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Wood County sheriff warns of cryptocurrency scams

SIRENA MANKINS
EDITOR

WOOD COUNTY – The Wood County Sheriff's Department is urging people to be cautious when it comes to using cryptocurrency kiosks.

The kiosks, often found in gas stations or other public places, can be used to buy large amounts of crypto for a fee. But those transactions fees can run as high as 30%, which officials say is "completely ridiculous" when crypto currency can be purchased for free on a cellphone or home computer.

"Scammers have taken full advantage of these kiosks and trick people into putting large quantities of U.S. currency into the kiosks," Lt. Scott Goldberg said in a release. "When cryptocurrency is purchased, a digital wallet is created and quickly stolen from sometimes the most vulnerable individuals within our community."

Much like a traditional bank account, digital wallets store your financial information. But instead of physical cash, they hold virtual currency. In some cases, crypto can be exchanged for cash at some kiosks. Right now, there are few regulations about how the kiosks work.

Sheriffs officials say that leaves them open to money

laundering and other financial crimes.

Goldberg said they've executed numerous warrants on area kiosks, seizing physical currency from them. They then hold the cash in evidence until proper court channels are used to obtain the money. However, one company, Bitcoin Depot, is now refusing to give refunds in Wisconsin when someone is scammed.

"We believe Bitcoin Depot is taking part in these scams/ crimes because they know the kiosks are being used as a tool for scammers and they fail to prevent the crimes from

See **CRYPTO** page 9

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Report: Wood County state's top cranberry producer



FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – For the 30th consecutive year, Wisconsin leads the nation in cranberry production, reinforcing its reputation as America's cranberry capital.

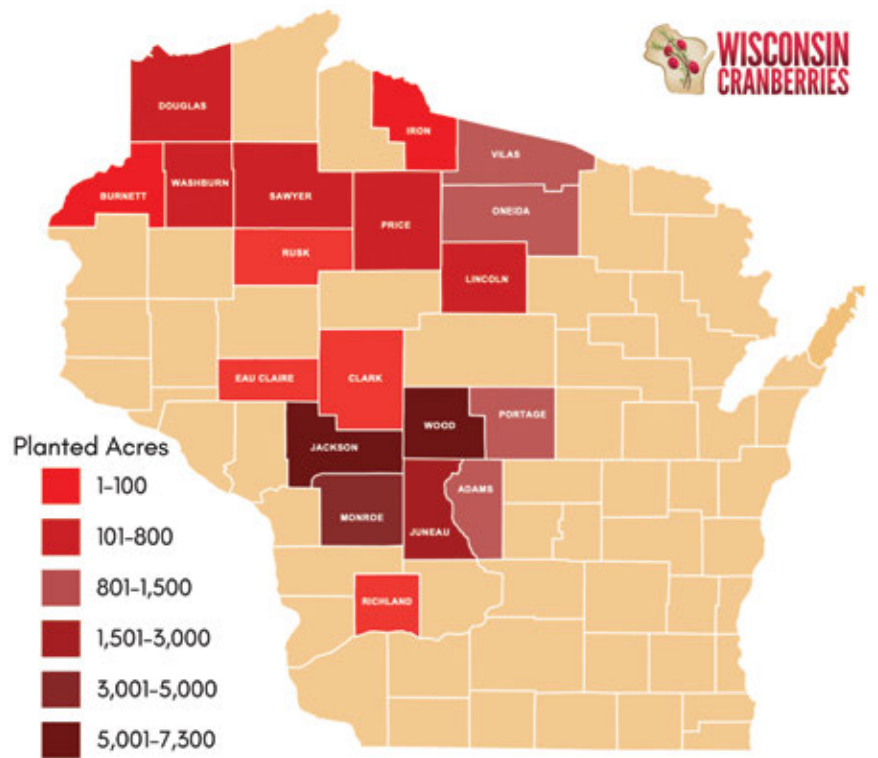
In 2024, the state produced 6.01 million barrels of cranberries on more than 25,000 acres across 19 counties by more

than 250 licensed growers, according to Wisconsin Cranberry Board's (WCB) 2024 final harvest report. Wood County growers accounted for about 30% of that total with more than 1.88 million barrels, topping all other counties in the state.

As a state marketing order that collects assessments from all

cranberry producers and handlers, the WCB compiles this data through required annual reporting, offering a detailed snapshot of the industry's performance within the state.

“Our growers take pride in being stewards of this land and this legacy,” said Grant Holley, executive director of the Wisconsin State Cranberry Grower’s Association. “This year’s strong crop is a testament to their innovation, environmental care and deep-rooted dedication to producing America’s native superfruit.”



WISCONSIN CRANBERRY COUNTIES
BY THE ACRE

Cranberries are grown throughout Central and Northern Wisconsin, with more than 25,000 acres across 19 counties managed by more than 250 licensed growers. For every acre of cranberries harvested, growers maintain an average of eight acres of support land—usually left undeveloped—to help protect water resources, provide wildlife habitat, and support long-term sustainability. This map highlights the distribution of planted cranberry acreage by county.

According to the USDA's
Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts

2024 Summary, Wisconsin's production is once again estimated to account for more than 60% of the nation's cranberry supply, continuing a long-standing streak of leadership in the industry.

"The past 30 years have been marked by growth, challenge and innovation," Holley said. "This is a remarkable milestone that reflects the hard work, ingenuity and dedication of growers who have embraced

Holly Herline
research, technology and
sustainability to keep
Wisconsin at the forefront
of cranberry production.”

Cranberries remain one of Wisconsin's top fruit crops, supporting nearly 4,000 jobs and contributing nearly \$1 billion annually to the state's economy. Cranberries were named the Wisconsin state fruit in 2004, underscoring the

See **CRANBERRY**
page 3

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Pittsville earns Vibrant Spaces Grant

CITY TIMES STAFF

PITTSVILLE – Twenty-seven Wisconsin communities will share in more than \$1.1 million to help create new public spaces – including downtown Pittsville.

The city was awarded \$29,000 through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Vibrant Spaces Grant program. WEDC is the state's lead economic development organization.

