See NFL page 6


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DNR: About 10% of deer tested positive for CWD

Just 2 cases found in Wood County since 2020

SIRENA MANKINS
CITY TIMES

MADISON, Wis. – Every hunting season, the state

asks hunters for samples of the deer they’ve shot so those deer can be tested for chronic wasting disease, or CWD. This year was no

exception, with almost 20,000 deer submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Of those 17,399 deer, officials said about 10 percent – 1,786 – had CWD. The fatal neurological disease affects deer, elk and moose. It’s caused by prions, which are misfolded proteins that damage the brain. The disease is always fatal, and there’s no known treatment or vaccine. “Although we have detected CWD in new areas of the state in recent years, many of these areas are at a low prevalence rate, and opportunities still remain to slow the spread and growth of the disease statewide,” said Erin Larson, DNR deer herd health specialist, in a news release. While there are no known



A starving deer is seen in a backyard in Wisconsin. Wisconsin DNR photo

cases of the infection in people, health officials say to not eat meat from deer that test positive for CWD and to consider testing deer prior to consumption, especially in areas prevalent with CWD. In Wood County, the DNR reports that just two deer have tested positive

for the disease since 2020, with no new cases this year. However, they did find cases in Adams, Juneau, Marathon and Portage counties. Of the deer that tested positive in 2024, about 89 percent were in the Southern Farmland Zone. CWD was first detected

near Mount Horeb in 2002. Areas of Richland, Sauk and Iowa counties have seen the highest prevalence of CWD with up to 50 percent of adult bucks infected with the disease, according to Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR).

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Cutting for a Cause returns to Columbus Catholic

FOR CITY TIMES
MARSHFIELD – At least 29 students at Columbus Catholic Middle and High School will be donating their hair to kids in need for the annual Cutting for a Cause. On May 7, 15 of those students will pair with eight volunteer hairstylists; 14 other students have already contributed (or will contribute) their locks to Children With Hair Loss (CWHL). CWHL is a nonprofit organization that provides human hair replacements at no cost to children and young adults facing medically related hair loss. See CAUSE page 5

Mother's DAY SPECIALS!

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MARSHFIELD HUB CITY Times

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438262

Veterans mental health expo set

FOR THE CITY TIMES

NEILSVILLE – The Highground Veterans Memorial Park will hold a Community and Military Outreach – or CAMO – Program on Wednesday, May 14, beginning at 4 p.m.

The CAMO offers veteran and community resources, as well as hands-on workshops and information on holistic ways to keep your mind happy and healthy.

Attendees will have the chance to engage with professionals and explore pathways for support, including offerings from the La Crosse Vet Center, Strides Equestrian Center, Christine Center, Off The Mat Yoga and more.

At 5 p.m., Chris Pettis, executive director of The

Highground, will offer a presentation focusing on identifying warning signs of emotional crisis and the steps to take in a crisis situation. Pettis aims to equip attendees with actionable strategies to help themselves or someone in need during challenging times, including suicide awareness and prevention.

At 7 p.m., there will be a drum circle in the Christine Center.

For more information, send email to Bonnie Pettis at donations@thehighground.org or Theresa Hebert at museum@thehighground.org, or call us at (715) 743-4224.

The Highground is at W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville.

Registration under way for annual Highground Honor Ride



Bikers gather for the annual Highground Honor Ride, a fundraiser to help veterans served by The Highground Veterans Memorial Park. This year's ride will be May 26, Memorial Day. Submitted photo

FOR CITY TIMES

NEILSVILLE – It started with just a few motorcycles 15 years ago; now, more than 200 bikers are expected for the annual ride to honor veterans.

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park motorcycle rally and fundraiser began in 2010 as The Highground Fun Run from Hudson to the Highground as a way to inspire camaraderie among military veteran motorcyclists on Memorial Day.

With the help of Dave Keene and Mark Dawson during the first few years, it has now transformed into a ride with multiple routes, all leading to the Highground prior to the Memorial Day ceremony on May 26.

After a few years, the ride was renamed The Highground Honor Ride. In 2018, there were more than 225 riders who raised more than \$12,000. All funds raised by the Honor Ride help the Highground improve

See **RIDE** page 11

460141

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DNR launches Fishing Finder ahead of open fishing season

FOR THE CITY TIMES

Wisconsin’s general inland fishing season opened May 3, and anglers have a new tool to help them navigate.

