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FREE

# Ag secretary tours Mid-State’s meat lab

**FOR CITY TIMES**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – State agriculture secretary Randy Romanski recently toured Mid-State Technical College’s meat training lab at Auburndale High School, where he learned about the college’s growing meat talent programming.

The visit allowed him to see first-hand how funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Meat Talent Grant Initiative is supporting successful training outcomes for Mid-State and its high school partners.

Mid-State’s meat training began with the Meat Cutting and Butchery certificate launched in spring




DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski, left, looks on while Adam Schlafke, Mid-State meat cutting and butchery instructor, conducts a tour of the meat cutting lab at Auburndale High School.

Contributed photo


2023 through partnerships with Auburndale and Pittsville school districts. Both high schools had established meat cutting facilities, which were supplemented by a partnership with Mid-State through the use of the DATCP Meat Talent Development Grant.

“When the need for the grant program was identified, we envisioned a strong partnership between businesses and educators like the ones we now have,” Romanski said. “Gov. (Tony) Evers’ investment in the Meat Talent program and the meat

**Meat Lab**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 2




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**GRADUATION  
SECTION  
INSIDE!**





Randy Romanski, the state's agriculture secretary, recently toured Mid-State Technical College's meat training lab at Auburndale High School. Meeting with him were, back row from left, Aubrey Barbeau, Steven VanWhye, Jeff Swenson, Alex Lendved, Mandy Lang, Randy Romanski, Adam Schlafke, Chris Severson, Andy Dewitt and Scott Owen; and front row from left, Teri Raatz, Betsy Leonard, Ann Borski, Adam Yerke, and Mark Cournoyer.

Contributed photo

MEAT LAB

FROM PAGE 1

processing workforce has increased opportunities for education and employment for people across the state. The time and energy invested in this program will continue to support the workforce for years to come.”

Since the program started, almost 100 students have gone through the training. And starting in 2026, Mid-State plans to launch the Advanced Meat Cutting and Butchery technical diploma, developing 10 new classes to support the expanding curriculum. Thirty students have already expressed interest in the program.

“Success through partnership is one of our strengths as a college, and when it comes to finding solutions for our commu-

nities, we always ask, who can we partner with?” said Mid-State President Shelly Mondeik. “When we learned that there were existing facilities in our local high schools that we could build out and expand, that efficiency combined with the pathway from high school to career – it’s just a win-win for everybody.”

During the tour attendees enjoyed samples of Mid-State students’ favorite recipes, along with desserts, refreshments and light snacks.

They also heard from program graduates who have gone on to apply their skills in the real world, including Ann Borski, who graduated from the Meat Cutting and Butchery certificate program in spring 2023. Borski has gone on to open her own business, Ann’s Wild Game Butchering in Grand Rapids, pro-

cessing 75 animals in her first year and growing to 103 in her second year. She also butchers hogs and cattle from her own family farm.

“It was a great experience,” Borski said about the Mid-State program and the ongoing support she has received from the Mid-State team, including instructor Adam Schlafke. “The best part is that he’s patient with you, so if you don’t get it right away, you just back up and go again.

“And if you have any questions, they’re open to call. It’s just been a great team and a great network to work with afterwards.”

Mid-State also plans to introduce a new Meat Processing and Retail certificate in fall 2025 as well as the Meat Cutting and Butchery certificate program entirely in Spanish.

Downtown farmers market returns to Wisconsin Rapids

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Local vendors will return to downtown Wisconsin Rapids for the start of the seventh annual farmers market.

With support from the Wood County Health Department, the market will be open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays, from June 12 to Oct. 11, on 1st Avenue from West Grand to Goggin Street.

Shoppers can expect an array of locally grown produce, handmade goods, food vendors and crafters. This year, the market once again will accept FoodShare

(SNAP), credit and debit cards through a Market Token program. Visitors simply swipe their card at the market booth and receive tokens valued at \$1 increments to use with participating vendors. Credit and debit users will incur a \$1 transaction fee, which helps the market’s operations and programming.

In addition to SNAP, the market also accepts WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers as well as Aspirus Fruit & Vegetable Rx vouchers, making fresh, nutritious food more accessible to all members of

the community.

“Every dollar spent at the market goes directly back to our hardworking farmers, food vendors, crafters, and local entrepreneurs,” said Mai Thao, market manager. “We are thrilled to be entering our seventh year and look forward to another season of good food, great people and community connection.”

There is still room for more vendors, and volunteers to help at the market information booth are needed.

For more information, contact Thao at (715) 421-8942 or Mai.Thao@wood-countywi.gov.

DNR offers safety classes for ATVs/UTVs

CITY TIMES STAFF

MARSHFIELD – The school year is almost over, and that means kids will have more time on their hands, for both work and play.

To help keep them and other people safe, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is encouraging everyone to take an ATV/UTV safety certification course. In fact, it’s required for any operator at least 12 years old and born after 1987. They also must carry their proof of certification while riding.

In 2024 alone, 40 people died in ATV/UTV crashes in Wisconsin, with most of them not wearing helmets. Simple steps can prevent fatalities, highlighting the importance of a safety course.

“The primary focus of our safety education course is preventing crashes that lead to injuries and fatalities,” said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle adminis-



Any operator 12 years or older and born 1987 is required to complete a DNR-approved safety course and carry their proof of certification while riding.

Wisconsin DNR photo

trator. “We want folks to create positive memories and have a great experience on our trails, and that only happens if everyone returns home safely at the end of the trip.”

The course isn’t just for youngsters. Even if operators aren’t required by law

to complete a class, the DNR encourages all operators to brush up on their skills and knowledge. That’s because inexperience is a top contributing factor in many serious crashes.

You can sign up for a course on the DNR’s website.

Western Tech names President’s List

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – The following central Wisconsin students were named to the Western Technical College President’s List of High Distinction for the Spring 2025 term.

They are:

- Camryn Wucherpfnennig of Marshfield
- Dashony Xiong of Wisconsin Rapids
- Jonas Whitegull of Neillsville
- Marcus Perkins of Marshfield
- Mason Schuld of Wisconsin Rapids
- Sydney Ott of Marshfield

To be included on the President’s List, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and carry six or more



At least six local students made the President’s List at Western Technical College.

Contributed photo

credits in an associate’s degree or technical diploma program.

DNR releases Spring Hearing results

CITY TIMES STAFF

MADISON, Wis. – The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released results from its annual Spring Hearing questionnaire.

Statewide, just over 9,000 people responded either in person or online from April 14 to 16; of those, about 725 were from Wood County. Questions included topics ranging from fishing bag limit changes on individual waterbodies to building accessible cabins at state-managed properties and extending the fall turkey season in specific zones.

The full list of questions and results is available on the DNR website.

“We had very good participation again for this year’s spring hearings. I’m happy with the input and public discussions we had in person and online,” said Rob Bohmann, Wisconsin Conservation Congress Chair. “It tells me the public is still interested and engaged in resource management in Wisconsin, and it is important to them.”

The annual Spring Hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide input on an array of natu-

ral resources-related proposed rule change questions presented by the DNR and advisory questions presented by the Conservation Congress. The public also has the opportunity to provide input on resolutions that members of the public previously submitted.

Public input received through this process is advisory to Natural Resources Board members, DNR staff and anyone working on these issues.

In Wood County, people overwhelmingly (524-114) support being allowed to leave nonedible parts of deer, bear and elk in the field after harvest. They also would like to be able to use technology to tend to traps. However, most (188-258) are opposed to eliminating the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle.

The public input next will go to the DNR and Natural Resources Board in June.

Full results can be found on the DNR’s website.

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# Celebrate Wisconsin’s dairy history during June Dairy Month

BY HALEI HEINZEL  
FOR CITY TIMES

Farmers are busy in their fields and with new-born animals, and signs of summer are popping up everywhere around Wisconsin, which means that soon it will be time to celebrate June Dairy Month.

Let’s learn a little about how our state came to be known as America’s Dairyland.

Around the time Wisconsin became a state in 1848, it was known as America’s breadbasket, with 1/6 of the nation’s wheat being harvested here. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), settlers in Wisconsin chose wheat because it did not require much money, was relatively easy to grow and could be harvested twice a year.

However, continuous planting of that single crop depleted the soil, and in the 1860s, damage caused by chinch bugs further decimated the wheat yield.

Needing to change course, Wisconsin’s farmers started adding dairy cows to their business approach and finding success. Our climate was ideal for

dairy cattle, and the soil was better suited for feed crops.

Well before the 1860s, some Wisconsinites were making cheese. According to WHS, Charles Rockwell of Koshkonong was one of the earliest in 1837, and Anne Pickett established a cheese factory in Lake Mills in 1841, using milk from neighbors’ cows. However, before Wisconsin’s dairy boom, New York was the leading dairy state. Then many New Yorkers moved here, bringing knowledge and skills for dairying on a commercial scale. At that time, Wisconsin dairies primarily produced cheese because it kept longer than the butter that was being made in other dairy-producing states.