With the grant, Pittsville will establish a market village by building four small vendor booths with vintage commercial facades, sidewalk, lighting, and benches in a downtown greenspace.

Former Rapids youth pastor pleads guilty to child sex assault

SIRENA MANKINS EDITOR

MADISON, Wis. – A former Wisconsin Rapids youth pastor has pleaded guilty to repeated sexual assault of the same child.

James Lane, 53, pleaded guilty on April 8 to the single charge. Officials say Lane, then a youth pastor at Faith Reformed Church in Wisconsin Rapids, admitted to assaulting the victim in Lane's vehicle when he was driving the victim home. They say the assaults occurred between September of 2002 and December of 2003.

The victim in this case had not reported the assault to either church or legal authorities prior to reporting through the website for the Wisconsin Department of Justice Clergy and Faith Leader Abuse Initiative.

“As this conviction shows, the Clergy and Faith Leader Abuse Initiative is continuing to have an impact,” Attorney General Josh Kaul said. “Thank you to the courageous survivor whose decision to make a report has led to accountability for the defendant.”

Lane faces up to 40 years in prison at his sentencing hearing, which is set for June 3.

The Clergy and Faith

CRANBERRY from page 2

industry's impact on the state's identity, heritage and rural communities.

The cranberry barrel is a traditional unit of measurement still used in the U.S. cranberry industry to standardize crop yields. One cranberry barrel equals 100 pounds.

Each year, cranberry growers invest more than \$300,000 in research initiatives funded through the Wisconsin Cranberry Board in partnership with researchers from University of Wisconsin and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research.

Harvested September through early November, only about 5% of the crop is sold fresh, primarily during the holiday season. The remaining 95% of cranberries are used in a wide range of products, including juices, dried snacks, sauces, baked goods and increasingly in health and functional food products.

“People want to live and work in thriving communities and offerings like parks, trailheads and town squares create places for people to gather and hold events as well as boost nearby businesses and improve quality of life,” said Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of WEDC. “Creating vibrant communities is the foundation of economic development.”

The Vibrant Spaces Grants allow communities to apply for up to \$50,000 to assist with local placemaking efforts that will transform vacant or underused spaces into multipurpose community gathering

spaces to attract visitors and residents.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing and maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, communities and people to thrive in a globally competitive environment. Working with more than 600 regional and local partners, WEDC develops and delivers solutions representative of a highly responsive and coordinated economic development network. Visit wedc.org or follow WEDC on Twitter @WEDCNews to learn more.



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OBITUARIES



DAVID A. MROTEK

David A. (Sturzl) Mrotek, age 62, of Marshfield, WI, passed away on Friday, May 2, 2025, from complications of leukemia. He was born in Milwaukee on Sep. 27, 1962, to Errol Mrotek and Martha Blodgett Bradish. David was a member of the Ho Chunk Nation, nurturing a special place in his heart for his grandparents, Alvin and Sophie Lone-tree-Mrotek, who helped raise him.

David grew up in Milwaukee but left it several times to follow his wanderlust, living in Australia, Spokane, WA and Baton Rouge, LA, to name just a few places. He always had a passion for cooking and earned degrees in both Culinary Arts and in Baking from Milwaukee Area Technical College, subsequently holding numerous positions in both fields.

In 2013, David met the love of his life, Celia Sturzl, and they married in 2016. They resided near Marshfield, WI, where they had a small hobby farm. The couple enjoyed traveling, hiking, cooking, gardening, volunteer work, pets and remodeling. Some of his favorite pastimes were making bread, building birdhouses, photography, working in his wood shop or kitchen, playing board and video games and learning something new every day.


David rarely met a person he didn't like; he had a happy passion for life which was contagious to the many people he met. David's favorite quote, which he repeated often, was, "We are always becoming..."

David is survived by his wife, Celia Sturzl, stepchild, Phoenix Zenaz, special cousins Carole and Karl Lastrup, his surrogate family the Lopers, as well as in-laws Mary Moss, Steve and Cora Sturzl, Chris and Sue Sturzl, Brian and Deb Sturzl, and many nephews and nieces that were special to him. David loved being part of these extended families, and they all adored him. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, his brother-in-law Alan Moss and niece Janel Sturzl.

His family would like to thank all of the staff on 8 North for their kindness and compassion while David was in the Marshfield Medical Center over the past several months; their unwavering devotion was a great comfort.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at 12:30 PM Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home (1010 E. Veterans Pkwy, Marshfield, WI 54449). Visitation will be held from 10:30 AM until the time of services on Saturday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Personal Development Center or to the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter.



GLADYS M. FULLER

Gladys M. (Kromanaker) Fuller, age 89, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Autumn Bay of Pewaukee.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Hewitt, where the visitation will be from 9:30 am until service time. Father Angi will officiate. The service will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/rembsfuneralhomes. Burial will be in Brooklawn Memory Gardens Cemetery, Town of Richfield, Wood County. Rembs Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Gladys was born on November 27, 1935, in Chicago, IL, to Louis and Doris (Helser) Cox. She attended Lincoln High School and graduated from Mid-State Technical School, both in Wisconsin Rapids. She married John Kromanaker and they later divorced. On November 18, 1989, she married Thomas E. Fuller. He passed away on July 26, 2016.

Gladys was employed at St. Joseph's Hospital and the Marshfield Clinic for over 30 years. She was a member of the Heart O' Wisconsin Sweet Adelines for 43 years and sang in the choir at St. Michael's Church in Hewitt. She and Tom were members of the Good Sam Camping Club and enjoyed traveling in their RV around the United States and wintering in Florida at Red Oaks Campground with friends from Marshfield and other parts of the U.S. for 20 years.

