



Area couple pushing for EpiPen legislation after son's death

SIRENA MANKINS EDITOR

ROME – A central Wisconsin couple is pushing for a new state law that would require all first-responders to carry EpiPens, which are used for the emergency treatment of severe allergic reactions, after their son died from an unknown peanut allergy.

In November, Mark and Cristin Mueller's 20-year-old son, Andrew, called them, saying he wasn't feeling right.

"We had him come home. If you Google it, everything says, 'Take Benadryl.' Well, we gave him two tablets of Benadryl, and it just progressed so quickly," Cristin said. "We started to pull out of our driveway (to take Andrew to the hospital), and I had to call 9-1-1 right there, knowing I'm not going to make it to the hospital."

When the first police offi-EpiPen Legislation CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Mark and Cristin Mueller speak about their son, Andrew, who died in November from an unkown peanut allergy. The Wisconsin Rapids couple are pushing for a new state law that would require all first responders to carry epinephrine. Sirena Mankins / City Times photo







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In the town of Rome, all first responders now carry epinephrine to counteract allergic reactions. From left are Police Chief Jason Lauby, Fire Chief Mark Kane and officer Jasmine Aldrich.

EPIPEN LEGISLATION FROM PAGE 1

cer got to their Wisconsin Rapids home, Cristin said Andrew was still conscious but struggling to breath. They started CPR, but first officer didn't have epinephrine to reverse the allergic reaction. It took about another seven minutes for it to arrive, but by then Andrew's body had already started shutting down.

"That extra seven minutes really did cost him his life," she said.

The Muellers reached out to state Sen. Patrick Testin and state Rep. Scott Krug, and the two are working on legislation that



The bill has made it out of the state Senate and now is working its way through the Assembly. Some communities aren't waiting for it to pass.

"Communities all over the state see the mandate



Mark and Cristin Mueller speak with Rome Fire Chief Mark Kane about their son. Andrew, who died in November from an unkown peanut allergy. In Rome, all first responders now carry epinephrine to counteract allergic reactions.

Sirena Mankins / City Times photos

"We don't want anyone else to go through what we went through, assuming that when you call for help, that someone's going to be there right away with everything that you need,"

Cristin Mueller

SON DIED FROM ALLERGIC REACTION

fast is important.

"We are as slow as you can possibly be when it comes to statewide legislation. Communities can do this in a matter of weeks," he said.

That's the case in the town of Rome. There, all first responders now carry epinephrine.

"It's a very comfort-

ANDREW MUELLER'S BENEFIT SHOW

WHAT: Mark and Cristin Mueller are planning a benefit in their son Andrew's memory. The car and truck show will have awards and raffles, and proceeds will go toward starting a scholarship fund in Andrew's name and raising epinephrine awareness.

WHERE: Golden Sands Speedway, 11000 State Highway 54 E, Wisconsin Rapids WHEN: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. June 21 **COST:** \$5; children 12 and younger get in free MORE INFORMATION: https://wiscotrucksllc.com

ing feeling to know that so many of the communities are backing us," Mark said.

Police Chief Jason Lauby said having epinephrine on-hand is another tool they can use to keep their community safe.

"It was simple decision for me to make, to just get it and implement it sooner than later," he said. "And you never know when we're going to need it. We could need it tomorrow. We could need it 10 years from now."

The legislation making its way through Madison builds on Dillon's Law, which also was born out of tragedy. In that case, Dillon Mueller (no relation to Andrew) died after being stung by a bee. The law, singed in 2017, allows anyone to be certified epinephrine use, so they can carry it and administer it in the case of a severe allergic reaction, and it protects those who do use it against civil liability. Versions of the law have been passed in Minnesota, Michigan and Indiana, and there's an ongoing effort in Congress to pass a federal law.

The Mishicot teen's parents, George and Angel Mueller, started the Do It for Dillon Epinephrine Training Program. The state-approved course takes about an hour, and it's free.

"We don't want anyone else to go through what we went through, assuming that when you call for help, that someone's going to be there right away with everything that you need," Cristin said. "It's very bittersweet. You know, we would rather not have to be in this situation right now, but it's wonderful that the community has really taken to our initiative and our mission to get epinephrine to everyone that needs it."