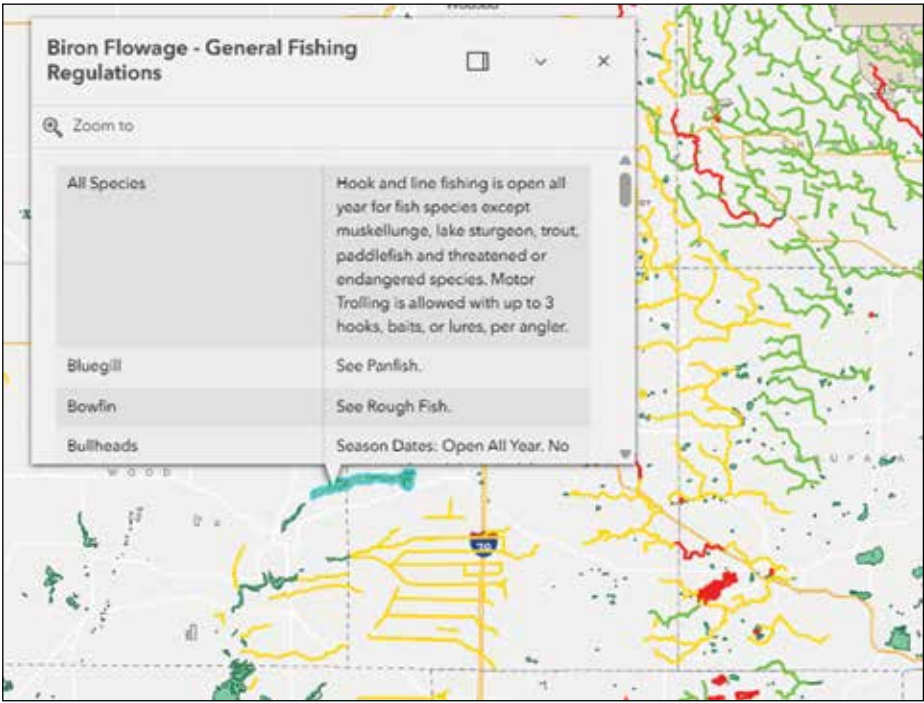
If you’re looking for a place to fish or just want to explore new waters, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fishing Finder can help. It’s a one-stop shop for fishing regulations, launch locations and access points, stocking information and more.

With more than 15,000 inland lakes, 42,000 miles of perennial streams and rivers, 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and 260 miles of the Mississippi River, there are plenty of places to wet a line over opening weekend.

No matter where anglers decide to fish, all Wisconsin residents and nonresidents age 16 or older are required to purchase a fishing license. Annual resident licenses cost \$20 each, or purchase a spousal license for \$31 so you and your spouse can fish together. All fishing licenses and stamps can be purchased online via Go Wild, at a registered sales location or at DNR Service Centers.

As anglers head out to their favorite fishing locations across the state, the DNR would like to share these reminders:

- Help minimize the spread of aquatic invasive



A screenshot of the state Department of Natural Resources new Fishing Finder.

species by removing plants and animals from boats before and after launching, draining all water from compartments and never moving live fish away from any waterbody.

- To prevent the spread of fish diseases, remove all water, aquatic vegetation and/or mud from fishing equipment before leaving their fishing location. All fishing equipment, including boats, trailers, boots, waders, nets and float tubes, should be thoroughly cleaned and dried before being used again.

- If not keeping your catch, follow proper fish



Finding a spot to fish in Wisconsin just got easier with the DNR’s newest online tool: the Wisconsin Fishing Finder.

Travel Wisconsin photo

handling protocols to ensure a safe release.

- Follow safe boating procedures and always wear a life jacket when on the water.
- Review all the rules and regulations for the waters you intend to fish.

The full 2025-2026 hook

and line fishing and trout fishing regulations are available online and in print in English, Spanish, Hmong and large print versions.

Anglers can also find additional information on the DNR’s Fishing webpage or by contacting your local fisheries biologist.

PUBLISHER’S LETTER

Mother’s Day!

Dear Reader,

Mother’s Day is upon us—a moment to pause and honor the women who gave us life, love, and guidance.

Each of us owes our existence to a mother, through whom, by the grace of God, we came into this world. In that miraculous birth was a sacred gift: a bond of love that begins even before we take our first breath.

The umbilical cord may be cut at birth, freeing us to pursue our own paths, yet the connection to our mothers never truly ends. It lives on in her care, her wisdom, her sacrifices, and in the quiet ways she has helped shape our lives.

To have a mother—or to have had one—is an infinite blessing. From the moment of our conception, her presence, seen or unseen, known or unknown, is a source of strength and grace that remains with us forever.

So this Mother’s Day, take a moment to celebrate your mother—whether with a gift, a word of thanks, a loving gesture, or a prayer whispered in her memory. Whether she is near or far, here or gone, let your heart speak.

And to all the mothers out there—please take a bow. You are the quiet heroines of the human story. Have a joyful and well-deserved Mother’s Day.

PATRICK J. WOOD - Publisher

Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.



CAUSE

from page 2

When a child’s hair is lost due to cancer treatments, Alopecia, Trichotillomania, burns or other conditions, the painful effects are far deeper than just cosmetic. CWHL helps to fill that need with customized human hair replacements and care kits to more than 600 children a year – and it has never charged a child.

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AI editorial policy for Multi Media Channels

At Multi Media Channels (MMC), we are committed to delivering high-quality, accurate, and trustworthy content to our readers. As part of our ongoing efforts to innovate and improve our editorial processes, we have incorporated artificial intelligence (AI) tools into our workflow. This policy outlines our approach to using AI in content creation and the safeguards we have in place to ensure journalistic integrity.