Seeing a fast-growing opportunity for farmers, the University of Wisconsin began researching ways to support the dairy industry. William A. Henry, the UW’s first professor of agriculture, used the school’s farm to study the use of round silos to feed cattle during winter, and professor Stephen Babcock developed the first test for butterfat content in milk. The uni-



Above and below: Halei Heinzel is Wisconsin’s 77th Alice in Dairyland. She has spent the past 11 months touring the state and promoting Wisconsin’s dairy industry. **Contributed photos**

versity also started a “short course” to educate farmers about the dairy industry.

William Dempster Hoard, the 16th Governor of Wisconsin, was also instrumental to the success of Wisconsin dairy farming. Hoard started the Wisconsin Dairyman’s Association in Watertown in 1872 to provide marketing for the industry along with education in new dairying meth-

ods through its publications and meetings. Hoard’s Dairyman was established in 1885 and quickly became the nation’s leading dairy magazine.

By 1899, more than 90% of Wisconsin farms raised dairy cows. By 1915, Wisconsin had become the leading dairy state in the nation, producing more butter and cheese than any other state.

Fast forward more than 100 years and Wisconsin still maintains the title of America’s Dairyland.

Today, our state is home

## New Alice in Dairyland named

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – A new Alice in Dairyland will take the helm beginning in July.

In her new role, Sarah Hagenow of Poynette will be a full-time communications professional for the state agriculture department (DATCP), educating the public about the importance of agriculture in Wisconsin.

Hagenow, a senior at the University of Minnesota, will graduate with a degree in agricultural and food business management and a minor in international agriculture. When she was younger, she was involved with 4-H and FFA, which spurred her to join the Gopher Dairy Club, Agricultural Business Club, Agricultural Mentor Program and the dairy cattle judging team at college. Hagenow has held internships with Heatherstone Enterprises, Viking Dairy Co., the Minnesota State Senate and the Animal Agriculture Alliance.

Hagenow will begin her term as the 78th Alice in Dairyland on July 7, succeeding Halei Heinzel of Oconomowoc.

to nearly a quarter of the nation’s dairy farms, 99% of which are family-owned. Our farm families understand the importance of keeping cows healthy and comfortable, as well as managing land and water resources. Our 5,300 dairy farms house about 1.28 million cows, which are milked and cared for using the latest technology to ensure cow comfort and product safety.

Over the past nearly 11 months of my time as the 77th Alice in Dairyland, I have been able to meet and

talk with dairy professionals across the state. They each have a story to tell, a history to share, and a career to be proud of.

This June Dairy Month and beyond, join me in thanking the dedicated individuals who make us America’s Dairyland! Visit [www.wisconsin dairy.org/june-dairy-month](http://www.wisconsin dairy.org/june-dairy-month) for more information and to find a June Dairy Month event near you.

*Halei Heinzel is Wisconsin’s 77th Alice in Dairyland.*



## Monthly milk sampling set to begin

CITY TIMES STAFF

WOOD COUNTY – Milk from dairy farms in Wood County soon will be tested monthly in an effort to halt the spread of avian flu.

The state agricultural department said in a release the mandatory testing is part of a national strategy by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s

Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to identify and address avian flu, or H5N1, in affected herds.

If avian flu is detected, DATCP’s Division of Animal Health will work with affected farms regarding quarantine requirements.

Farms may continue shipping milk if it meets

“normal” milk standards. The Food and Drug Administration and USDA continue to emphasize that the commercial milk supply is safe because of the pasteurization process.

For questions or more information on the testing strategy, contact NMTS-faq@wisconsin.gov or (608) 224-4717.

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### South Wood County Humane Society Pet of the Week

Meet Bluey. He's a high-energy pup with a heart full of love and a bit of a shy side. He may take a little time to warm up, but once he does, he's all about giving hugs and showing affection. Bluey loves to chase the ball and would thrive in an active home where he can burn off his energy. His playful spirit and sweet nature will shine through once he feels comfortable. If you're looking for a loving, energetic companion who'll keep you on your toes, Bluey is the perfect match.

Those interested in Bluey can fill out an adoption application online at <https://www.swchs.com/adopt/adoption-application/>

South Wood County Humane Society can be reached at [office@swchs.com](mailto:office@swchs.com) or (715) 423-0505

Located at 3621 64th Street N. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494w

Sunday and Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Friday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Hunters can still apply for chance at elk hunt license

**CITY TIMES STAFF**

WOOD COUNTY – Hunters who would like a once-in-a-lifetime chance at an elk hunting license for the upcoming season can apply through May 31.

Licenses are based on a lottery system, and the drawing is random, with all applicants having an equal chance of selection. Applications are not weapon-specific, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said in a release.

This year, the Black River Elk Range will have a quota of four antlered and five antlerless elk, and the Clam Lake Elk Range will have a quota of eight antlered elk split evenly between tribal and state-licensed hunters. The 2025



There's still time to apply for a chance at a 2025 elk hunt lottery.  
**Cody Austin | Wisconsin DNR photo**

DNR elk hunting season opens Oct. 18.

Antlerless harvest authorizations will also be filled through the random drawing process after the initial antlered drawing is complete. Wisconsin residents can only draw an elk license once in their lifetime, and

Go Wild. Application purchases are also available in-person at license agents across the state.

For each application fee, \$7 goes directly to elk management, monitoring and research. These funds are also used to create and enhance elk habitat, which benefits elk and other wildlife species.

All winners must participate in a Wisconsin elk hunter education course before obtaining an elk hunting license. The class covers Wisconsin elk history, hunting regulations, biology, behavior and scouting/hunting techniques.

For more information on Wisconsin's elk hunt, visit the DNR's Elk Hunting webpage.

### Grant could boost area farmers markets

**CITY TIMES STAFF**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – A federal grant could help boost farmers markets in central Wisconsin, especially in rural areas where access to fresh, nutritious food can be limited.

The Wood County Health Department, in partnership with the Central Wisconsin Farmers Market Collaborative (CWPMC), said in a release the three-year grant is focused on supporting farmers markets in utilizing technology and being more organized and easier for everyone to use. The funds come from the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP).

"We are excited about the opportunity to enhance food access and collaboration at Central Wisconsin farmers markets through this USDA grant," said Kristie Egge, the Health Department's supervisor of strategic initiatives. "Farmers markets are a cornerstone of healthy communities, but many in our region face barriers when it comes to technology and capacity to grow and expand their customer base. This grant

will help address those challenges and create a more coordinated, sustainable food system."

The CWPMC spans five counties and serves about 350,000 people, with just over a dozen farmers markets spread across nearly 5,000 square miles. Many of these markets struggle with limited resources, a lack of paid market managers, and insufficient outreach to low-income communities, including food assistance recipients, health department officials said.

This new funding will allow the CWPMC to continue supporting the five markets that were part of the original 2021-23 planning grant, including Wisconsin Rapids Downtown. It also expands support to seven more markets, including the winter market in Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield's farmers market. and Clintonville).

Officials say the funding comes at a critical time, as rural communities face in-

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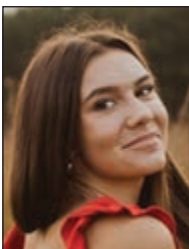









332892

# Congratulations to the Class of 2025





## John Edwards High School Class of 2025



|   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|    |    |    |     |     |    |    |    |
| Olivia Allworden  | Arik Andreasen  | Natalee Barstow   | Nolan Bastien  | Brynden Beck  | Carson Bender   | Aleea Bonner  | Felicity Clouse   |
|   |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |
| Rayna Dassow  | Jason Doeberreiner  | Naomee Gruba  | Colby Grunden  | Noah Haltner  | Oracio Hernandez  | Kate Hewitt   | Kailey Horbal   |
|  |  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| Cameron Johnson   | Boden Kapellusch  | Macie Kleifgen  | Caitlyn LaCour   | Makayla McGuffey  | Max Michels   | Trenton Morey   | Shelby Nelson   |
|   |  |  |  |  | <div>NOT PICTURED</div> Liliana Gutierrez   |   |   |
|   | Timothy Pillsbury   | Nevada Rice   | Jack Schraeder   | Josh Tranel   |   |   |   |

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Owen Daliege



Aislinn Dolan



Bryson Drollinger



Jerlin Ferreira



Eliana Gildenzoph



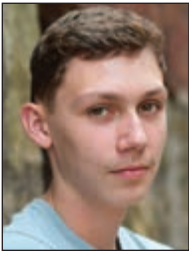
Mason Hackman



Owen Hagan



Thomas Hannum



Owen Hernandez



Haley Hintz



Joseph Johnson



Charles Kuhn



Ella Lerch



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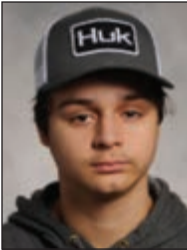






