Boys & Girls Club of Marshfield welcomes founding leadership team

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD - The Boys & Girls Club of Marshfield has named two people to its founding leadership team: Chris West, joining as the Marshfield Center director; and Kaitlyn Konrardy, stepping into the role of director of community outreach.

Their arrivals mark a pivotal milestone as the Boys & Girls Club, or BGC, prepares to open its doors to local youth on June 16 at

Grant Elementary School, youth development to his in partnership with the Marshfield School District's summer school program.

As director, West will oversee day-to-day operations, programming and staff development at the Marshfield Club. Having previously served as the center director at the Jefferson Elementary location in Stevens Point, West brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for

new role, the BGC said in a news release. He is committed to advancing the BGC's mission to inspire and empower all young people to reach their full potential in the Marshfield area.

other parts of my district

wards - have all taken the

initiative to do it on their

own, without the state tell-

ing them you have to do it."

health, Krug said moving

When it comes to public

Grand Rapids, Fort Ed-

Konrardy, a Marshfield native, will focus on building relationships with families, local organizations and community supporters, the BGC said. Konrardy is passionate about giving back to the community she calls home and is committed to the long-term success of the Marshfield Club. Her focus will include building community awareness, strengthening financial sustainability and expanding the Club's reach and im-



Chris West Director, Marshfield Boys & Girls Club

pact throughout Marshfield and its surrounding areas. "This is a defining moment not just for the Boys & Girls Club of Portage Coun-



Kaitlyn Konrardy Director of community outreach, Marshfield Boys & Girls Club

ty, but for the Marshfield community," said Danielle Belsky, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Portage Coun-

ty. "With Chris and Kaitlyn at the helm, we are launching with heart, vision and strong leadership. I truly believe Marshfield's youth and families will feel the impact of this Club from day one."

The Boys & Girls Club of Marshfield will officially open its doors on June 16 at Grant Elementary School, operating in conjunction with the Marshfield School District's summer school program. The Club will provide high-quality programming and a safe, supportive environment where youth can learn, grow, and thrive, the news release said.

To learn more, go to: www.bgclubpc.org/marshfield

Boys & Girls Club plans anniversary picnic

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -Five years ago, the Boys & a 5th Anniversary Part-

partner, the South Wood County YMCA, will host

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WHAT: 5th Anniversary Partnership Picnic &



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Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area stood on the edge of a bold dream - to create a permanent space where more youth could be served, supported and inspired to reach their greatest potential. Together the Boys & Girls Club and the South Wood County YMCA have made that dream become a vibrant reality, and both organizations proudly invite the community to celebrate five years of impact, growth and partnership.

"Our current space has been transformative," said Erin Hess, branch executive director of the South Wood County YMCA. "It's not just a building, but rather it's proof that when a community comes together, we can do great things."

From 4-7 p.m. Thursday, June 12, the Club and its nership Picnic and Open House. Community members are invited to tour both the Club and YMCA; enjoy food, games, and prizes; and experience firsthand the difference that dedicated youth spaces make in the lives of children and teens.

The Club's permanent home has allowed for the expansion of programs, increased access for more young people, and a deeper embodiment of the Boys & Girls Club mission: To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

"We are proud to be able to provide a place where anyone, regardless of age, income, and social status, can find encouragement, support and **Open House**

WHEN: 4-7 p.m. Thursday, June 12 WHERE: Tour both Boys & Girls Club and South Wood County YMCA locations

MORE INFORMATION: visit www.bgcwra.org or www.swcymca.org; contact Erin Hess, YMCA Branch executive director, at (715) 818-6107: or Jennifer Allen, CEO Boys & Girls Club, at (715) 818-6126.

community," Hess said.

This milestone also celebrates the power of partnership. The Club's growing collaboration with the YMCA represents a shared vision for stronger communities and brighter futures. Together, both organizations are committed to putting youth development front and center, providing safe, supportive and enriching environments that children and families can count on.

As the Club marks this five-year anniversary, it also looks to the future with renewed energy.

"We are just getting started," said Jennifer Allen, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area. "The past five years laid the foundation now we look ahead to what's next, with the same bold vision and deep community support that got us here."

Silver Foxes bringing comedy to the stage

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS The Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre is bringing comedy to the stage with the summer performance of The Silver Foxes Senior Readers Theatre Group's "Laugh-In!"

The fast-paced and playful production brings back the energy and humor of the classic "Laugh-In" TV show, complete with zany skits, one-liners and a touch of nostalgia. The Silver Foxes celebrate the joys and absurdities of growing older with wit, charm and impeccable timing.