Our AI Usage Principles

Our AI usage at MMC aligns with best practices in AI-assisted journalism and follows our core principles of using cutting-edge communications technology to deliver hyper local content to our readership, through our print publications and digital media. We have our roots in our communities, and while AI is a tool – like like computers or spell check – it cannot replace our journalists, with their experience, knowledge of and connections

to their communities, and integrity.

Human-Centric Journalism: AI is a tool to augment, not replace, human journalists. Our experienced editorial team remains at the core of all content creation and decision-making processes.

Transparency: We are committed to being open about our use of AI tools in content creation. When AI tools are used to analyze data or generate insights, we clearly attribute this in our reporting. Use of AI generated images are clearly attributed as such.

Accuracy and Fact-Checking: All AI-assisted content undergoes rigorous fact-checking and verification by our human editors before publication. AI-generated content is always cross-referenced with reliable, human-verified sources. We do not rely solely on AI-generated information without corroboration.

Bias Detection and Mitigation: Our editors are trained to identify and

mitigate potential biases in AI-generated or assisted content, ensuring balanced and fair reporting.

Style and Voice Consistency: While AI may assist in drafting, we ensure that all published content maintains MMC’s distinctive style and voice and the authenticity of the writer.

Continuous Learning: Our team stays informed about the latest developments in AI and journalism, regularly updating our practices to reflect industry best standards.

Clear Attribution: Ethical Content Generation: We do not use AI to create fictional quotes, sources, or events. All content is factual and derived from verifiable sources.

Quality Control: AI-assisted content goes through the same rigorous editorial process as traditionally created content, including multiple rounds of editing, verification, and fact-checking.

Ethical AI Use: We only employ AI

tools that align with our ethical standards and journalistic values. We regularly review and update our AI usage to ensure it meets these criteria.

Data Privacy: We respect data privacy laws and ethical guidelines when using AI tools, ensuring that no personal or sensitive information is compromised.

Accountability and Feedback

We value our readers’ trust and welcome feedback on our AI usage and content. If you have questions or concerns about our AI editorial practices, please contact our editorial team at info@mmclocal.com.

By responsibly integrating AI into our editorial process, MMC aims to enhance the quality, efficiency, and depth of our journalism while maintaining the highest standards of integrity and accountability.

This policy is subject to regular review and updates as AI technology and industry best practices evolve.



WORD SEARCH

Correctly complete the puzzle, return this page and be entered in the drawing.

FIVE \$10 SCHALOW'S NURSERY GIFT CARDS WILL BE AWARDED!

All prizes will be given as gift cards to be spent at Schalow's Nursery.

CONTEST RULES

In the puzzle, find and circle the 20 words or phrases associated with this month's advertiser Schalow's Nursery. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years or older to win. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON THURSDAY, MAY 15TH, 2025. Submit this entire word search, to:

"Schalow's Word Search"
Marshfield Hub City Times
104 East 2nd Street
Marshfield, WI 54449

Only original forms will be accepted. All duplicated will be disqualified. Only one entry per household or address. Winners drawn at random of all correct entries. Winners will be announced in the May 21st, 2025 edition.

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Note: There is a drop box outside our office door, or you can mail your entry.

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Word Search Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

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Phone _____ I am 18 or older.... ☐ YES

NFL

from page 1

He also gives a lot of credit to his parents and his high school coach, Jason Tubbs, saying they kept pushing him. Tubbs, who is stepping down with an impressive 119-25 coaching record, took the team to the championship game in Kilty’s junior and senior years.



Above and right: Easton Kilty, a 2020 Stratford High School graduate, has signed as a free agent with the NFL’s New Orleans Saints.

Contributed photos

At the college level, Kilty and his team made it to the Rate Bowl, which increased his stock with the NFL. Kilty said he was getting calls from teams before the draft, with his offensive line coaches telling him to be ready, in case he got drafted. He said he knew he’d be a late pick, but he got offers from three different teams – the Buffalo Bills, New York Jets and New Orleans Saints.

Ultimately, he said the Saints felt like the best fit.

“I’m excited this process is over, so I can focus on one team,” he said.

Kilty isn’t the first central Wisconsinite to play for the Saints. Stevens Point native Ryan Ramczyk just announced his retirement from the franchise after being picked in the first round of the 2017 draft.

“That’s weird how it all works out,” Kilty said.

He and the other rookies will report to the Saints rookie minicamp, followed by another minicamp with all the veterans before training camp begins in July.

Kilty is the son of Pat and Keresa Kilty.

Spencer, NIU standout

Former Spencer High School sports standout Logan Zschernitz is signing as a free agent with the NFL New York Giants, and will report to the Giants’ rookie minicamp this spring.



Zschernitz just finished his college football career at Northern Illinois, where he was a four-year starter at guard and center, earning all-conference honors in the Mid-American Conference three times. At NIU, he played in 52 games and started 46 between 2019-24, seeing his most action at right guard from 2019-23 before moving to center as a senior.

Zschernitz was a standout with the Spencer/Columbus football and wrestling teams between 2017 and 2019. He won WIAA Division II state wrestling championships for the Rockets at 285 in 2018 and 2019, after taking third place at the state tournament as a sophomore in 2017.

The Giants will conduct their rookie mini-camp May 9-11.

Zschernitz is the son of Luke and Shannon Zschernitz.