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| Amelia Beckwith  | Ayden Bjorkquist  | Kamryn Bogdansk  | Jasmine Brown   | Jazmyn Corral  | Chase Dahl  | Fernando Davila   | Jelissa Dortch  | Mateo Espinoza  |
|    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Elliott Firth  | Alex Gutierrez  | Kaden Guyant   | Kiera Hall  | Kiera Hartzke  | Esmeralda Hernandez   | Nathaniel Hiller  | Chloe Hohmann   | Trevor Holsten  |
|   |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Brandon Hyde   | Treisa Johnson  | Max Koralewski   | Ji-Gwe Layton   | Illiana Littlegeorge   | Bryen Meton   | Ryan Mohr   | Austin Neukirchen   | Kendra Noska  |
|  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Riley Ott  | Artist Parker   | Dahlia Rodriguez   | Ava Rogus   | Toby Ruh   | Johnnie Sally   | Miles Schertz   | Robert Sorem  | Destini Sparks  |
|  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Landen Spiegel   | Shaela Stewart  | Parker Straw   | Keira Tellekson   | Dakota Ward-Glodowski  | Lucas Westover  | Zach Wetz   | Raelyn Wiggins  | Brock Williams  |
|  |  | <div>NOT PICTURED</div> <div>Samantha Albiter</div> <div>Diego Gonzalez</div> <div>Grace Kirk</div> <div>Jeweliana McGill</div> <div>Aliya McKenzie</div> <div>Qamryan Ramirez</div> |   |  |   |   |   |   |
| Draven Wilson  | Gage Withers  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |

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- Riley Look
- Mason Maciejewski

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|             |                |                 |                 |                   |                      |                     |               |                 |
| Eden Adams  | Riley Adams    | Abigail Addis   | Natalie Akey    | Allison Anderson  | Logan Anderson       | Aiden Armagost      | Hayden Arndt  | Brandon Arndt   |
|             |                |                 |                 |                   |                      |                     |               |                 |
| Macey Back  | Leah Balthazor | Jayden Baumbach | Corynn Belke    | Nevaeh Benson     | Kyrin Bentivegna     | Evan Bessey         | Niveah Blazel | Amelia Blum     |
|             |                |                 |                 |                   |                      |                     |               |                 |
| Alexa Borek | Anna Bouchard  | Evelyn Boyles   | Alison Brandl   | Trestian Brinegar | Brianna Britton      | Isabelle Brockman   | Xavier Brooks | Joshua Bush     |
|             |                |                 |                 |                   |                      |                     |               |                 |
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Everett Conrad



Ivy Contreras



Yesenia Contreras



Hannah Cook



Makayla Cornelius



Alexa Cour



Alexis Crossley



Austin Cummings



Lily Dagdagon-Lehman



Jose De La Cruz Chi



Deztynie Dean



Riley DeFilippis



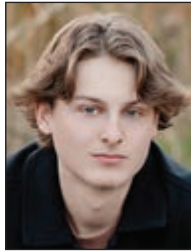
Mckenna Dickrell



Sierra Dillingham



Aryanna Dixon



Conner Duckett



Isaiah Edgerly



Lukas Egerer



Savannah  
Elenewski-Lowrance



Taylar Engelbright



Sophie Feidt



Lola Feit



Logan Ferkey



Corbin Fisher



Nathan Folz



Megan Fota



Delanie Fox



Brett Fox



Eden Francis



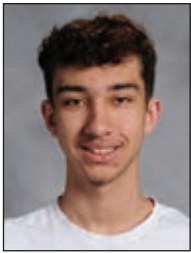
Carter Freeman



Landyn Freeman



Faith Fuehrer



Jaden Gabler



Liliana Garcia Glodowski



Roman Gaugert



Joshua  
Glenzer-Czenczek



Karter Goetz



Brady Golat



Macy Goodness



Carter Gordon



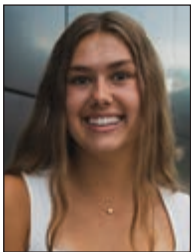
Tanner Gormanson



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Ava Lang



Gabriel Larson



Alexander Lawry



Trenton Lawry



Aleeya Leach



Marcus Lease



Alana Lee



David Lee



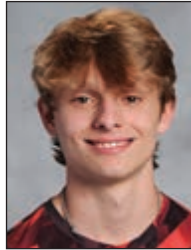
Ethan Lee



Caanan Lemke



Hazel Lemper



Dominic Lockhart



David Long



Riley Look



Hailey Lowe



Elijah Luedtke



Mason Maciejewski



Ella Madsen



Lilyana Mancel



Ella Mathews



Samuel Matthews



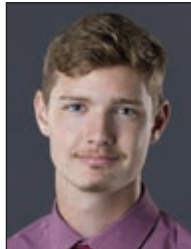
Emma McDonald



Michael McDonald



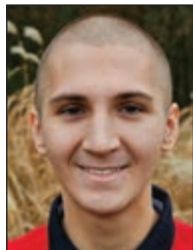
Jayce McGregor



Colten McMillen



Dalton Meshak



Cayden Mikolajczyk



Lindsey Miller



Makenzie Miller



Kaylee Mitchell



Jaylin Morman



Delainey Morrison



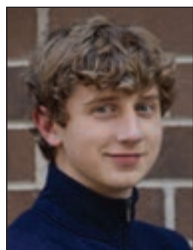
Chong Leng Moua



Wyatt Mroz



Cole Mrozek



Camden Mueller



Brandi Neidlein



Gabrielle Neilitz



Ariana Neuser



Alyssa Nutile



Elia Nyquist



Carter Oaks



Emma Oestreicher



Hayden O'Handley



Jeremiah Oleson



Olivia Oleson



Jason Oligney



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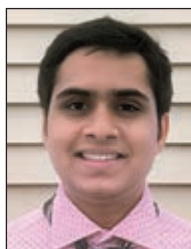
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Emma Palm



Ella Panter



Yom Patel



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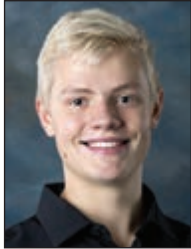
Emma Thomas



Annaiesa Thor



Justin Tibbetts



Austin Tisland



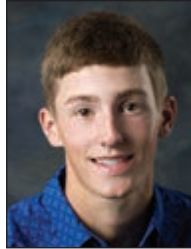
MaKaylen Top Sky



Mason Tritz



Kailar Tritz



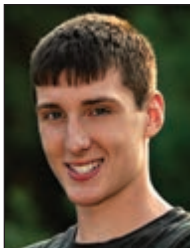
Nathan VanErt



Tou Ger Vang



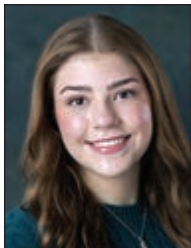
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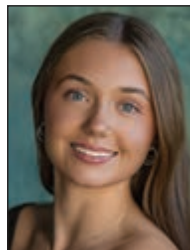
Gabrielle Young



Simon Zacher



Hannah Zagorianakos



Maya Zeman



Olivia Zimmerman



Madison Zuege

NOT PICTURED

Saul Contreras  
Rayna Cowen  
James Griffith  
Kybre High  
Ahkara Khang

Naomi Littlegeorge  
Malakai McGregor  
Kiya Miller  
Savannah Musch  
Kaylee Shaver

Sakina Stinson  
Eli Thao  
Felicity Vang  
Bailee Wettstein  
Tristan Williams





# Nekoosa High School Class of 2025

|                 |                 |                 |                    |                 |                   |                |                  |                  |
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| Hallie Anderson | Damien Armstead | Joseph Bertling | Brianna Brost      | Logan Brown     | Dylan Bruhn       | Dylan Buehring | Jeremiah Carlson | Shae Clark       |
|                 |                 |                 |                    |                 |                   |                |                  |                  |
| Wyatt Clark     | Karissa Cote    | Zander Dahl     | Daisy Diaz         | September Eisel | Kiara Fellion     | Jayden Fraser  | Sofia Gaupp      | Grey Gerzmehle   |
|                 |                 |                 |                    |                 |                   |                |                  |                  |
| Kash Goffin     | Andrea Gokey    | Jackelin Gomez  | Nathan Henrikson   | Hailey Hintz    | Brooklynn Hoffman | Samya Hughes   | Jaden Humes      | Andrea Jake      |
|                 |                 |                 |                    |                 |                   |                |                  |                  |
| Adison Janssen  | Carter Jensen   | Taylor Johns    | Katherine Kniprath | Laura Koehler   | Anders Kolar      | Ethan Kramer   | Nashua Krcmar    | Melania Krotzman |
|                 |                 |                 |                    |                 |                   |                |                  |                  |
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Jaron Richardson



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Jamison Rivera



Robert Smith III



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Mason Spice



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Maleah Stojak



Dixie Strege



Justin Thelen



Leah Thomas



Alex Thompson



George Thompson



Louis Tourant




Trinity Turrubitas




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# Showstopper: An unlikely love

BY KRIS LEONHARDT  
SENIOR EDITOR

*Continued from previ-  
ous week*

Hans Hansen Bille came to Marshfield in 1882.