She is survived by her children, Ken (Pat) Kromanaker of Marshfield, Julie (Bill) Beres of Pewaukee, Steve (Sue) Kromanaker of Fuquay Varina, NC, and Tony (Jayne) Kromanaker of Greenville, WI. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Jordan and Luke Kromanaker, Elizabeth (James) Beres DiCosmo, Nicholas (Kimberly) Beres, Samuel (Megan) Beres, Steven (Amy) Kromanaker, Jake (Ana) Kromanaker, Ben (Skylar) Kromanaker, and Rachel (Brevon Merritt) Kromanaker, and 11 great grandchildren, John, Dominic, Natasha, Ronin, Charlotte and Daniel Kromanaker, Piper Beres, Camilo and River DiCosmo, and Chase and Ellie Beres. She is further survived by a sister, Mary Maynard of Beloit, and a brother, Ed Jackson, of Cudahy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Doris Cox, her husband Tom Fuller, and sisters Donna Lauvon and Margaret Knappenberger.

Special thanks to Katrina and Ashley at Preceptor Hospice and the staff at Autumn Bay Assisted Living in Pewaukee, Especially Brenda.

Memorials may be designated in Gladys' name to a charity of the donor's choice.

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| OPINION |

Not retired, but rewired

I had a client retire from her career at an early age, when she was in her mid-50s.

It was a big decision, as both her employment and her financial circumstances changed within the same year. Since she'd been at the same company for decades, continuing to work at another full-time job would have been a substantial shift from the position she'd held for much of her life.

The big question was, did she have to keep working to earn the same salary, or could she fully depart from the commitment of traditional employment?

We did extensive planning by mapping out her finances, analyzed the taxation upon withdrawal of her different types of accounts, planned future spending and all the other elements that go into setting up a retirement income plan. She chose to give her notice and not look back.

When she came in for a review, this happy lady relayed how she was enjoying her new freedom to embrace a passion of hers from which she earns a part-time income. She also said it was awkward at



Schulfer

times telling friends she'd retired, both because of her young age as well as the fact that she is still working, just not at her traditional job.

She went on to tell me, "So now I don't tell people that I've retired, I tell people that I've rewired."

I replied that was perfect, and have since come to realize how many people essentially do the same. Thinking through several of my clients, people with high amounts of responsibility hold stressful positions that they choose to or plan to leave, and go on to find other means of earning less income but with more enjoyment.

It's because their individual financial circumstances allow them to do so.

Consider whether in your future, you may be able to proudly say, "I'm not retired, I've rewired."

LouAnn Schulfer can be reached at (715) 343-9600, louann.schulfer@lpl.com or TheWealthInformationLady.com. Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment adviser.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Unto Dust...

Dear Reader,

In the final accounting, when the ledger of our days closes and the last breath escapes like a whisper into the void, what remains of us? We who once walked with purpose, loved with abandon, and dreamed beyond the confines of our mortal shells—what becomes of all that we were?

The body, once a vessel of consciousness and desire, returns to its elemental state. Skin that felt the warmth of summer suns and the tender touch of loved ones dissolves. Bones that carried us through decades of striving and stumbling crumble into the same dust from which all life emerges. We are reduced to our most basic components, indistinguishable from the earth that receives us.

Our possessions, those objects we accumulated and cherished, outlive us for a time. Books with dog-eared pages. Photographs fading at the edges. Heirlooms passed down with stories attached. But eventually, these too deteriorate, are discarded, or lose their connection to those who once gave them meaning. The material monuments to our existence erode under time's relentless passage.

The institutions we built, the companies we labored for, the organizations we championed—these may persist beyond our individual spans, but they transform, merge, dissolve, reinvent themselves until our fingerprints upon them become unrecognizable. Even civilizations, those grand collective projects of humanity, rise and fall like tides, leaving only fragments for future archaeologists to piece together.

Is this, then, the final word on human existence? A brief flare of consciousness between two infinite darknesses? A temporary arrangement of atoms that, once scattered, can never be reassembled in quite the same way?

Perhaps not.

For in the spaces between particles of dust and grains of sand, something intangible persists. The ideas we contributed to the great conversation of human thought; the stories we told that shaped how others understood themselves and their world; the kindnesses we extended that altered the trajectory of another's life in

ways we may never have witnessed; the children we nurtured—whether our own or those who simply crossed our path—who carry forward not just our genetic material but our values, our perspectives, our ways of seeing; these invisible legacies ripple outward through time, touching lives we will never know, in places we will never visit, in eras we will never witness.

We are, in the end, both less and more than we imagine ourselves to be. Less permanent in our individual identity, more enduring in our collective impact. Less significant as separate beings, more powerful as contributors to humanity's shared story.

When we return to dust and sand, what remains is the echo of our humanity—not preserved in stone but alive and evolving in the hearts and minds of those who come after us. Our brief moment of consciousness, our fleeting dance of atoms, becomes part of the endless transformation of matter and meaning that is the universe knowing itself.

And in that continuation, there is hope. For while we may not persist as we are, something of what we gave to the world—something essential and true—remains.

Even dust catches the light sometimes, and in those glimmering particles, the story continues.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

With 'Dazed and Confused,' Richard Linklater captures a moment in time

BY JALEN MAKI

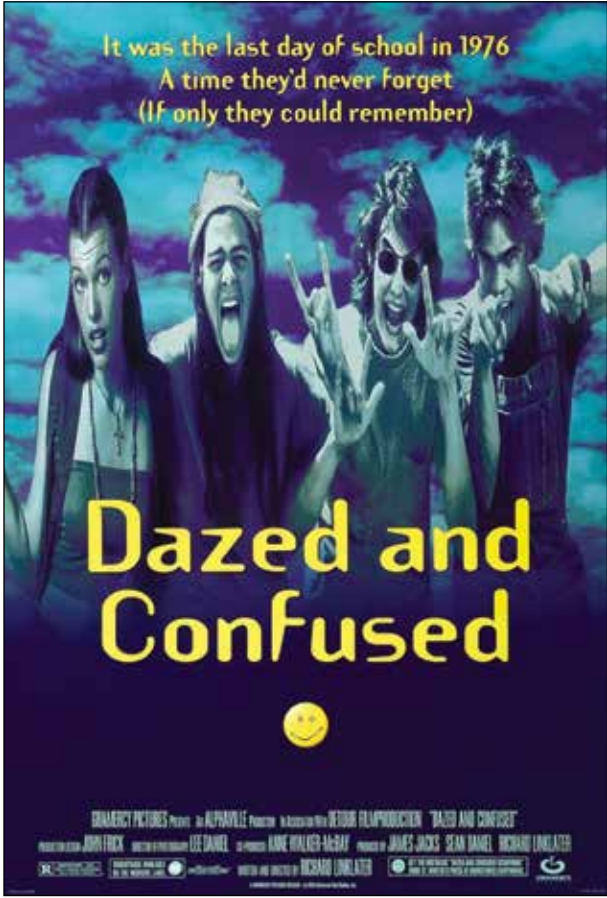
Everyone's been asked this question before: "What movies would you bring with you onto a desert island?"