Is There News We Should Know About?

Send your announcements, press releases & news tips to the Marshfield Hub City Times!



MARSHFIELD HUB CITY

Times

Sirena Mankins

Editor

 WoodCoNews@mmclocal.com

Wood County parks open for the season




FOR THE CITY TIMES
WOOD COUNTY – Area parks are opening up for the season, while beaches are getting ready for summer. The campgrounds at Dexter, North Wood and South Wood county parks open May 1, with Cera Park’s opening a little later on May 23. Camping reservations are required and can be made as much as a year in advance. To check availability or to reserve a campsite or shelter, go to Wood County Park’s online reservation system, parksreservations.woodcountywi.gov/parks/. From May 8 to May 11, military veterans and active duty personnel can camp for half-price; enter code VETS2025. Proof of service must be provided upon request at campground. Meanwhile, county beaches will open in late May, on Memorial Day weekend. Other activities can be enjoyed in the parks such as fishing, boating, hiking, biking, disc golf and more. At Powers Bluff, the main entrance off Bethel Road will be closed to vehicle traffic May 2 to 4. That’s when the Friends of Powers Bluff will hold their Spring Gathering. Access to trails will still be available at the County Hwy N Trailhead Parking lot.

DATCP announces Dairy Board nominees

FOR THE CITY TIMES
MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) announces the 10 nominees for eight open seats in the 2025 Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) Board of Directors election. Eight districts are up for election. The following candidates, listed by district, have been certified as eligible for election:
District 3: Gary Kohn, Medford (Lincoln, Oneida, Price and Taylor counties)
District 6: Alexandra Straschinske, Boyd (Chippewa and Eau Claire counties)
District 9: Jeff Betley, Pulaski (Menominee, Shawano, and Waupaca counties)
District 12: Peggy Pankratz, Auburndale; and Stephanie Ann Hughes, Pittsville (Portage, Waushara, and Wood counties)
District 15: Sandra Madland, Lyndon Station (Adams, See **DAIRY** page 10

MARSHFIELD AREA
PET SHELTER
PET OF THE WEEK







WOLFIE

Hi, I'm Wolfie and I'm about 3 years old! I'm not gonna lie, I have a few cosmetic quirks. I have a weird eye and my ears have seen better days, but the folks at the shelter tell me it just adds to my rugged charm! I may look like a big tough guy, but I'm a very gentle soul. I'm not outgoing at first, but once you come to see me, I will make all the muffins and roll over for belly rubs. I had a rough start to life, but that has not dampened my loving spirit one bit! I get along really well with my kitty friends and I can't wait to make new friends, human and feline alike. Apply for a visit! My adoption fee is \$100. BOGO adoptions! Adopt one cat or kitten and the second is free! 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 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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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

GREENWOOD AREA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL NEWS

Greenhouse spring sale

It is time to think spring! The Greenwood Agriculture Department and FFA Chapter will be hosting their annual spring plant sale at the high school greenhouse. Agriculture students and FFA members have worked tirelessly to grow beautiful hanging baskets, bedding plants and vegetables for all of your garden needs.

- Sale times include:
- 2-4 p.m. May 6 and 7
 - 3:30-5:30 p.m. May 8
 - 2-5:30 p.m. May 9
- The greenhouse is at 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood



Reading buddies

Students in 4k teamed up with their sixth-grade reading buddies for some holiday fun. They worked together to create a Peep house and then wrote together, including naming their Peep and what it likes to do. In the afternoon they walked to the high school, where they were greeted by the Marriage and Family Class. Together they dyed eggs, tasted the eggs, created a paper plate bunny and played a few games. On their return to the elementary school, they stopped to soak up some sun and play at the park. What a fun day of learning!



Forensics competition



Five students represented Greenwood High School at this year's forensics competitions. Andrew Lindner competed in Radio News Reporting; Ashlyn Green took part in Expository Speech; Victoria Prindle competed in Impromptu Speech; and Kayla Grambsch and Paige Beyerl performed together in Group Interpretive Reading. Kayla and Paige's dynamic performance earned them a spot at the State Festival, held at UW-Madison on April 12. The duo received copper medals for Achievement in their category.



Cloverbelt Scholar Athlete awards

Cloverbelt Credit Union has announced this year's scholar and scholar athletes. Tysen Lindner and James Durrstein were named Scholar Athletes, and Bria Thomas was named the 2025 Cloverbelt Scholar. The Cloverbelt Scholar Athlete Award requires that a student athlete must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and earn four or more major athletic awards. Cloverbelt Scholar requires that a student must have a GPA of 3.5 or better.