A native of Denmark, educated in architecture and civil engineering, he worked odd jobs in the Upham Manufacturing Company before taking a position with a Minneapolis architectural firm.

Following the Marshfield fire in 1887, Bille returned to the city to work with a contractor, rebuilding the city.

Having mastered the English language, Bille soon found work as a contractor himself and began his own business.

Frequently making trips back to his native country, Bille met and courted a young girl named Anne Larsen Brylle.

The two were married and Bille brought his new bride back to America.

Settling in Marshfield, the couple welcomed their first child, Rosamond, and later, three other children: Alma, Flora and Harold.

While raising his family, Bille opened a cabinet shop on South Central Avenue in Marshfield, adding a variety of interior trims and finishes to his production line.

In six years, he had outgrown his shop and built a factory near one of the railroad lines to produce and ship his wood finishes.

While Bille grew his manufacturing business,



J.P. Adler and Rosa stand in front of the Hans Bille trim factory in Marshfield.  
**NWCHS photos**

he continued to contract the building of homes and businesses within the city, including his own at 111 S. Cherry, Marshfield, in the chic Pleasant Hill District of the city.

The Bille children were raised in a life of opportunity, each of them receiving a solid education.

After graduating from McKinley High School, Bille's oldest daughter, Rosamond, became an accomplished pianist and singer while receiving her teaching certificate from the Milwaukee Conservatory of Music.

She returned to Marshfield to teach kindergarten.

Shortly after, Rosa was hired to play the piano and organ for the Adler Opera House.

Rosa and her new employer couldn't have been more different and had all of the makings for an inimical relationship. They came from two very different family backgrounds and had set up family roots in two very distinct sections of the city.



J.P. and Rosa came from two very different family backgrounds and had set up family roots in two very distinct sections of the city.

The Bille family — Danish and Lutheran — lived south of the Wisconsin Central Railway line, an unseen dividing line within the city; while the Adlers belonged to the German-Catholic north-side community in Marshfield.

Still, in time, the serious and stern businessman, fell for the quiet, congenial musician who played the organ for his movie presentations and concert piano for the theater production orchestra.

*To be continued*

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

# The Implications of Telling a Lie

Dear Reader,

Let's consider what it means when someone tells a lie. Whether it's told to one person or many—depending on the liar's available platforms—the essence remains the same: they knowingly state something untrue. They don't believe it themselves because they know it's false. Yet, they say it anyway.

What are the implications of knowingly spreading falsehoods?

Does it reflect on the person's integrity and diminish our ability to trust them in the future? Trust is often hard-earned and easily lost. If someone repeatedly speaks falsehoods, does it reveal something about their character—about who they truly are?



And what happens when the lies multiply? What if the person telling them holds a position of authority or influence? Do their lies carry more weight, affecting not just individual relationships but entire communities or societies?

As a society, we often wrestle with how to respond to liars. Do we simply tolerate them, resign-

ing ourselves to the noise of their falsehoods? Or do we take a stand—choosing to distance ourselves, challenge their statements, or even remove them from our lives altogether?

The act of lying is never a neutral one. It leaves a mark, not only on the deceived but also on the deceiver. It erodes trust, fractures relationships, and undermines the fabric of any community. Yet, each of us has a choice in how we respond: to confront lies with truth, to rebuild trust where it has been broken, or to protect ourselves by stepping away.

The choice is ours.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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

# Reinstate fair camping access for water ski weekend

Dear Editor,

I write on behalf of many concerned visitors regarding a sudden, unexplained change to the 2026 camping reservation system for the State Waterski Show Tournament in Wood County. Without committee review or public input, the Parks Director moved reservations for this single weekend off the centralized, transparent system and onto a separate platform that has previously failed — causing chaos and inequity.

This decision was made with no supporting data, no public notice and no HIRC

approval. Other large events like BMX tournaments and festivals are still allowed to use the county's proven, streamlined booking process. Singling out Waterski Weekend — a major tourism draw, bringing in upwards of \$3 million annually — undermines public trust and sets a dangerous precedent.

Worse still, many campers had already booked under the existing system before this change was announced. Retroactive policy changes erode faith in public institutions.

The solution is simple: Reinstate the centralized

reservation system for this event. No bookings have been released yet for that week, so this fix can be made immediately without disruption.

Despite reaching out, we have yet to hear back from the HIRC, and therefore request the media to urge the HIRC and Wood County officials to take action now to restore fairness, transparency, and consistency. The public deserves policies made with data, oversight and integrity — not sudden decisions behind closed doors.

Sincerely,  
Pam Heineck



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\*See Reservation Info for Booking Discount details



**Bryce National Park**



**Zion National Park Tram**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Hoover Dam
- ▶ Mob Museum
- ▶ Grand Canyon West
- ▶ Grand Canyon Skywalk
- ▶ Bryce Canyon National Park
- ▶ Zion National Park
- ▶ Zion Park Tram Tour
- ▶ Las Vegas Leisure Day
- ▶ 2 Nights - Las Vegas
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### INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Roundtrip Airfare - MSP, MKE, MSN or ORD(-\$100pp)
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- ▶ Professional Tour Director
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### ACCOMMODATIONS

- ▶ 5 Nights Accommodations
- ▶ 2 Nights - Luxor Hotel & Casino, The Mirage Resort or New York-New York Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas
- ▶ 3 Nights - Eureka Casino Resort, Mesquite, NV  
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## TOUR RATES:

Booking Discount\*:  
**\$2775 pp double**

Regular Rate:  
**\$2875 pp double**

Single Supplement: **+\$625**

\*See Reservation Info for Booking Discount details

**GO TO TOURSMMC.COM FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP**

For more information and a full brochure, please contact Premier World Discovery, Lawanna Lambert at 920-309-9427 or email: bookings@pwd.travel

## Sweet fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus Council 1558 in Wisconsin Rapids recently held two Tootsie Roll fundraisers, one for the Opportunity Development Centers and the other for Lincoln High School. Contributed photo

# Classifieds

Rummage Sales This Week

7200

**The Holly Shoppe Rummage Sale Lincoln Center 1519 Water Street Stevens Point, WI 54481**  
Wed, June 11 & Thurs, June 12 - 8-4 Fri, June 13 - 8-noon. Books, yarn, housewares, home décor, toys, crafts and much more!

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS:** Friday, 5/30-Saturday, 5/31, 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Large 2 family garage sale, children's clothes, toys & games, men's and women's clothes, household items, tools, etc. 1510 Clyde Avenue

Estate Sales

7208

**Stevens Point:** Thursday, 6/5-Saturday, 6/7, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Very Large Estate Sale of House, Basement and Garage items to include tools, tool boxes, gardening items, chairs, tables, yard decor, bird-houses, fishing poles and tackle boxes, snow shoes, snowboard, walkers, canes and medical assist items, kitchen items, older refrigerator, twin and queen bedroom sets, blankets, bedding and pillows, desks and office supplies, very large collection of Green Bay Packer collectibles, stereo system with turntable, lazy boy chair, pictures, floral arrangements, Easter, Halloween and Christmas decor, flat screen TV's, Entertainment Centers, MCM Mini Bar, costume jewelry, Women's XS-M clothing, Women's shoes 7-7.5, Men's L-XL clothing, Men's shoes 11 and so much more. Cash or good check, Bring help to move large items. 2016 West River Drive

Miscellaneous Merchandise

7266

**Craftsman Generator** 7hp 3500 watt. **2006 Rockwood Camper**, Sleeps 6 has a slide out with patio and davenport 29ft trailer call 715-421-2896

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**Call Randy 715-204-2578**

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LOOK

CASH FOR ANTIQUES: MOST ANY OLD ITEMS ESTATE ITEMS-FURNITURE FARM- UNUSUAL ITMS- TOOLS- OLD MILITARY WILL DIG THROUGH PILES CALL JERRY 715-366-3685 LEAVE MESSAGE

Dogs

7272

**AKC Pug Puppies:** AKC Registered Pug Puppies for sale. Shots and dewormed. Vet checked. 3 males and 3 females. Fawn colored. Ready to go 5/23. \$1,500. Call or text 715-587-1288

King Charles Cavalier Pups. Born 3-26. Registered, Vet checked, shots and dewormed. \$800 call 715-644-5726

\$5995 or Less

7532

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**2004 Honda Pilot**  
4 Wheel Drive, 7 passenger \$4,350  
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Trucks

7546



2023 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT Z71 4WD, double cab, 5.3L V8, loaded, warranty, ex condition, tonneau cover, under coated, great price. \$39.995 715-329-0731

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7554

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-844-406-2647 today!