Audiences can expect an afternoon or evening full of laughter, clever wordplay and hilarious moments that resonate with all generations. The cast has worked tirelessly to de-



liver a memorable performance filled with comedic flair and heart. of Performances

"Laugh-In!" will be 2 p.m. June 12 and 7 p.m. June 13 at the Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre, 220

in a meeting that it doesn't

directly affect you or what

you're doing at your facility,

so you really don't have a

But having that diverse

group at the table ensures

all aspects of the industry

are represented, he said.

That's also important when

it comes to legislation and

view on it."

3rd Ave. S. Tickets are available at the WRCT box office or online at www.wrctheatre.org.

Local man will lead Cheese Makers Association

SIRENA MANKINS EDITOR

NASONVILLE - A Wood County man has been elected president of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) for the third time.

Kim Heiman, plant manager at Nasonville Dairy, will succeed Tim Omer of Emmi Roth on July 1 following the spring election.

It's not the first time the local cheesemaker will lead the organization; he also served as president in 2017 and 2019.

'Typically you can be on the board for six years at one time," Heiman said. After those six consecutive years, board members step aside for at least one year before they can run again. They can serve as president for up to two years during any sixyear block.

"The big thing is, they don't want to have an old time situation there, where that's run by the same people all the time (and becomes) stagnant," he said, adding it's important to see things through fresh eyes.

The WCMA has members from across the United States, spanning all aspects of the industry. That includes large, publicly traded companies and artisanal cheesemakers who have just a few head of livestock.

"Food processors and he said. "You can sit in a meeting and you can just see when an item comes up on the agenda. you can just to municipalities, so then they they're under the conlook around the room and just see the body language of trol of whatever (rules) the people, and it's like, 'That's municipality has. ... Different issues that come up are going to hit a nerve,' which is good, because there may huge for different people." be something coming up As president, Heiman

will lead an executive team that includes Jeff Gentine of Masters Gallery Foods as first vice president, Mat Bartkowiak of Nelson-Jameson as second vice president, Betsy Erdelvi of BMO Harris Bank as treasurer, and Chris Roelli of Roelli Cheese Co. returning as secretary. All four were selected for their leadership roles for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

"We're grateful to those leaving the Board this year," said John Umhoefer, the WCMA's executive director. "It's a privilege to have the thoughtful guidance and support of these leaders in dairy processing as we work together to grow and strengthen our industry."

WCMA membership is open to dairy processors, manufacturers, marketers, and suppliers nationwide. More information is available at WisCheeseMakers. org.



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

Meet Blaze!

Blaze is a 3-year-old Staffordshire terrier mix with a heart full of joy and a nose for adventure.

This high-energy sweetheart came to us as a stray. Blaze is all about making new friends; he wants to say hello to everyone he meets, and he greets each day with a wagging tail and big smile.

If you're looking for a dog who's always up for fun, Blaze is your guy. He loves to run, sniff and chase after tovs in a good game of fetch. He has almost mastered "sit" and is eager to keep learning, especially with some tasty treats involved. Blaze would benefit from leash training, as his excitement can sometimes get the best of him on walks.

Blaze has not shown any signs of resource guarding in the shelter; he's happy to share his space with his human friends. However, he isn't dog-friendly and has a strong prey drive, so he'll need to be the only pet in the home. Because of his energy level and instincts, he would also do best in a home without young children (under 12).

This lovable goofball is looking for an active, adult-only home where he can run, play, and be the center of attention. If you're ready for a loyal companion with a zest for life, come meet Blaze - he's ready to light up your world.

Those interested in Blaze can fill out an adoption application online at https://www.swchs.com/adopt/adoptionapplication/

South Wood County Humane Society can be reached at office@swchs.com or 715-423-0505

Located at 3621 64th Street N. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 Sunday, Monday, Wednesday: Closed

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -Aspirus Health will play host to a virtual hiring fair, aimed at those looking for a new job or hoping to learn more about opportunities in healthcare.

The hiring event, set for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 17, will specifically target certified medical assistant and licensed practical nurse positions at Aspirus Clinics in Stevens Point, Plover and Wisconsin Rapids.