Although it's not a very easy question to answer, if you can hypothetically bring, say, ten movies, there's not a terrible amount of pressure. I

mean, most people could feel pretty confident in their ability to compile a list of ten films that they would be able to watch for the rest of their lives. Picking five movies, however, is tougher. You're cutting your original list in half and leaving behind films that are almost certainly important to you. Three?

Now that's just a cruel proposition, and narrowing your list down even further

See MOVIES
page 8



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Heating help still available

FOR CITY TIMES

People who may be struggling to pay their gas or electric bills can still apply for help through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) program.

“WHEAP benefits are still available to help households with their heating and electricity bills and reduce their energy burden,” said Kathy Blumenfeld, secretary of the state Department of Administration (DOA). “We urge Wisconsin residents who need assistance to contact your local WHEAP Agency or apply online before May 15 to determine your eligibility.”

Benefits are income dependent, and households may be eligible if the gross

household income is 60% of the state median income level or less.

While the opportunity to apply for this heating season’s energy assistance benefits ends May 15, crisis assistance to help restore service or prevent disconnections is available year-round. Some recipients also may be eligible for other Home Energy Plus services such as repair or replacement of their HVAC system or help with home weatherization.

Households can apply for WHEAP online at energybenefit.wi.gov, or be referred to their local agency to apply by calling (866) 432-8947.

INCOME LIMITS		
Income limits for heating help		
Household size	Monthly income	Annual income
1	\$3,061.08	\$36,733
2	\$4,002.92	\$48,035
3	\$4,944.83	\$59,338
4	\$5,886.75	\$70,641
5	\$6,828.58	\$81,943
6	\$7,770.50	\$93,246
7	\$7,947.08	\$95,365
8	\$8,123.67	\$97,484

Marshfield Clinic invests \$700K in opioid fight

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Marshfield Clinic region of Sanford Health has invested \$700,000 in 31 communities across Wisconsin to address the negative impact of opioid and stimulant misuse.

The funds, which come from Wisconsin Department of Health Services opioid response and opioid settlement funds, are dispersed through the Northwoods Coalition, www.northwoodscoalition.org. Formed through a partnership between Marshfield Clinic and several community coalitions in 1995, Northwoods Coalition is the largest and oldest network of coalitions dedicated to substance use prevention in Wisconsin serving 34 counties and 11 Wisconsin Tribal Nations.

The investment in the 31 communities is part of the Northwoods Coalition’s plan to fight the opioid epidemic through evidence-based prevention and harm reduction strategies. Wisconsin, like many other states, has been significantly affected by the opioid crisis

“The human, societal and financial toll the opioid crisis has in our communities is tragic,” said Jay Shrader, vice president of Community Impact and Social Accountability. “This funding is vital and is one small but important step in supporting our communities in our ongoing battle against opioid and stimulant misuse. Our communities and community partners are on the frontline and know how to best use these funds in their communities.”

Funding supports evidence-based practices like drug takeback events, Naloxone distribution, sharps disposal events, community awareness and anti-stigma campaigns, and drug checking technology distribution (fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips).

Communities also can participate in an opioid academy led by CADCA, a nonprofit organization committed to creating safe, healthy and drug-free communities. The goal of this training academy is to help coalitions create plans for implementing evidence-based practices in their communities using opioid settlement dollars.

Legislative roundtables will give coalitions a chance to showcase their plans to their county-level legislators, in the hopes of getting access to the opioid settlement dollars and putting them to use.

“Additionally, our hope is for state legislators to attend this roundtable and be reminded of the importance of continuing to advocate for opioid prevention and harm reduction funding,” Shrader said. “This is an amazing opportunity for communities to organize around the opioid settlement dollars available to them and will be for years to come.”

Among the organizations receiving the funding are Marshfield Area Coalition For Youth (DTF), Healthy People Wood County and Marathon County AOD Partnership.



Red Cross urges blood donations ahead of summer

Offers gift card, chance to win a trip



Now is the time of the year when the Blood Center of Northcentral Wisconsin would like to see new donors bringing a fresh supply of much-needed blood to the area.

City Times stock photo

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Year-end school ceremonies, sporting events and celebrations are expected to fill evenings and weekends, and patients are counting on donors to also make blood donation a priority. That’s why the American Red Cross is encouraging people to schedule their May donation appointment before summer gets into full swing.

Emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. By giving blood to the Red Cross, donors can help ensure blood is ready for patients in the most critical situations.

Type O blood donors and donors giving platelets are especially needed right now:

Type O negative is the universal blood type and can be transfused to any person, no matter their blood type. This makes it essential in the most dire situations.

Type O positive blood is the most used blood type because it can be transfused to Rh-positive patients of any blood type.

Platelets are often needed to help with clotting in cases of massive bleeding.

People who donate through May 18 will receive a \$20 e-gift card, while those who donate May 19 to 31 will receive an American Red Cross solar lantern, while supplies last. Plus, all who come to give in May will be automatically entered for a chance to win a U.S. trip of their choice for two. Full details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/May.

To schedule an appointment or

IF YOU DONATE

The following blood drives are planned:

- 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. May 14, McMillan Library, 490 E. Grand Ave., Wisconsin Rapids
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 23, Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA, 410 West McMillan St., Marshfield
- 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. June 6, Nekoosa High School, 500 S. Cedar St., Nekoosa

for more information, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, go to RedCrossBlood.org, call (800) 733-2767 or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

People who are 17 or older, or 16 with parental consent; weigh at least 110 pounds; and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.