James Durrstein
OLIVIA KRASSELL
PHOTOGRAPHY LLC



Tysen Linder



Bria Thomas
FAITH ELLA
PHOTOGRAPHY

"Bringing Down the House"

The Greenwood and Loyal high schools' combined theater department performed "Bringing Down the House" on April 4 to 6, and Todd Wallinger's fast-paced comedy proved a hit with audiences. "Bringing Down the House" follows three aspiring musical theater creators – Jules, Sydney and Elliot – who have big dreams of premiering their new show for Broadway investors. But when they arrive at their first rehearsal, they discover an unexpected twist: The building they rented is scheduled for demolition the very next day! With no time to spare and no money to secure another venue, the team has just two hours to throw a show together. As they scramble to rehearse, things go from bad to worse, thanks to a steady stream of interruptions threatening to derail their plans. The cast and crew of 22 began rehearsing in January to prepare for the production. Under the direction of Erik Adams, Stephanie Glaser and Kelsey Hoverson, students from both schools brought the chaotic world of last-minute theater to life with energy, humor and heart. The audience laughed throughout the performance at the play's quirky characters, surprise gags and over-the-top situations. For the students involved,

the production was not only a success on stage but also a fun and rewarding challenge behind the scenes.



Kelsey Hoverson, Riley Englebretson, Anais Ebidon, Andrew Lindner, Eva Stieglitz, Tatym Travis, Kayla Grambsch, Stefany Degenhardt, Bria Thomas, Karsyn Penk, Maleia Smith; third row, Erik Adams, Stephanie Glaser, Victoria Prindle, CJay Zakrzewicz, Mason Kohnert, Jaren Cullen.



Chess Club competes

The Chess Club took sixth place at the Wisconsin State Interscholastic Chess Tournament in March. Members are Emily Dorwalt, left, Victoria Prindle, Dameion Zakrzewicz, Canon Madison, Rowyn Simonsen and Jaren Cullen.

Calendar

May 12 • 7-8 PM
HS Band/Choir POPS Concert
May 19 • 7-8PM
MS Band/Choir POPS Concert

May 24 • 11-Noon Class of 2025
Graduation
May 26 No School
June 5 Last Day of School

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

LOYAL AREA SCHOOLS
SCHOOL NEWS

FBLA blood drive

On April 10, Loyal Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members were given the opportunity to host their third-annual blood drive through the American Red Cross.

Led and coordinated by senior Molly Zvolena, the group was successful in exceeding their goal, collecting 34 pints of blood, and rewarding Molly with a \$500 scholarship from the American Red Cross.

We'd like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who donated and volunteered their time to assist with this important event. Your generosity and encouragement made this success possible. Loyal FBLA would love to continue hosting the American Red Cross for future blood drives. This opportunity demonstrates exactly what this local group stands for, providing students with leadership teaching opportunities to carry into their future.

Together, we made a difference. Thank you to everyone who helped save lives and supported our students in such meaningful ways!

Fellow FBLA students Addysen Wolf, left, Braeleigh Suda, Rogan Ashbeck, Jordynn Corder, Olivia Nikolai, and Molly Zvolena share the importance of donating blood by supporting their adviser, Scott Schiller, along with many donors throughout the day.



Go
Greyhounds

Calendar

May 24 • 1 PM Graduation

May 26 No School Memorial Day

June 5 Last Day of School

Art news

The Loyal High School Students attended the Cloverbelt Art Show with their art teacher, Mary Krause on April 30. This year it was sponsored by Augusta High School art teacher Tasha Newton. Tallulah Whitegull received a first in painting, Anna Smrcka received a first in fiber arts, Laila Prior a first in media arts, and Bryce Deegan won the People's Choice award. We had a guest speaker, Rhonda Willers, who spoke to students about her own art experiences and how her creativity leads her to a life in leadership in the arts spanning from neighborhood to community, and culture. Students played minute-to-win-it games and won prizes.

Four middle school students had their work chosen this year to be part of the 47th annual Leigh Yawkley, Woodson Student Art Show. Congratulations to Vanessa Reis, Ben Kadolph, Ridge Deuell, and Cheyenne Luchterhand.

The Loyal Middle and High School Students also participated in the Wisconsin Junior Duck Stamp Competition through the Department of the Interior US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The following students took wins as follows:

- Group III Grades 7-9
- Second Place Maci Lindner
- Honorable Mention: Jenna Haufe
- Group IV Grades 10-12
- Second Place: Kendra Seefeld, Madelyn Suda
- Honorable Mention: Payton Wolf, Harlee Colby, Shaun Campbell, Rachael Matteson,



Mackenzie Hahn

In February, five students had their work selected to be in the Regional Youth Art Month art show in Black River Falls. Works were on display at the Black River Falls Public Library, hosted by art teacher Jennifer Dahl. The following five students'

art were selected for the Regional Show in Chippewa Falls for Youth Art Month during the month of March: Alexis Meyer, 12th grade; Tallulah Whitegull, 11th grade; Madellyn Suda, 10th grade; Mackenzie Hahn, 11th grade; and Payten Wolf, 10th grade.

The following three students went on to State in Madison for the Youth Art Month Celebration on March 28 at East Towne Mall: Alexis Meyer, Tallulah Whitegull and Madelyn Suda. Congratulations to Alexis Meyer for her photo weaving winning the Nasco High School Award.

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Applications open for Welcome Back grants



FOR THE CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Downtown businesses looking to redo their rear entrances could get some help from Main Street Marshfield’s Welcome Back grant program.

The grants are designed to help create more inviting, accessible and visible spaces for downtown visitors, officials said in a news release.