This online event offers a unique opportunity for same-day, virtual interviews with the local recruitment team for positions that are eligible for a \$2,500 or \$5,000 sign-on bonus, depending on the position. Aspirus Health offers numerous career opportunities across the system, and on-the-job training is tions. The most important qualification is wanting to bring your best every day to help provide outstanding care for the patients that Aspirus serves.

If unable to attend, those interested can also apply online at aspirus.org/careers.

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government oversight, an important function of the He said the WCMA works a lot with the state Agriculture Department as well as the Department of Natural Resources and OSHA.

One example he gave of the impact is with wastewater, with a plant's location defining what regulations need to be followed.

"Some of the plants are in the country like we are. You'll have your own wastewater treatment facility, and you're discharging into a water stream." Heiman said. "Some people are hooked on

handlers and people that board. supply are all on the board,"

Aspirus plans virtual hiring event available for many posi-







Phillip and Margaret Adler.

NWCHS photo

Showstopper: Tragedy strikes, not just once

BY KRIS LEONHARDT MMC SENIOR EDITOR

Continued from previous week

"Smile, a while, and while you smile, another smiles

And soon there's miles and miles of smiles

And life's worthwhile, because you smile."

-The Monarch of Mirth As the newlyweds winded their way through America's countryside in J.P.'s touring car, they stopped to take in many of the country's most illustrious sights. Oblivious to the peril brewing at home, the joyous couple made a layover in the environs of Chicago. They lingered in the city a while unaware relatives were frantically trying to reach them.

That previous Sunday evening, J.P.'s mother Margaret had asked her husband if they could go see the show at the Adler Opera House. Having suffered from a paralytic stroke, Margaret had difficulties getting around and rarely was able to bring herself to

go out for an evening. Quickly to oblige her, Philip made arrangements for the evening show. A

night of laughter might be just what she needed, as Arthur Clamage, known as the "Monarch of Mirth," would be producing the evening's show.

The night was a potpourri of beauty, laughter and song and dance, as Clamage and his chorus put on an entertaining show worthy of "Big Broadway."

As Margaret returned to her home on Adler Road, she was more tired than ever and asked to immediately retire to her bed. The family obliged her, taking Margaret to her room.

As loving hands guided her to bed, Margaret was overcome by another stroke and was taken suddenly from their grasp.

After feverishly trying to reach the newly-married couple by telephone and telegraph, J.P. and Rosa were found in Chicago. In shock, they packed up their car and returned to Marshfield with heavy hearts.

What should have been

a happy time for the couple was filled with sorrow as they lay J.P.'s mother to rest at just 57 years of age.

Just two weeks later, J.P.'s father made plans for a car ride with three other Marshfield business men. Peter Daul, proprietor of the Eagle Hotel and local Jeffrey automobile agent, was eager to try out the new 1915 Jeffrey touring car. He had just received the new demonstration model and made plans to visit a Dorchester, Wis., hotel owner ---a former Marshfield resident and Wood County Sheriff.

Philip Adler met Peter Daul that Sunday afternoon in the Eagle Hotel, joined by Marshfield real estate dealer, C.A. Githena, and Robert Schroeder, a Marshfield blacksmith who served the city as assistant fire chief and alderman.

The four prominent businessman enjoyed a leisurely visit in Dorchester and returned on the road which would become today's State Highway 13. Continued next week

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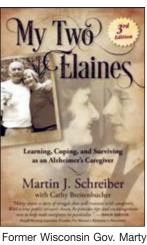
Coping and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver," during an event at Renaissance by Rennes-Wisconsin Rapids on June 16. Contributed photo

Former governor shares Alzheimer's journey

CITY TIMES STAFF

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -Former Wisconsin Governor Marty Schreiber will speak about his book, "My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver," during an event at Renaissance by Rennes-Wisconsin Rapids on June 16.

In "My Two Elaines," Schreiber shares his story of love, life, learning and caregiving for someone who has Alzheimer's. As two-thirds of those with Alzheimer's are women, Schreiber offers special guidance for anyone thrust into this unexpected job. This presentation is ideal for



Schreiber's book, "My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver."

caregivers, family members and loved ones who want a greater understanding of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's.

With patience, adaptability and even a sense of humor, Schreiber shows how love continues for his "Second Elaine." Following the presentation, Schreiber will stay for a question-andanswer period with the audience.

Light refreshments and books will be available. Admission is free to the public.