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- Columbus Applewood Smoked Uncured Ham, 6 oz. (Case of 12, \$8.25)..... **75^c**
- Johnsonville Original Brats 2.375 lbs. (Case of 6, \$37.15) **\$6⁷⁵**
- Jimmy Dean Sausage, Egg & Cheese Croissant 12 ct., 54 oz. **\$12⁶⁵**
- Cool Whip, 8 oz. (Case of 12, \$13.75) **\$1²⁵**
- Land-O-Lakes Unsalted Butter 1 lb. (Case of 18, \$50.00) **\$2⁹⁵**
- Land-O-Lakes Process Cheese Loaf, 5 lbs. **\$11⁶⁵**

- Yuban Gold Original Medium Coffee, 46 oz. **\$9⁶⁵**
- Nescafe Original Instant Coffee, 7.18 oz. **\$6⁹⁵**
- Kellogg's Apple Jacks Cereal 8.9 oz. (Case of 18, \$16.50)..... **\$1⁰⁰**

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- Onions - **50^c/lb.**
- Green Peppers - **50^c/ea.**
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Each year, almost 10,000 children are injured in mower-related accidents – and about 5% of those result in amputation. **Stock photo**

Youth lawn mowing safety webinar set

FOR CITY TIMES

Mowing grass is a common chore for young people, and it is one of the first jobs they may have. But it does involve serious hazards. Each year, almost 10,000 children are injured in mower-related accidents – and about 5% of those result in amputation. Despite improvements in engineering and safety features, pediatric lawn mower-related injury rates have remained constant over the past 40 years. Injuries include lacerations, burns and eye injuries. On farms, mowing is often the first job involving machinery that is assigned to young people. To help cut the risk, the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN), along with the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, will hold a webinar to help parents learn how to assess, train and supervise youth to do the job safely. Registration is free: <https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/g7S9EQkIQnOCBc2wRoYJig>

CLARK COUNTY
HUMANE SOCIETY
PET OF THE WEEK

DOLLY

Dolly came to CCHS with her seven siblings from a local farm in mid April. All of the pups were named after country singers, so we have Alan, George, Hank, Loretta and Reba, too. This wonderful Aussie mix is about 11 weeks old (estimated date of birth is Feb. 17) and weighs 11.4 pounds currently. Dolly is a happy girl with a sweet and loving personality. She is a smart girl, ready to start learning everything it takes to be a good girl as she grows up. Dolly is always excited to see people and can't wait to start sharing good times. She is very pretty with a short-haired coat that is black, tan and white. She's certainly going to bring lots of love and happiness to her new family. With any rescue, training and socialization are incredibly important to the success of the pup. Apply for Dolly today. Clark County Humane Society can be reached during open hours of 12-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Phone number: (715)) 743-4550. Email: petshester@email.com Mailing address: CCHS, P.O. Box 127, Neillsville, WI 54456 Located at W3926 State Hwy 73, Neillsville, WI 54456 To fill out an application for Dolly head to Clark County Humane Society's website or the application can be found at bit.ly/CCHSadopt.

UW offers summer theater camp



FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at Marshfield is offering a summer theater camp for those ages 11 to 18. Campers will explore the world of acting, singing and dancing in an immersive, supportive environment that fosters confidence, collaboration and lifelong memories. This year’s production is the classic “Fiddler on the Roof Jr.,” a heartwarming and powerful tale set in the village of Anatevka. The story follows Tevye, a poor dairyman, as he tries to marry off his daughters and uphold tradition in the face of societal change and unrest. Adapted from the nine-time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, the junior version features iconic songs like “Tradition,” “If I Were a Rich Man” and “Matchmaker.” Directed by longtime UWSP at Marshfield collaborator Donna Thompson, the camp promises a summer of laughter, learning, and unforgettable theatrical experiences. The camp runs weeknights from July 8 to Aug. 8, with performances Aug. 14-16. The cost is \$159, which includes a camp T-shirt; scholarships are available. Auditions will be 6-8 p.m. June 25 and 26; while the auditions are encouraged for all, they are required for speaking or solo roles. To register or learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/4btHKr1> or contact Rebecca Bauer at rbauer@uwsp.edu.

Forward Bank promotes 5 officers

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Changes are coming to Forward Bank after its promotion of five bank officers. They are:

- Allie Plessner, vice president / director of agency business development
- Mauricio Jaime, vice president / retail manager
- Aaron Leiby, assistant vice president / agricultural loan officer
- Justin Zahn, assistant vice president / data analytics and business intelligence manager
- Steve Precour, assistant vice president / director of commercial insurance

“We’re proud to recognize these team members who not only demonstrate excellence in their roles, but who also serve as ambassadors of Forward’s values in every community we touch,” said Dave Clark, president of Forward Bank. “Allie, Mauricio, Aaron, Justin and Steve are trusted leaders who believe in working as one team and in doing what’s right for our customers and communities.” Forward Bank has offices in Athens, Colby, Dorchester, Greenwood, Marshfield, Medford, Park Falls, Phillips, St. Germain, Stanley, Three Lakes, Thorp, and Withee in Wisconsin; and Lake City in Minnesota. For more information, please visit www.forward.bank.