**General Employment** 7110

**Nicolet College Hiring!** Field Service Technician Instructor <https://www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/employment> [jwayland@nicoletcollege.edu](mailto:jwayland@nicoletcollege.edu)

Skilled Trades

7175

**DAIRY TRANSPORT FULL-TIME:** Must have Class A with Tanker, current DOT physical, clean driving record, minimum of 2 yrs. exp. \$28/hr. with regular raises, time and a half after 40 and weekends, 401k, cell phone allowance, Health, life & short-term disability insurances. Waldvogel Trucking 715-489-3674

General Labor

7180

**Quality Homes** of Irma, WI is seeking a full-time experienced carpenter with a meticulous eye for detail with a heavy background in drywall, carpet/trim work & framing. Pay based on your set of skills. We are seeking a positive team based member who doesn't mind longer hours, to stay on top of our customer base in order to maintain a positive clientele & overall business. Call 715-453-6613 to APPLY TODAY!

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Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material -steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer -up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-877-845-6606

# Legal

Name Change

7730

**BY THE COURT:**  
Honorable Nicholas J. Brazeau, Jr.  
Circuit Court Judge, Branch II  
Date: 4/25/25  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WOOD COUNTY**  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE NAME CHANGE OF  
Madison Laine Perez  
By (Petitioner) Madison Laine Perez  
**Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing**  
Case No. 25CV173  
**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
From: Madison Laine Perez  
To: Antalya Laine Perez  
Birth Certificate: Madison Laine Perez  
**IT IS ORDERED:**  
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Wood County, State of Wisconsin by Honorable Timothy Gebert, Branch 4, 400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 on 6/13/2025 at 2:15 p.m.  
*If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-421-8400 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.*  
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**  
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Wisconsin Rapids City Times, a newspaper published in Wood County, State of Wisconsin.  
Publish May 14, 21 & 28, 2025  
WNAXLP

# Advance directives can ease healthcare planning stress

FOR CITY TIMES

STEVENS POINT, Wis. – Who will make and communicate your medical decisions if you are unable to speak for yourself?

Many people don't realize that Wisconsin is not a next-of-kin state. This means that spouses, adult children, parents of adult children or other family members are not automatically authorized to make medical decisions for you. That's why health officials say all adults should complete an advance directive – a document that specifies who you choose to be your power of attorney for healthcare.

“An advance directive allows you to choose who you want to make medical decisions for you if you're not able to make them for yourself,” said Julie Barge, advance care planning coordinator with Aspirus Health. “It also enables you to specify your wishes regarding care facility placement, and

“An advance directive allows you to choose who you want to make medical decisions for you if you’re not able to make them for yourself.”

Julie Barge

Advance care planning coordinator with Aspirus Health

the type of treatment you want or don't want.”

Having an advance directive is a win-win, Barge said, even if you live in a next-of-kin state, like Minnesota.

Should the time ever come that you cannot make or communicate your own medical decisions, you will have identified who you want to make those decisions for you, and that person will know your wishes. They can be your voice. Research has shown that this reduces stress, guilt and questioning whether the right decisions were made.

It can also prevent delays and costly legal expenses.

“If you don't have an advance directive that names your power of attorney for healthcare, the case may go to court, which can delay treatment decisions and cost thousands of dollars,” Barge said. “In addition, if your loved ones don't agree on your care plan, it can cause a lot of stress.”

When choosing a health care agent or advocate, you need to consider who will honor your wishes, even if they don't agree with them. Who can handle stress and will be a good advocate for

you? As life changes, a new document should be completed to reflect your current choices, values and wishes.

Completing an advance directive may be easy for some and difficult for others. Aspirus offers free assistance with trained facilitators either in person, via phone or virtually.

“We go through the form and answer your questions,” Barge said. “We can help you think about scenarios you may not have thought about and discuss what your wishes would be. The document is then scanned into your medical record, you keep the original, and we can make copies for you at no charge.”

Advance care planning kits are available in at Aspirus clinics and hospitals and at [aspirus.org/advance-directives](http://aspirus.org/advance-directives). You may also request a kit be mailed to you by calling our Aspirus Customer Contact Center at (800) 847-4707.

# Have your say on mental health issues

CITY TIMES STAFF

MARSHFIELD – State officials are seeking input on ways to improve the mental health of Wisconsinites.

The Governor's Inter-agency Council on Mental Health is asking people to fill out a short survey, which will be open through June 30. The state will then use those answers to create a statewide plan to address Wisconsin's mental health crisis. The plan will include recommendations to expand prevention efforts and increase access to mental health services when and where people need them.

“We can't do this work

alone,” said Kirsten Johnson, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) secretary and chair of the council. “In order for our work to be successful, we need to hear directly from Wisconsinites impacted by the mental health crisis. Whether you live with a condition, support a loved one, work as a peer support specialist, or work in the mental health field - we want to hear from you.”

The Governor's Inter-agency Council on Mental Health is charged with:

- Bringing together state agencies to assess mental

health programs, evaluate gaps, and align programs.

- Reviewing current programs, including those developed using American Rescue Plan Act funds, to determine sustainability or expansion.

- Developing proposals to address the root causes of the mental health crisis, create pathways to sustain interagency partnerships, and develop performance metrics to evaluate the outcomes of these initiatives.

- Strengthening agency relationships with community partners, including local units of government,

school districts, court systems, and others, to build capacity to address the mental health crisis.

- Collaborating to improve the social and economic factors, also known as social determinants, that impact one's mental health, such as access to quality, affordable health care, safe housing, food security, financial security, and social connection among Wisconsinites.

The survey can be found at [dhs.wisconsin.gov](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov); search for “Governor's Inter-agency Council on Mental Health.”

# CALL TODAY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD! 715-256-4446

## NOTICE OF HOSPITAL PRICE INCREASE FOR ASPIRUS WISCONSIN RAPIDS HOSPITAL

410 Dewey Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Overall anticipated increase in gross revenue: 4.90%

Price increase effective: July 1, 2025

Annualized rate and effective date of last increase: 5.45% on July 1, 2024

| Description                                | Previous Rate | New Rate    | \$ Increase | % Increase |
|--|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Room and Board                             |               |             |             |            |
| Medical/Surgical - Private                 | \$ 1,996.00   | \$ 2,196.00 | \$ 200.00   | 10.0%      |
| Medical/Surgical with Telemetry - Private  | \$ 2,286.00   | \$ 2,515.00 | \$ 229.00   | 10.0%      |
| Obstetrics - Private                       | \$ 1,996.00   | \$ 2,196.00 | \$ 200.00   | 10.0%      |
| Nursery                                    |               |             |             |            |
| - Newborn Level 1                          | \$ 1,704.00   | \$ 1,789.00 | \$ 85.00    | 5.0%       |
| - Newborn Level 2                          | \$ 2,252.00   | \$ 2,365.00 | \$ 113.00   | 5.0%       |
| - Newborn Level 3                          | \$ 2,848.00   | \$ 2,990.00 | \$ 142.00   | 5.0%       |
| - Newborn Level 4                          | \$ 3,445.00   | \$ 3,617.00 | \$ 172.00   | 5.0%       |
| Intermediate Care                          | \$ 4,825.00   | \$ 5,066.00 | \$ 241.00   | 5.0%       |
| Intensive Care                             | \$ 5,308.00   | \$ 5,573.00 | \$ 265.00   | 5.0%       |
| Imaging Services, Excluding Physician Fees |               |             |             |            |
| -Mammography Screening                     | \$ 503.00     | \$ 528.00   | \$ 25.00    | 5.0%       |
| -Mammography Diagnostic                    | \$ 636.00     | \$ 837.00   | \$ 201.00   | 31.6%      |
| Emergency Room                             |               |             |             |            |
| - Level V Visit (Highest Volume)           | \$ 2,149.00   | \$ 2,256.00 | \$ 107.00   | 5.0%       |
| Labor Room and Delivery                    |               |             |             |            |
| -Level I Delivery                          | \$ 3,917.00   | \$ 4,113.00 | \$ 196.00   | 5.0%       |
| -Level II Delivery                         | \$ 4,505.00   | \$ 4,730.00 | \$ 225.00   | 5.0%       |
| -Level III Delivery                        | \$ 5,149.00   | \$ 5,458.00 | \$ 309.00   | 6.0%       |
| -Level IV Delivery                         | \$ 5,664.00   | \$ 6,287.00 | \$ 623.00   | 11.0%      |
| -Circumcision                              | \$ 800.00     | \$ 800.00   | \$ 0.00     | 0.0%       |

The prices listed above represent gross charges, and do not reflect what most patients pay. Actual patient costs vary greatly based upon several factors like insurance coverage and the complexity of care provided, among others. Aspirus Health is committed to providing the highest quality of care throughout its regions. This price increase assists Aspirus Health in continuing to provide access to the best possible healthcare and experience in the rural communities Aspirus serves.