This year’s program requires a 50/50 match, meaning if you are awarded \$4,000, your total project cost must be at least \$8,000, with \$4,000 of that coming from the applicant.

Rear entries in downtown Marshfield are often the most convenient entrances to public parking lots and adjacent to the designated bike lanes on Chestnut and Maple Avenues, officials said. Investing in back entrances can help customers connect with downtown businesses in new ways.

Eligible projects include improvements such as enhanced lighting, new signage, landscaping or patio

spaces and accessibility enhancements.

The application deadline is June 6, and businesses awarded the grants will be notified by June 13. All projects must be completed and reimbursement requests submitted by Nov. 1.

Business owners should discuss their project ideas with the city’s commercial building inspector before submitting an application to increase the likelihood of approval.

They also must obtain all necessary permits and approvals before starting any work, and all required inspections must be completed and approved by the required officials. In the event of limited funding, the Committee reserves the right to prioritize certain work projects and to grant a partial amount of the funding requested.

Full program details and the application form can be found at: <https://forms.gle/WioHYn7TPWf6J2Tz7>

Abbotsford Lions Club names Mireles-Melgarejo Student of the Quarter

FOR CITY TIMES

Abbotsford High School senior Emely Mireles-Melgarejo has been named the Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

Mireles-Melgarejo carries a rigorous class schedule which includes Trigonometry, World Designer 1, Written Communication, Publishing, Fab Lab, Spanish for Heritage Speakers and Mixed Choir. Her co-curricular activities include Student Senate, Spanish Club and Forensics. She has also participated on the volleyball team.

Spanish teacher Brian Popp highly recommended her for the Student-of-the-Quarter award.

“Emely is an exceptionally responsible individual,” Popp said. “She consistently meets deadlines, engages actively in class discussions, takes initiative in her learning and manages her time effectively, approaching her studies with a level of maturity that is commendable for her age. Additionally, she possesses



a positive attitude and approaches challenges with enthusiasm and resilience.

“Her optimism is infectious, which encourages collaboration and drive for learning among her classmates,” he said. “Her pleasant demeanor makes her a joy to be around; her ability to connect with others and maintain a friendly rapport is a testament to her strong interpersonal skills. She is an exceptional candidate for this honor; I am confident that she will continue to excel and make meaningful contributions to her community.”

Mireles-Melgarejo’s volunteerism attests to her belief in community

service. She has been actively involved by participating in the Christmas Parade and assisting in her church youth group, Booster Club concession stands, youth volleyball camps, Child Development Days and parent-teacher conferences.

When asked to identify an outstanding feature of the community, here was her reply:

“Having the resources for different cultures and ethnicities expresses our growth as a school and a community,” Mireles-Melgarejo said. “As a student, I’ve seen other students who speak little to no English express and speak their feelings with such comfort and confidence that it brings me joy and pride to be part of a community with such a diverse population.”

She also was asked what she thought is a major world problem.

“I would solve addiction and drug abuse, a global issue that for decades seems to keep increasing,” Mireles-Melgarejo said. “Putting your best food

forward and realizing that the substances you are consuming are not ideal for your health could save your life.”

Emely previously worked at Rustic House Cleaning LLC. After graduation, she plans to attend UW-Whitewater, majoring in Democracy and Justice Studies with a minor in Criminal Justice, ultimately becoming a public defender.

She is the daughter of Emelia Melgarejo, of Abbotsford.

RIDE from page 3

veterans, offered to veterans and their families at no cost.

The starting points are independently organized and led by experienced ride leaders, many of whom are military veterans. Each route has been coordinated to take riders on scenic country roads with short fuel stops along the way. All the routes begin to come together at the Highground starting at about 11:30 a.m., where riders are welcomed with a meal and opportunities to win raffles.

At 2:15 p.m., riders can take one final ride together through Neillsville, returning to the Highground to honor those who never made it home and to ensure that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

At 3 p.m., the names of Wisconsinites

killed in action or missing in action from Korea to the present day can be heard throughout the park. It is a day to pause for a moment, remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Riders can register online at thehighgroundhonorride.com/registration/; it costs \$25 per person, or \$45 for a rider and passenger.

Bikers also can start a ride route; call (715) 743-4224 or send an email to events@thehighground.org.

In Wisconsin Rapids, riders will meet up at 10:45 a.m. at the Kiwk Trip on West Grand Avenue, with departure at 11:15 a.m.

In Marshfield, they will meet at 11:45 a.m. at the South Draxler Drive Kiwk Trip, departing at noon.

The contacts are Bill Flemal, (715) 281-4068 or bill.flemal@gmail.com; and Doug Mauritz, dougmauritz@gmail.com.

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To place a classified ad call our office at **715-384-4440** or online at **classifiedsmmc.com** before **10am on Friday**. Your ad will run in the paper the following week. Cost starts at \$10/week for 5 lines (appx 25 words). Prepayment is required.