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Horse Wagons, Tack & Related Items: Visa-a-Vis 4 wheel carriage w/brakes & top; 12' 5th wheel people haul wg.; 12' people haul wg. w/5 wheel & brakes; 12' 5th wheel stake wg. w/brakes; 2 wheel stud cart; wooden hyd. dump trailer (homemade); light horse drawn running gear; 12' wooden bob sled; Pioneer fore cart w/tricycle front, 3 & 4 horse steel eveners; 6 horse up patent leather show harness; 4 older leather work harnesses; drive lines (6-4-etc.); 2 bio-plastic harnesses; misc. collars; 7 Western saddles; misc. horse tack; horse feeder;
Hay: approx. 30 lg. square grass hay bales (1st crop);
Trailers: Econo-line 9 tn. tandem 18' flat deck pintol hitch trailer w/4' beaver tail & ramps; Grand Prix 26' gooseneck tandem axle horse trailer (over 7' height); Alumina-Loadmaster 2 place snowmobile trailer; 2 place snowmobile trailer w/wood sides; 10' tandem axle flat deck bumper hitch trailer; 40' Dorsey drop deck van trailer w/rear ramp;
Outdoor Items & Tools: JD 355Z zero-turn riding lawn mower w/48" deck; Craftsman DLT 2000 riding lawn mower w/48" deck; Jari Monarch 3' self-propelled sickle mower; 3' lawn tractor front mount push blade; 4' lawn roller; Ranch Hand front bumper for GMC 2020 pickup truck; Tufline 4' bumper hitch ATV box blade; Jacobsen 3 pc. blade gang lawn mower; Craftsman self-propelled snowblower; 1 btm. walk behind plow; Fimco ATV weed sprayer; metal lawn ornaments, steel fence posts, fencing supplies; misc. corrugated steel; new safety chains, misc. jacks, some wg. & implement jacks; Craftsman battery tools; Craftsman 10" table saw; Coleman 60 gal. upright air comp., Generac 5000 watt. gas generator; Air America port. air comp., porta-powers; misc. hand tools, , treated lumber; (3) 12' rafters;
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Explosions, fire cause \$75K in damages at Forte

CITY TIMES STAFF

MARSHFIELD – Multiple explosions rocked Forte Opening Solutions on Sunday morning, May 11, with flames reaching 30 feet coming from the building.

Marshfield Fire and Rescue said they were called to the factory at about 9:30 a.m. There, firefighters found heavy smoke coming from the building, according to a release.

The sprinkler system in the building was working, which helped control the spread. However, there were multiple small fires in extremely hard-to-reach areas,

which made it difficult to fight. There also was a risk of other explosions from the dust.

Initially, six firefighters responded; a call was put out for mutual aid and multiple other departments came to the scene as well as 11 off-duty Marshfield firefighters, bringing the total to 26 firefighters. Officials say one firefighter suffered heat-related injuries and was treated and released at the scene.

Crews were on scene for about four hours and an investigation is under way. The explosion and fire caused

at least \$75,000 in damage, but officials say that could change because multiple explosion doors and ductwork were blasted open. Other cuts and damage was created by fire crews gaining access to the fire.

Forte Opening Solutions is at 1401 E 4th St. in Marshfield.

Marshfield Fire was assisted by Marshfield Utilities, WE Energies, Wood County Central RIT, Wood County Rehab, Hewitt Fire, Lincoln Fire, Richfield Fire and Arpin Fire.

MOVIES
from page 5

is a nearly impossible task. But, in the three-movie desert island scenario, I think one of mine would be *Dazed and Confused*.

I saw Richard Linklater's 1993 coming-of-age comedy *Dazed and Confused* for the first time when I was probably 13 or 14 years old, but I didn't fall in love with it until a few years later. By the time I was a junior in high school, it was a key text for me; one of those films that was steadily in my movie-watching rotation.

Dazed and Confused takes place over the course of one day in 1976 Austin, Texas, following the conversations and activities of various teenagers on the last day of school. That's pretty much it. The movie doesn't really have a plot in the sense that there's no hero, there's no villain, there's no singular goal that's trying to be achieved, and there's no overarching problem someone's trying to solve (unless you count "Where can we have a party?" as the film's central conflict). It's a hangout movie, through-and-through. We'll talk more

about that in a bit, but first, a disclaimer: I, Jalen Maki, hereby declare that I do not condone any of the illicit activities depicted in this film. Alright, now that we've gotten that out of the way, let's dive into this classic.

You can't talk about *Dazed and Confused* without talking about its soundtrack. Folks: it rips. You've got Led Zeppelin. Jimi Hendrix, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Black Sabbath, Bob Dylan, Rush, Deep Purple, Dire Straits, Foghat, Alice Cooper, Head East, ZZ Top...it's just banger after banger on a level that I don't think any other movie has been able to rival. Largely, I think it's a factor of the time period the film takes place in. I'm aware that it's corny and lame for someone to be like, "I was born in the wrong generation, man! New music sucks!" and then fire up a rare vinyl pressing of *The Dark Side of the Moon* or something. But what does the soundtrack of the 2025 version of *Dazed and Confused* look like? I gotta say: it's probably not as good!

Also, the cast of this thing is pretty awesome. *Dazed and Confused*

finds numerous actors ahead of their eventual fame, including Matthew McConaughey in what might be his definitive role (although I'd argue his turn as Rust Cohle in *True Detective* is more deserving of this accolade), Ben Affleck, Parker Posey, Cole Hauser, Adam Goldberg, and Joey Lauren Adams. Heck, even Renée Zellweger pops up on screen a few times. It's cool to watch this collection of young actors do their thing in *Dazed and Confused*, knowing now that they'd find success in the years that followed.

Something that, to me, elevates *Dazed and Confused* above many other high school movies is its portrayal of the high school social framework. Most movies in the genre feature very rigid and arguably unrealistic separations between the athletes, and the brains, and the burnouts, and so on. But in *Dazed and Confused*, the social circles are more like Venn diagrams, with kids sort of floating from one group to the next, and everyone intermingling to various degrees. For example, Randall Pink (who they call Pink Floyd, because, you know, the

70s) is the quarterback of the football team. He's obviously got pals on the team, but he also runs with a more intellectual crowd, and he spends plenty of time with the kind of kids his parents probably warned him about when he was younger. This somewhat amorphous social structure feels like a much more realistic depiction of what the high school experience is really like, and it's a crucial component in the "everyone's just kind of hanging out" vibe.

Speaking of which: what makes a good hangout movie? Well, people hanging out would be a pretty solid place start; we can go ahead and check that off the list. The overall feel is important, too – you gotta have the right music, and visual style, and dialogue, and attitude, each of which this film has in spades. But hangout movies that really work have characters that you'd actually want to spend time with. Anyone can watch *Dazed and Confused* and see themselves or someone they know in a character – but that doesn't mean they're just a bunch of hollow archetypes. In several moments, Linklater finds real depth within

them. They're more than just run-of-the-mill stoners, or jocks, or nerds – they're real people dealing with real issues that high school-aged people experience, and *Dazed and Confused*, like other great teen movies, is able to thread the needle by creating familiar, relatable characters while making them unique individuals.