# Thomas tops Marawood Conference meet

## FOR CITY TIMES

Assumption Royals track and field team competed in the Marawood Conference Meet on May 19, with 12 teams battling it out for top spots.

Bella Thomas came out on top, placing first in the 100m, 200m and 400m dashes. She was also voted co-female athlete of the Conference.

Lucy Dolan, meanwhile, earned first in the 800m run and 1600m run, and took third in the 4x800m relay with teammates Brooklyn Schoenick, Callie Schoenick and Leire Sainz De Rosa.

Brooklyn Schoenick also placed second in the 1600m run and third in the 800m run.

Point scorers included:

- 200m dash, Emily Mrozek (eighth)
  - 800m run, Callie Schoenick (eighth)
  - 3200m run, Leire Sainz De Rosa (fifth), Callie Schoenick (seventh)
- The girls team placed fourth overall.

The boys were lead by the 4x100m relay consisting of Joseph Johnson, Owen Hagan, Trey France and Cullen Thomas, taking a third-place podium finish.

Point scorers included:

- 100m dash, Joseph Johnson (fourth), Cullen Thomas (seventh)
- 200m dash, Trey France (sixth), Owen Hagan (eighth)
- 400m dash, Thomas Hannum (sixth)
- 4x800m relay, (eighth)
- 4x200m Relay, (seventh)
- 1600m run, Reed Hartjes (seventh)
- Discus, Brennen Morbacher (fifth)

The boys team took 8th overall.

Link to all results: <https://www.milesplit.live/meets/689403>



BellaThomas competes in the 400m dash May 19 at the Marawood Conference, where she was voted co-female athlete of the Conference.



Lucy Dolan runs in the 1600m.



The boys 4x100m relay took third-place May 19 at the Marawood Conference.

Contributed photos

# Five takeaways from the Packers' 2025 schedule

## BY JALEN MAKI

Well folks, the most important sports day of the year has finally happened: The National Football League has released the 2025 schedule. This will remain the most important sports day of the year for the next 365 days, give or take, until the 2026 schedule comes out.

When I say “the most important sports day of the year,” I don’t mean the league’s announcement of *when* the schedule will be released – that’s the second-most important sports day of the year, which happened during the NFL Draft in Green Bay last month. I’d say a distant third is the Super Bowl, followed by the deciding game of the World Series. Rounding out the top five, it’s neck and neck between the start of March Madness and the final day of the American Cornhole League World Championships.

I’m going to level with you guys: I find all the hoopla around the NFL schedule release a little annoying. Look, I get it. The NFL is a several-billion-dollar corporation that, in order to remain profitable and culturally relevant, has to constantly increase (or at least maintain) the number of eyeballs, clicks, and views on its content, and the only logical way to do this is to make the NFL season a year-round affair. You have the regular season, and the playoffs, and the Super Bowl, of course. But then you have a few weeks of post-Super Bowl coverage, followed by the free agency circus, three-ish months of nonstop Draft coverage, the Draft itself, post-Draft coverage, the announcement of the day of the schedule release, rumors and leaks surrounding the schedule release, the schedule release itself, coverage of the schedules (guilty as charged), OTAs, mini-camps, training camps, the preseason...then the whole thing starts over. I think only the real sickos (myself included) are *truly* locked into every facet of the NFL

day in and day out, but it’s clear that the league wants the more casual fans among us to be increasingly involved in what used to be considered its more or less procedural aspects. The Draft is a good example – after holding it in New York City for many years, the NFL made the (very wise) decision to move it from city to city each year, highlighting the league’s diverse markets while providing those markets with an influx in revenue. I went to the Draft in Green Bay, and I’m proud to say my beverage purchases helped sustain the local economy. If you’re reading this from the greater Green Bay area: you’re welcome.

Although we know pretty much right after the end of the regular season who teams will play the following year, the order of the games is undeniably important. There are a few, for lack of a better word, goofy details about the Packers schedule this year. Keep an eye out for a more in-depth breakdown of each matchup closer to the start of the season. For now, here are a few thoughts on the Packers’ 2025 schedule.

### NFC North teams face the toughest schedules

The NFC North teams – the Packers, Chicago Bears, Detroit Lions, and the Minnesota Vikings – are projected to have four of the toughest schedules in the league in the upcoming season.

I’m always a little dubious on strength of schedule, which is essentially calculated by adding up the previous-year records of a team’s impending opponents. Strength of schedule is useful in that it can be used as a tiebreaker in standings, and it’s a decent projection of how a team’s season is anticipated go. But the key word there is “projection.”

Strength of schedule is one of those things no one’s talking about once the season starts, because it’s simply a projection,



and projections and reality can end up being quite different as the season goes on. Take the 2024 Cincinnati Bengals, for example. They were eyed as a near lock for the playoffs in the AFC, but they lost four of their first five games, and although they went on a heater and ended the season with five straight wins, they ultimately missed the postseason with a 9-8 record. For various reasons, sometimes teams we think are going to be dangerous simply don’t live up to the hype. And conversely, there are always teams that are surprisingly good. Strength of schedule can offer a rough idea of what a team can expect in its opponents, but it’s probably not something they should spend too much time thinking about.

Nevertheless, Green Bay is slated to face several teams that are expected to be good in 2025. Notable matchups: Each division opponent (Chicago Bears, Detroit Lions, Minnesota Vikings) twice, as usual; and the Washington Commanders, Dallas Cowboys, Cincinnati Bengals, Philadelphia Eagles, Denver Broncos, and Baltimore Ravens. Green Bay also faces the Pittsburgh Steelers – maybe they’ll get to chum around with Aaron Rodgers a bit before kickoff?

### The back half of the season is division matchup-heavy

The placement of the Packers’ division games is, to me, by far the most bizarre thing about their 2025 schedule.

The Packers host the Lions in Week 1 to kick off the season. But after that, Green Bay doesn’t face another NFC North team until Week 12, when the Vikings

come to Lambeau. Let me rephrase that: the Packers have a 10-week stretch in which they don’t face another team from their division. That’s wild! So, that means the back half of the season is obviously loaded with division games.

The Week 12 Vikings matchup marks a seven-week run where Green Bay plays five North teams. Immediately after the Vikings, the Pack travels to Detroit, and then hosts the Bears. Three-straight division games is...interesting! After that, the Packers go to Denver before facing the Bears again – this time in Chicago. In the final two weeks of the season, the Packers host the Ravens and travel to Minnesota.

To have so many division games in the stretch run of the season presents some challenges – and opportunities.

Let’s address the back-to-back-to-back NFC North matchups. Regardless of what shape the Packers are in heading into that block of games, if they lose them all, their season could be cooked. Even if Green Bay goes 1-2 in those games, unless Chicago, Detroit, and Minnesota are each dumpster fires, the Packers will likely be on the ropes through the rest of the year, and they’ll probably have to play near-perfect football through the end of the season to have a shot at the playoffs. The Packers could have helped in avoiding this scenario with at least one of the other three North teams being bad and outside the playoff bubble. I mean, the Packers could also simply win all three games. That’s certainly possible, and would be cool and good, in my opinion. If they do that, a playoff berth

is very realistic.

You also have to hope the injury bug avoids the team in this key part of the season. This is a tall order. It’s football, man. Guys are going to get hurt. You can’t try to plan for injuries, but you can cross your fingers and hope you’re relatively healthy when it matters. And, with a Week 5 bye (more on this in a bit), Green Bay won’t be able to bank on a break later in the season. Let’s pray that the Football Gods are kind to the Packers this year.

### Week 5 bye (insert thumbs down emoji here)

Here is my nuanced, fully fleshed-out take on the Packers’ Week 5 bye: it stinks!

Simply put, a Week 5 bye does basically no good for anyone, except the teams you have to play later. I know that’s a little hyperbolic; if a player’s got, say, a hamstring thing going on in the beginning of the season, a week off might help him be good to go for the rest of the year. But ideally, you’d like to have a bye somewhere further down the line, when you’re (hopefully) gearing up for a playoff run. And with Packers’ most important part of the season happening in the final seven weeks, an early bye could come back to haunt them if they’re beat up. Are you listening, Football Gods? It’s me again.

### Staying in the States

After opening the 2024 season in Brazil, the Packers won’t be playing abroad in 2025. There were some rumblings that Green Bay was going to face the Steelers in Dublin, Ireland, in Week 4, but the Vikings ended up getting that game, and the Packers will instead head to Pittsburgh in Week 8.

Look, I’m not necessarily going to complain about the Packers having no international games this year. I think it’s great that the NFL is now a global market, and you can make the argument that playing in

another country provides neutral ground. But traveling can present challenges: players might not adjust well to the time change, and playing in another country can be weird, from a routine perspective. Also, field conditions are not always the best, as we saw in Brazil against the Eagles last year. It’s also worth noting that it’s a bummer to have to give up a home game to play not at home. For this year at least, the Packers won’t have to worry about any of these things.