The Unified School District of Marshfield is seeking request for proposal for **Waste Management Services**. Interested candidates may request a qualification form by emailing **Aaron Heeg (Director of Buildings & Grounds)** at **heega@marshfieldschools.org** Qualification forms must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

City Wide Rummage Sale 7000

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May 8 & 9 7am-6pm
Saturday, May 10 7am-Noon
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Level: Intermediate

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Highground's new Welcome Center opens



The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville.
Submitted Photo

FOR THE CITY TIMES
NEILSVILLE – The Highground Veterans Memorial Park has unveiled its new welcome center to greet visitors. Officials say the space is to deepen visitors’ connection to the site’s mission. “We are thrilled to unveil the new Welcome Center and to continue our mission of honoring and supporting our veterans,” said Chris Pettis, executive director of The Highground. “This space represents our dedication to providing a place of healing, reflection, and education for



Central Wisconsin Cultural Center

Cultural Center puts out call for art

FOR CITY TIMES
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Central Wisconsin Cultural Center (CWCC) is accepting original artwork for its upcoming exhibition, “Art of the Book.” CWCC is asking participants to create art that is inspired by a published book. Participants might find inspiration in the title, the book’s purpose or by personal meaning, a character in the book, an emotion it creates, or historical significance. The “Art of the Book” exhibit is open to all emerging and established artists. All media will be considered, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, jewelry, fiber and more. The entry form can be found at CulturalCenterArts.com/exhibits. Artists may submit up to three original 2D or 3D art pieces that have never been in Cultural Center exhibits, gift shop or holiday show. Entries will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 1 through 3. The entry fee is \$10 per artist. It is preferred that the art pieces be for sale. There will be an opening night meet-the-artist reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. July 10, and the exhibit will run that day through Aug. 28. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, or by appointment. For more information, go to CulturalCenterArts.com or call 715.421.4598.

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The Highground is designed as a place of reflection and remembrance, honoring veterans and providing a sanctuary for healing, organizers say. For more information, email donations@thehighground.org or call (715) 743-4224. The Highground is at W7031 Ridge Rd in Neillsville.

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FOR THE CITY TIMES
MARSHFIELD – As allergy season intensifies, many people turn to over-the-counter (OTC) medications for relief. However, choosing the right treatment and knowing when to seek medical advice is key to managing symptoms safely and effectively.

“Antihistamines and decongestants are the most common OTC allergy medications,” said Rebecca Thao, a pharmacy resident with Aspirus Health. “Antihistamines help with sneezing, runny nose

and watery eyes, while decongestants are better for nasal congestion. If symptoms overlap, using both can provide more complete relief.”

Common antihistamines include loratadine (Claritin), diphenhydramine (Benadryl), cetirizine (Zyrtec), and fexofenadine (Allegra). Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed) is a well-known decongestant for nasal congestion and sinus pressure. For targeted relief, nasal sprays such as fluticasone (Flonase) or budesonide (Rhinocort) and eye drops like olopatadine (Pataday) can also be effective.

While OTC medications work well for mild allergies, Thao advises seeking medical attention if symptoms become severe, persist despite treatment, or interfere with daily life.

“These medications are intended for short-term use,” she said. “If symptoms continue despite treatment, or if you’re relying on them long-term, it’s important to talk to a health care provider.”

People with high blood pressure, or those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, should consult their provider before starting new medications. Some allergy treatments can interact with prescription drugs such as blood pressure medications, sedatives, or antidepressants, potentially causing unwanted side effects or reducing effectiveness.

“Taking these medications together can sometimes lead to complications,” Thao warns. “A pharmacist or health care provider can help ensure you’re using them safely.”

Beyond medication, small lifestyle adjustments can also reduce allergy symptoms. Regularly washing hands and face, showering after outdoor exposure, using an air purifier, and keeping indoor spaces clean can minimize allergens in the home. These simple strategies, along with appropriate medication, can help make allergy season more manageable.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish
5. Perform on stage
8. Soda
11. Small growth
13. In support of
14. Step taken when walking
15. Hollyhocks
16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
17. Feel pain
18. San Diego ballplayer
20. Inches per minute (abbr.)
21. Fat from a pig's abdomen
22. Create again
25. Honors once more
30. Thin coating of gold
31. Welsh river
32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
33. Husks of corn
38. Green vegetable
41. Showing guilt
43. Soldier
45. Photographers
48. Language spoken in Nigeria
49. Mimic
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Beverage container
57. Night monkey genus
59. Lace bugs
60. Hogshead (abbr.)
61. Frameworks
62. Keyboard key
63. Greek goddess of the dawn
64. Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind
2. Helped (archaic)
3. Razorbill genus
4. Bleached
5. Continent
6. Fruit preserved in syrup
7. Impediment to one's freedom
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. Earthy pigment
10. Relieved oneself
12. Golf score
14. Tech hub ___ Alto
19. Sportscaster Andrews
23. Records electric currents
24. Popular Hitchcock film
25. Revolutions per minute
26. NY Giants legend
27. Sports radio host Patrick
28. When you hope to get somewhere

29. French seaport
34. Thai river
35. Rocker's accessory
36. Extra charge
37. Influential American president
39. Pain in the head
40. Great Plains people
41. Consumed
42. Soluble ribonucleic acid
44. Improves
45. Secret clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Fallow deer
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave
54. College's Blue Devils
58. Midway between south and southeast

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Museum honors Bart and Cherry Starr

Celebrates life, love and work at Rawhide

BY BERT LEHMAN
STAFF REPORTER

NEW LONDON – Since it’s opening last summer, visitors from across the country have traveled to The Bart and Cherry Starr Museum, located at the Rawhide Youth Services property in New London.