You ever think about what you were like in high school? I can speak for myself, and the assortment of people I hung out with, and most of us were various degrees of Morons. I don't mean we were actually, literally dumb people; we were just kids who did dumb things in pursuit of a good time, and I think that's an important distinction. *Dazed and Confused* captures this idea with more honesty and authenticity than maybe any movie I've ever seen. Characters will complain about wasting their fleeting youth, or wax poetic about the mundanity of impending adulthood, and shortly thereafter chug some beer or get in a fight. It's just so funny yet endearing to see people who are so completely confident that they've got life figured out, like they're the first 17-year-olds in the history of 17-year-olds to nail down how the world works. There's a version of this movie where these conversations wade into cringe-inducing waters, but Linklater, a master of writing dialogue, injects every interaction – short exchanges and heart-to-hearts alike – with a true-to-life charm.

Dazed and Confused doesn't carry nearly the emotional weight of *The Outsiders*. It's not a *Breakfast Club*-style character study. We don't get a lot of the classic teen


rom-com beats in the vein of *Say Anything*.... And there certainly isn't an adult role model figure, à la *Dead Poets Society*. Why not? Quite simply, the film doesn't want or need these things. *Dazed and Confused* is just *fun* – it's about as fun as you can have watching a movie. It's just so cool, and lighthearted, and funny, and genuine, and original, and completely deserving of its cult classic status.

There might not be a filmmaker better than Linklater at capturing a moment in time. With *Dazed and Confused*, the beloved *Before* trilogy, and *Everybody Wants Some!!* – the absolutely wonderful and criminally under-appreciated spiritual sequel to *Dazed and Confused* – Linklater has demonstrated time and time again that he’s an alchemist, combining a few basic elements (setting, music, dialogue, etc.) to conjure pure nostalgia. I don’t think Linklater is the stereotypical “high school was the best thing that ever happened in my life” guy, and I don’t think his message with this movie is that those people are correct in their assessments of their lives. But I do think *Dazed and Confused* is a testament to Linklater’s distinctive talent for creating moments that are worthy of fond reflection; assuming that you can actually remember them.

Jalen's columns, "Movies You Gotta See" and "The Free Play," can be found online at www.medium.com/@jalenmaki.

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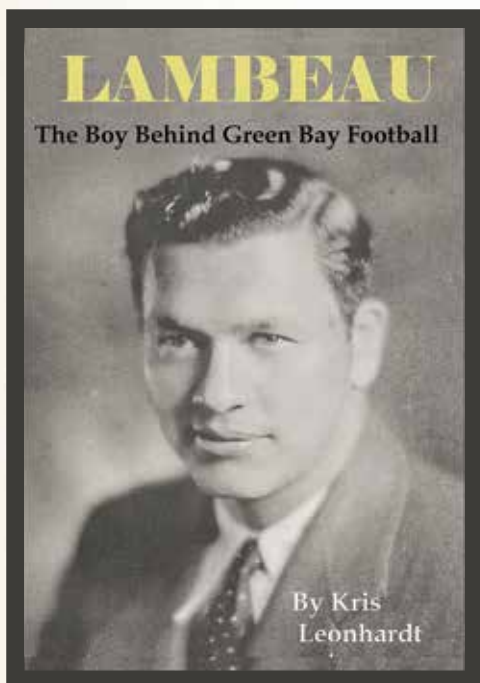
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| SPORTS |

Assumption track team competes at
Stratford Invitational



Assumption junior Bella Thomas placed first in the 100m dash (12.32) and 200m dash (25.30), and was on the 4x400 relay team that placed second at the May 8 Stratford Invitational.

Submitted photos

FOR CITY TIMES

STRATFORD – The Assumption Royals track and field team participated in the Stratford Invitational on May 8. A meet consisting of 13 teams, medals were awarded to the Top 3 finishers of each race.

The team was led by junior Bella Thomas as she placed first in the 100 meter dash (12.32) and 200m dash (25.30). She was on the 4x400 relay team that placed second.

Junior Lucy Dolan took first in the 1600m run (5:20.60) and second in the 800m; she also was part of the 4x400 relay.

Senior Brooklyn Schoenick placed second in the 1600m, third in the 800m and also ran in the 4x400 relay. Sophomore Emily Mrozek was also part of the 4x400 relay.

Leire Sainz De Rosa placed third in the 3200m run.

Senior Joseph Johnson placed third in the 100m. Freshman Reed Hartjes placed second in the 1600m run. The boys 4x400 relay of Joseph Johnson, Thomas Hannum, Aiden Daliege and Cullen Thomas placed third. Brennan Morbacher placed third in discus.

There were numerous top 10 finishers, including:

Girls:

- 800m run, Callie Schoenick 8th
- 1600m run, Leire Sainz De Rosa 4th, Callie Schoenick 7th

Boys:

- 100m dash, Cullen Thomas 8th
- 200m dash, Trey France 7th, Owen Hagan 9th
- 400m dash, Thomas Hannum 4th, Owen Daliege 5th
- 800m run, Owen Daliege 6th
- 1600m, Owen Hernandez 9th
- 3200m run, Reed Hartjes 4th, Aaron Jacoby 7th
- 4x100m relay of Joseph Johnson, Trey France,

Owen Hagan and Cullen Thomas 4th

- 4x800m relay of Harrison Zacher, Owen Hernandez, Charlie Kuhn and Owen Daliege 4th
- High jump, Aaron Jacoby 9th
- Discus, Christian Statz 5th, Bryson Drollinger 9th
- Shot put, Bryson Drollinger 9th



Assumption junior Lucy Dolan took first in the 1600m run (5:20.60), second in the 800m, and was part of the 4x400 relay team at the May 8 Stratford Invitational.

Luedtke sets new record
in 800m

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – The Marshfield Middle School track and field teams competed at Ben Franklin Middle School on Monday, May 5. The boys and girls had multiple winners, and a longtime school record was broken.