### Primetime games

The Packers have four primetime games on the schedule this year – and more may be coming.

The four locked in primetime games are in Green Bay against the Commanders on Thursday night in Week 2, in Dallas on Sunday night in Week 4, in Pittsburgh on Sunday night in Week 8, and in Green Bay against Philadelphia in Week 10. But they face the Bears in Chicago on the Saturday of Week 16, and that game will either start at 3:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. And the dates and kickoff times of Green Bay’s final two games – hosting Baltimore and traveling to Minnesota – are TBD. Each could fall on the weeks’ respective Saturday or Sunday.

I wouldn’t be the least bit surprised to see the Chicago game get the 7 p.m. timeslot, and a Week 18 Vikings showdown in primetime would be compelling. The Packers are as national and worldwide as any brand in the NFL, so the league certainly has incentive to put them in as many night games as it can.

It’s been a pleasure to be back with a new Free Play – thanks for reading. Keep an eye out for more columns ahead. But please, for the love of God, don’t make me write about the fact that the Cubs are good.

*Jalen’s columns, “The Free Play” and “Movies You Gotta See,” can be found online at [www.mediumpodium.com/@jalenmaki](http://www.mediumpodium.com/@jalenmaki).*

# Community Calendar

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To submit calendar events, please email information to [entertainment@mmclocal.com](mailto:entertainment@mmclocal.com)

### BAR BEATS

#### THURSDAY JUNE 12

**The Swing Doctors** • Bullseye Golf Club, Wisconsin Rapids. 16-piece jazz/swing. 7 pm. 715-423-2230

### ON STAGE

**Bluegrass at the Lake** • Thurs.-Sat. 6/12-6/15, South Wood County Park, Lake Wazeecha Red Sand Beach, Wisconsin Rapids. Annual bluegrass festival that benefits the South Wood County Humane Society and the Wisconsin Rapids Lions Club. Lineup: Thurs., Southbound & Silas Powell Band. Fri. lineup: Neosho River Boys, Art Stevenson & High Water, Silas Powell Band and Sortin’ The Mail. Sat. lineup: Hand-picked Bluegrass, Silas Powell Band, Big Tooth Bluegrass Band, Chain Station and Chicken Wire Empire. Starts at 6:30 pm on Thurs., 4:30 pm on Fri., & noon on Sat. \$5 Thurs. \$5 only, Fri. \$25 at the gate, Sat. \$30 only, \$55 Fri. & Sat. and \$50 all three days. [bluegrassatthelake.com](http://bluegrassatthelake.com)

**Yacht Rock Gold Experience** • Sun. 8/10, Performing Arts Center of Wisconsin Rapids, 1801 16th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. 70’s & 80’s rock. Starts at 4 pm. \$43 adults, \$15 students. [savorthearts.com](http://savorthearts.com)

### EVENTS/SPECTATOR SPORTS

**Wisconsin Rapids Rafters Baseball Game** • Wed. 5/28, Witter Field, 521 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids. Wisconsin Rapids vs. Wausau Woodchucks. Starts at 6:35 pm. <https://northwoodsleague.com/wisconsin-rapids-rafters/>

**Wisconsin Rapids Rafters Baseball Game** • Fri. & Sat. 5/30 & 5/31, Witter Field, 521 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids. Wisconsin Rapids vs. Rockford Rivets. Starts at 6:35 pm. <https://northwoodsleague.com/wisconsin-rapids-rafters/>

**Wisconsin Rapids Area Retired Educators Association Meeting** • Mon. 6/2, Bullseye Country Club Restaurant, Wisconsin Rapids. Program by Jeff & Joan Johannes, Artist & Poet. Collection for Food Pantry. Reservations due before 5/24. Starts at 11:30 am. \$20 for lunch. 715-887-3448

**Wisconsin Rapids Rafters Baseball Game** • Tues. & Wed. 6/3 & 6/4, Witter Field, 521 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids. Wisconsin Rapids vs. Fond du Lac Dock Spiders. Starts at 6:35 pm. <https://northwoodsleague.com/wisconsin-rapids-rafters/>

**Wisconsin Rapids Rafters Baseball Game** • Thurs. & Fri. 6/5 & 6/6, Witter Field, 521 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids. Wisconsin Rapids vs. Royal Oak Leprechauns. Starts at 6:35 pm. <https://northwoodsleague.com/wisconsin-rapids-rafters/>

**Make Your Own Walking/Hiking Stick** • Sat. 6/7, Sandhill Wildlife Area, Babcock. We supply the hardwood sticks and you decorate them. Register by 6/4. Fee \$5 (\$10 if late). Morning & afternoon sessions. Young people under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. [vpalen@tds.net](mailto:vpalen@tds.net) or 715-652-3131

**Pioneer Fest** • Sat.-Sun. 6/7-6/8, Historic Point Basse, Nekoosa. Taste homemade ice cream, smell the campfires, see life the way it was lived in the past, hear stories & sounds of nature the way the Wakely family did. Starts at 10 am. \$5 adults, \$3 students, free for preschoolers & members. [historicpointbasse.com](http://historicpointbasse.com)

**Wisconsin Rapids Rafters Baseball Game** • Sat. 6/7, Witter Field, 521 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids. Wisconsin Rapids vs. Green Bay Rockers. Starts at 6:35 pm. <https://northwoodsleague.com/wisconsin-rapids-rafters/>

**Christian Women’s Connection Ladies Brunch** • Wed. 6/11, Elk’s Club, Wisconsin Rapids. Karen Blankenship, Peculiar, MO will share “The Power of Journaling: Write it Down”. Miss Wisconsin Rapids Teen & Miss River Cities Teen will be our special guests. Reservations are essential. Starts at 9:30 am. \$20 includes meal, tip and program. 815-994-1317 or 701-741-5905 for reservations by 6/3

### ONGOING

**Celebrate Recovery** • Every Tuesday, hosted by Love Inc. at St. Lawrence Church basement, 530 10th St N, Wisconsin Rapids. Come share adult Fellowship through hurts, hang-ups & habits guided by the Beatitudes in a 12 step format. Non denominational. Starts at 6:30 pm. 715-424-5683 for questions

**Sunday Brunch on the Farm** • Sundays from 5/11 thru Oct., Lonely Oak Farm, 11946 County Rd S, Milladore. No reservations. Please no pets. Starts at 10 am. [lonelyoakfarm.net](http://lonelyoakfarm.net)

### OUTDOORS

**Uses for Cattails** • Sat. 6/14, Sandhill Wildlife Area, Babcock. Learn about various uses of cattails ranging from edible, non edible & how to harvest. Knee boots, hip boots or waders are likely to be needed. Starts at 10 am. \$20. [vpalen@tds.net](mailto:vpalen@tds.net) or 715-652-3131

### LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

**Wood County Master Gardener Meeting** • Tues. 5/27, Everett Roehl Public Library, 105 S Maple Ave, Marshfield. Master Gardener Donna Streiff will present growing, harvesting, preserving & cooking with herbs. Starts at 6 pm. Free. [wood-county-master-gardeners.org](http://wood-county-master-gardeners.org)

### ARTS/EXHIBITS

**The Alexander House** • Opens Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1131, Wisconsin River Drive, Port Edwards. Art gallery and historical museum with a focus on lumbering and papermaking exhibits. Opens 1 pm-4 pm. <http://alexanderhouseonline.org/>

**Central Wisconsin Cultural Center** • Opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 2651 8th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Open from 10 am-5 pm. Free admission. <http://www.culturalcenterarts.com/index.html>

**South Wood County Historical Museum** • 540 3rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. Museum opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays from 1 pm-4 pm Office will be open Tues.-Thurs. from 10 am-3 pm. <http://www.swch-museum.com/>

**“Becoming the United States: Colonial America To Reconstruction”** • now til Thurs. 6/26, 540 3rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. It explores our past, from our first interactions with American Indians, Europeans, & Africans to Civil War Reconstruction. <http://www.swch-museum.com/>

**“The Real War Will Never Get in the Books”** • Sun. 6/1, 540 3rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. Brett Barker: Professor of History & Chair, Department of History & International Studies will present “The Real War Will Never Get in the Books”: Recovering the Civil War through Letters & Diaries. <http://www.swch-museum.com/>

**Material Girls Quilt Club 2025 Quilt Show** • Fri.-Sat. 6/20-6/21, hosted by the Material Girls Quilt Club at Assumption High School, 445 Chestnut St, Wisconsin Rapids. Come enjoy the beautiful quilts! Vote for the Viewer’s Choice, get in on the Raffle Quilt & Raffle Baskets & check out Something Old/Something New Shop. This year’s special display is “Log Cabin” quilts. There will be classes, vendors & food available & machine cleaning and scissor sharpening. Quilts of Valor presentation on Sat. at 11 am. Starts at 9 am. [blossomfest.com](http://blossomfest.com) or 715-421-2028

### LIFELINES

**Blood Drive** • Fri. 6/6, Nekoosa High School, 500 S Cedar St, Nekoosa. Starts at 9 am. [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org)

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# Decisions when your company sells



## The Wealth Information Lady

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MANAGEMENT ADVISOR SM  
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FIDUCIARY®, PUBLISHED AUTHOR

We have many clients who have been dedicated, hard-working long-time employees performing the same job within the same location, but with a few different employers. Corporate sales or mergers have become commonplace, particularly within certain industries.