The museum is the culmination of years of working with Cherry Starr and the Starr family.

Kaleb Schad, director of Strategy and Marketing for Rawhide Youth Services, said Cherry Starr, who passed away in February 2024, wanted the museum to serve as the Starr biography and “be their story.”

“She wanted it to be open for the public to come through and experience,” Schad said.

Schad said the process of turning the idea of the museum to reality was “complicated and long.”

“Once we knew what our anchor point was going to be, and it was around that choice to love, then we were able to build the rest,” Schad said. “We didn’t want it to be just a boring walk through their life, because the story is so much richer than that. So, it had to have meaning.”

Rawhide worked with an agency to help design the museum, but a lot of the writing and research was done working directly with Cherry Starr and Bart Starr Jr. Research was done to find artifacts and memorabilia related to the Bart and Cherry Starr.

“Some of the material in there is from the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame,” Schad said.

Some may wonder why the museum is located in the countryside of New London and not closer to Green Bay. Schad said that answer is simple.

“This (Rawhide) is where their heart was. They loved coming out here and spending time with the kids,” Schad said. “They were so proud of what Rawhide was. They were proud of their friendship and relationship with John and Jan Gillespie who started it (Rawhide). She (Cherry Starr) just knew she didn’t want it in Green Bay. The Packers already got that stuff. This was more than just his (Bart Starr) time with the Packers. Being with the Packers was important, but it was really about dedication to other people. It’s here because this is where Rawhide started and where they found so much meaning and fulfillment in helping other people.”

While the creation of Rawhide was the idea of John and Jan Gillespie, Bart and Cherry Starr played an integral part in the success and growth of Rawhide.

“They were sold on it right from the beginning,” Schad said. “I think John and Jan Gillespie had the idea, did the work, they lived out here, but if it wasn’t for Bart and Cherry and the support and just visibility they brought to it, I don’t know if it would exist today.”



The Bart and Cherry Starr Museum in New London not only honors Bart Starr’s football playing career, it also reflects on the relationship that Bart and Cherry Starr had and the love they shared.
Bert Lehman photos



Bart Starr was awarded this 1968 Rally Red Chevy Corvette after he won the Most Valuable Player award in the Super Bowl. To raise money for Rawhide, Starr raffled the car off, raising \$40,000. The car is now on display at The Bart and Cherry Starr Museum in New London.

To help fund their dream of Rawhide, the Gillespies presented the program to Bart and Cherry Starr back in the late 1960s. As Cherry Starr explains in the video that is shown at the museum, she and Bart wanted to help them fund the project, but they didn’t have extra money to do so.

“That was the year he won the Super Bowl Most Valuable

Player (Award), and he won an automobile, a Corvette convertible,” Cherry Starr said in the video. “We held a raffle for it, and believe it or not, in four days we sold 40,000 tickets, raised \$40,000.”

Schad said it took Rawhide some time to track down the 1968 Rally Red Chevy Corvette. They found the owner, Kris Erickson, who lived in Hortonville. Erickson owned the Corvette from 1984 until he sold it to Rawhide in 2024. Once the Corvette was in hand, it was restored, and became the centerpiece of the museum exhibits.

Some of the items displayed in the museum were already in the possession of Rawhide.

“Rawhide had for years and years a small, kind of display museum in a smaller space, so a lot of that was there,” Schad said.

The Starr family also donated a lot of memorabilia, including love letters that Bart had sent Cherry.

“We had not expected Cherry to donate all of her love letters from her husband,” Schad said. “She showed up one day, she came out to tour the new home that we built and she said I have something for you, and she just gave us all of them.”

Schad said some new memorabilia could be rotated into the museum in the future.

“Cherry hand-selected a lot of what is in there, so we won’t make drastic changes,” Schad said.

Since it’s opening last summer, Schad said the response from the public has been “huge.”

Visitors making the trek to the museum are allowed to go on a self-guided tour of the museum. At the beginning of the tour, there is a short video that visitors can watch. The video plays every 15 minutes.

“We did not have a box of Kleenex at that front bench at first, and then we saw how many people were getting choked up and moved by their story (in the video),” Schad said. “That’s what I love to see. It’s just been open arms.”

As one would expect, the tour takes visitors through Bart Starr’s football career, from high school through his time with the Green Bay Packers. But the museum tour covers more than just Starr’s football career. It also delves into the love that Bart and Cherry had for each other, as well as the tough times in their personal lives, such as the loss of their son, Bret, who died of a drug overdose in 1988. The museum also includes a plethora of photos of Bart and Cherry with the kids at Rawhide during their many visits.

The museum is normally open Tuesday-Thursday from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. It will be open during special hours April 23-25 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.) and April 26 (8 a.m.–12 p.m.) because of the NFL Draft, which is being held in Green Bay.

“I think this museum has a good chance to make you a better person when you leave,” Schad said.

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