The boys team won 13 of the 17 events, highlighted by finishing in the Top 3 spots in discus. Michael Brown was a four-event winner, taking first in the pole vault, 100 meter, 200m and 4x100 competitions.

The girls team won five events, including the 4x100 and 4x200 relays. Leeann Luedtke set a school record in the 800m run with a 2:33.5, breaking a record that had stood for 32 years.

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| SPORTS |

Marshfield Middle teams win at Triangular meet

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFEILD – The Marshfield Middle School track and field boys and girls teams both won their Triangular meet against Mosinee and Merrill. The boys dominated, winning 15 of the 17 events and scoring 127 points. The girls won eight events.

The 4x100 girls team of Sadie Christensen, Kaitlin Ridgway, Naomi Heiman and Leeann Luedtke set a new school record, breaking the previous 9-year-old record by 0.48 seconds. Luedtke extended her own triple jump record to 34 feet, 1.5 inches.



Marshfield Middle School's Emilia Tippen compete during the Triangular meet against Mosinee and Merrill. Submitted photos



Marshfield Middle School's Brynn Polga and Keyahna Reed compete during the Triangular meet against Mosinee and Merrill.




Marshfield Middle School's Michael Brown, William Gualt, Joceden Hamilton-Hiserman and Jack Franseen compete during the Triangular meet against Mosinee and Merrill.

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Announcements7005

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Rummage Sales This Week7200

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MARSHFIELD, 1106 W. 17th St. 5 family garage sale! Fri., May 16, 7a-5p; Sat., May 17, 8a-2p. Toddler to 6x, young adult & adult clothing, baby items, HH, décor, Antiques, comforter sets, toys, ice shack, toddler bed, etc.

MARSHFIELD, 1716 Devine Dr. (West of Wildwood Drive) Thur., May 15 - Noon-5pm
Fri., May 16 - 7am-5pm
6 antique dining chairs, bookcase, microwave, boys, men's and women's clothing, HH & Misc.

MARSHFIELD, 2100 N. Lincoln Ave. May 14, 3p-7p; May 15 & 16 8a-6pm; May 17 8am-noon. See marketplace for listing.

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DNR urges keep your distance from fawns

FOR CITY TIMES
MARSHFIELD – White-tale deer fawn can be born at any time, but most arrive in May and June. And if you find one by itself, you might think it was abandoned by its mother.
But the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) says if you encounter a fawn while outdoors, do not touch it or intervene in any way – there's a good chance it's right where it's supposed to be, and its mother isn't far away.



Young fawns spend most of the day on their own, quietly waiting for their mothers to return from feeding.
Wisconsin DNR photo

In the first few weeks of life, fawns stay quiet and hidden while their mothers look for food nearby. Their spotted coats and minimal scent are their best defenses in the first few weeks of life. While fawns can walk from birth, it takes them a few weeks to become fast enough to keep up with their mothers and avoid predators.
Remember, wild animals care for their young differently than humans do, and their best chance of survival is in their natural environment.
“Young fawns are often left alone for most of the day to keep them safe,” said Jenna Fastner, DNR captive wildlife health specialist. “Although their mother can return at any time, white-tailed deer are crepuscular, or more active at dawn and dusk, which means the fawn can be alone for long periods between feedings. By the Fourth of July, most fawns are on the move alongside or near their mothers.”
Unaccompanied fawns have

rarely been abandoned. If you find a seemingly healthy fawn lying quietly by itself, do not touch it, and leave it there.
Do not bring other people or pets to look at the fawn. The mother will not return while people or other animals are around. Giving the fawn and its mother space is the best thing you can do to support their natural behavior.
Do not feed the fawn. Wild animals have specialized dietary needs that are not easily met, and providing non-natural food sources puts them at risk of suffering nutritional deficiencies that can lead to deformities or death.
If you encounter a fawn that appears sick or injured, or if it is in an unsafe location, record what you are observing from a distance and take

photos or videos if you are able to do so safely.
Call the DNR or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for guidance before intervening. Wildlife rehabilitators often specialize in one or a few species. Make sure you are contacting a wildlife rehabilitator licensed to provide rehabilitative care to fawns.
In Wisconsin, it is against the law to take an animal from the wild to keep as a pet or to provide unlicensed rehabilitation. You must have a license to conduct wildlife rehabilitation, and you should never try to care for a wild animal to protect their health and yours.
For more information on keeping Wisconsin's wildlife wild, visit the DNR's website, <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>

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Prevail bank raises funds for United Way programs

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS –Prevail Bank recently donated a combined \$5,000 for United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties programs.

During the annual Shred Day, both Prevail Bank and Bank-A-Count pledged to donate \$1 for every pound of paper shredded, up to a \$1,000 each. The community rose to the challenge, bringing in a whopping 1,715 pounds of documents to be safely destroyed and recycled. The public chipped in an additional \$227 in donations, bringing the total gift to \$2,227.

“This event was a win-win,” said Taylor Doescher, Prevail Bank branch manager. “We helped people protect their personal information while supporting a cause that makes a real difference right here in our community.”

Meanwhile, an additional \$4,000 was donated to United Way in support of its financial literacy programs and to help people and families who are employed but don’t earn enough to achieve basic financial stability.



Prevail Bank raised \$1,000 for the United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties’ programs through the bank’s Shred Day. From left are Taylor Doescher, Prevail Bank branch manager; Tari Jahns, United Way CEO; and Nathan Quinnett, Prevail Bank CEO/president.

The United Way was one of 29 nonprofit organizations selected to receive funding through Prevail Bank’s Charitable Contributions program this spring. The program awarded a total of \$82,500 to nonprofits that serve low-to-moderate income households, stimulate local economies, offer financial education or work to improve the quality of life for underserved populations in the communities Prevail Bank serves.

Submitted photo




Spring Cleaning

Forward Bank employees volunteer their time to clean up Marshfield’s Braem Park on May 5. The city’s Parks and Recreation Department says their “commitment to making Marshfield a better place shines through.”

Contributed photo

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