A lot can change, from operational systems to supervisory structure, corporate culture and, of course, benefit packages. Different companies may offer different plans and, therefore, employees may have decisions to make with what to do with their money.

Over time, we’ve seen some of these long-time employees end up with six or more different accounts on their employer-sponsored retirement plan statements. Years later, it can be difficult to remember or even find out precisely what happened to their previous accounts.

Recently, I was working with a new client who remembered she had a pension account with the original company she began her employment with but had not received statements for some time. I advised her to call and ask what happened to that account – did it still

exist? She was told that a lump sum from the pension had rolled into one of the accounts on her statement at the inflection point of a merger, but the representative could not articulate exactly which account or when.

If your company changes hands, you may or may not be offered choices with what to do with your retirement funds. Carefully examine your options, ask questions and think through the long-term effects of your retirement plan decisions when your company sells.

*LouAnn Schulfer of Schulfer & Associates LLC Wealth Management can be reached at (715) 343-9600 or [louann.schulfer@lpl.com](mailto:louann.schulfer@lpl.com), [TheWealthInformationLady.com](http://TheWealthInformationLady.com) or [SchulferAndAssociates.com](http://SchulferAndAssociates.com). Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment adviser.*

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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bring up
- 7. Child
- 10. Formal written defense
- 12. Bangladeshi currency
- 13. Burial site
- 14. In the lead
- 15. Large recesses in a church
- 16. Count on
- 17. Defunct phone company
- 18. Golf scores
- 19. Afflicts
- 21. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 22. Prominence
- 27. “The Great Lakes State”
- 28. SoCal ballplayer
- 33. Location of White House
- 34. Magnificence
- 36. Hip hop songstress
- 37. Capital of Yemen
- 38. \_\_\_ Blyton, children’s author
- 39. Bomb
- 40. Pancake made of buckwheat flour
- 41. Pinkish-violet color
- 44. A way to make right
- 45. Monument to one buried elsewhere
- 48. Region south of Dead Sea
- 49. Acts out against

- 50. Harsh cry of a crow
- 51. Formal title for a woman

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Kitchen devices
- 2. Wings
- 3. Mythological birds
- 4. Everyone has one
- 5. Matchstick game
- 6. Bar bill
- 7. Weights
- 8. Satisfactorily
- 9. Small amount
- 10. Tree types
- 11. Small protuberances
- 12. Equivalent of 100K BTU
- 14. Type of horse
- 17. More (Spanish)
- 18. Argentinian province

- 20. A bad act
- 23. Moving in a circular way
- 24. Battery type
- 25. Atomic #58
- 26. Popular breakfast food
- 29. An alternative
- 30. Tooth caregiver
- 31. A way to conform
- 32. Disfigured men
- 35. Cool!
- 36. Genus of mosses
- 38. Body part
- 40. Kashmiri people
- 41. Round water pot
- 42. Something to purchase
- 43. Emit coherent radiation
- 44. Indicates 10
- 45. Advertising metric
- 46. Pitching stat
- 47. Head movement

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# Sign-up under way for ag land set-asides

**CITY TIMES STAFF**  
**WOOD COUNTY** – Farmers and other private landowners who set aside from production agricultural land along streams, lakes and wetlands are encouraged to sign up for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, or CREP. The federally funded land management program helps reduce landowners' financial risk by mitigating issues such as nutrient loss and crop damage from frequent flooding on their marginal agricultural lands, said officials with Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The program offers two options: 15-year agreements and perpetual easements. Those in 15-year

agreements receive upfront and annual rental payments with the ability to re-enroll when their contract expires. Land enrolled in perpetual easements receive a higher upfront payment in addition to annual payments, with potential for selective land use activities to be allowed for 15 years. There is no minimum acreage enrollment requirement for either option. In 2024, an estimated total of 78,000 pounds of phosphorous, 42,000 pounds of nitrogen and 39,000 pounds of sediment runoff were reduced from Wisconsin waters because of the 700 miles of stream and shoreline buffered by CREP. This contributed to the overall environmental health of the state and allows producers to im-

prove the land, water and wildlife habitat quality on their property. Since the program's inception in 2001, the state has contributed a total of \$22.3 million to landowners in cost-share and incentive payments. The Wisconsin CREP project area consists of all or part of 53 Wisconsin counties, including Wood and Clark counties. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until June 6 or until the acreage cap is met. Additional information about eligibility and enrollment can be found on DATCP's website, <https://datcp.wi.gov/>. To apply, contact your county land conservation department or local Farm Service Agency office.

# Marshfield Medical first in state to perform cutting-edge cancer treatment

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
**MARSHFIELD** – Marshfield Medical Center recently performed Wisconsin's first pressurized intraperitoneal aerosol chemotherapy – or PIPAC – procedure, marking a significant advancement in Marshfield Clinic's commitment to innovative cancer treatment. PIPAC is a cutting-edge technique for treating peritoneal surface malignancies, or cancers that have spread within the abdominal cavity, like colorectal, appendiceal and peritoneal mesothelioma. These cancers are notoriously difficult to treat, and traditional options have been limited. Unlike conventional intravenous chemotherapy, PIPAC delivers chemotherapy as a fine aerosol under pressure directly into the peritoneal cavity. This allows for more uniform drug distribution and potentially higher concentrations at tumor sites,



while reducing side effects. "The introduction of PIPAC significantly enhances our established Peritoneal Surface Malignancy program," said Dr. Rohit Sharma, surgical oncologist and the procedure's lead physician. "It provides an additional therapeutic option for patients who may have exhausted other treatments or for whom traditional systemic chemotherapy is not well-tolerated."

This minimally invasive surgical procedure can be used as a palliative treatment to control disease progression, alleviate symptoms like ascites and potentially improve the quality of life for patients. In some cases, it also can be combined with surgery and traditional chemotherapy as part of a comprehensive treatment plan. "This achievement underscores the power of collaborative spirit and the dedication of our teams," Sharma said. "As the initiating physician for this innovative procedure, I am immensely proud of the collective effort that has positioned us as a leader in the region for treating complex peritoneal cancers. This first PIPAC procedure is a testament to our shared commitment to innovation, patient-centered care, and the remarkable outcomes we can achieve when we work together."

# Three Bridges, Aspirus join in substance use recovery

**FOR CITY TIMES**  
**WISCONSIN RAPIDS** – In an ongoing effort to address the challenges of substance use recovery, Aspirus Health and Three Bridges Recovery are coming together to provide healing and support for individuals facing substance use challenges. By combining medical expertise with community-driven advocacy, this partnership is changing the way substance use recovery is approached, offering both immediate support and long-term care pathways.

Hope Bristow, a behavioral unit registered nurse with Aspirus Health, reflects on the impact of this collaboration. "Our staff has always been dedicated to providing patient-centered care," she said. "But through our partnership with Three Bridges, we've been able to extend that care beyond the hospital walls, meeting people where they are and offering real hope for recovery." At Three Bridges Recovery, people like Recovery

Coach Brittney Brock are helping transform lives through compassion and connection. By offering no-cost services such as peer mentoring, recovery coaching and community workshops, Three Bridges ensures that individuals across central Wisconsin have access to vital resources, regardless of their circumstances. "Our mission is to empower individuals by showing them that recovery isn't just possible, it's attainable," Brock said. "Through com-

passionate peer support and evidence-based practices, we're helping people reclaim their lives." Substance use affects every corner of the nation, and statistics from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) demonstrate the magnitude of the challenge: only 10 percent of those struggling with substance use disorders receive treatment. This partnership aims to shift that by providing critical access to recovery resources in

underserved areas. This partnership has made it possible for Three Bridges' 24/7 peer support coaches to respond to individuals at any hour. "Having an advocate during a moment of crisis can make all the difference," Brock said. "It increases the likelihood that individuals will engage in recovery efforts and stay on that path." The partnership is about more than addressing immediate needs. It's about fostering lasting change and

the importance of creating a judgment-free space where individuals feel heard, valued and supported. "Recovery is deeply personal and often requires support in multiple areas – physical, emotional and social," Bristow said. "The work we're doing with Three Bridges not only empowers individuals but also strengthens families and communities as a whole." For immediate crisis services, dial 988. Help is always available.

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