The talk will be from 6 to 7 p.m. June 16. Register in advance at: www.rennesgroup.com/events

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Police chaplain moves on

Wisconsin Rapids Police Chaplain Shores "Trey" Turner is saying goodbye to central Wisconsin, after being elected the executive director of the Minnesota Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Turner **Contributed photo** served as the police chaplain in Wisconsin Rapids for 11 years.



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Lincoln High's Stoffel honored by Northwestern University

FOR CITY TIMES

RAPIDS WISCONSIN Teachers teach a curriculum. Many change lives. This year's honorees for the Morton Schapiro Distinguished Secondary School Teacher Awards do both and then some.

The award, named for Morton Schapiro, Northwestern University's 16th president, honors outstanding high school teachers for their commitment to students. The teachers are chosen from nominations submitted by graduating Northwestern seniors. The awards carry a stipend of \$5.000 for each teacher and \$5,000 for each of their high schools.

Among this year's award winners is Julie Stoffel, a performing arts teacher and choir director at Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids.

"A great education begins long before a student's first day of college," Northwestern President Michael Schill said. "It starts earlier, with the teachers who challenged them, guided them and put them in a position to succeed



Julie Stoffel

at the highest levels of academia. I am proud to honor the transformative educators who laid the foundation for our students during this year's commencement activities."

At Lincoln High School, Stoffel conducts more than melodies. Over the last several years, she has composed a sanctuary of growth and self-discovery through her work as a performing arts teacher and choir director.

Stoffel takes choral groups to numerous musical festivals where they consistently earn top rat-While passionate ings. about music, Stoffel's true measure of success lies in the transformative journeys of her students.

"I firmly believe that the arts provide invaluable opportunities for growth, not only in musical skills, but also in students' understanding of the world around them," Stoffel said in a news release. "Whether through singing songs that reflect different cultures, historical periods or current events, students expand their horizons as they engage in music making.

What distinguishes Stoffel's classroom is its dual nature as both sanctuary and challenge.

"This passion is most evident when you step foot in her class and see her students shed their anxiety, come out of their comfort zone and shine in ways they may not have thought possible," Principal Rodrick Watson said.

For many students, particularly those in the LG-BTQ+ community, Stoffel's classroom has become a safe haven, said Adrienne Scheide, a senior at Northwestern and a former student of Stoffel.

"She created a place for

us to thrive. Mrs. Stoffel is one of the toughest people I

know," Scheide said. That held true even while Stoffel herself was facing personal challenges, Scheide said.

"Mrs. Stoffel still showed up for us and was a caregiver that many of us needed," she said. "She continues to spend an unimaginable amount of time devoting herself to others.

Stoffel isn't just an educator, she's also a student, pursuing a Master of Music Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Through musical productions, choir performances and daily interactions, Stoffel demonstrates that teaching excellence isn't just about perfect pitch - it's about hitting the right notes in students' lives and creating harmonies that resonate long after graduation.

Stoffel and the other award winners - Stephanie Hill, Jennifer Neff and Rita Thompson - will be honored during the Northwestern commencement ceremony on June 15.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER Father's Day!

Dear Reader,

Father's Day is just around the corner — a perfect time to reflect on the men who raised us, guided us, and helped shape who we are. Fathers, notably, were there at the very beginning of our lives-and have hopefully stood by us ever since. Everyone needs a good father. A good father takes his responsibilities seriously, especially



the profound responsibility of raising children.

We can learn so much from a good father. He teaches, he walks with us through the victories and tribulations of life. He is there when we need him most.

I remember when I was heading off to school, I asked my father for advice I could carry with me. He shared something timeless — essentially the advice Polonius gives his son Laertes in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*: "To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." Simple words that carry profound wisdom: authenticity and integrity serve as the foundation for a life well-lived.

The best fathers provide both roots and wings — stability to know where home is and confidence to venture into the world. They teach us to face challenges with courage, to treat others with respect, and to understand that character matters more than achievement.

My father taught me that listening is often more important than speaking, that keeping promises builds trust that no amount of explanation can restore once broken, and that showing up-consistently and reliably - speaks volumes about what we truly value.

To all the fathers who show up day after day, who balance guidance with freedom, who demonstrate love through both words and actions — thank you. Your legacy lives on in the lives you've touched and the values you've instilled.

PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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

Thomas receives PEO Star Award

FOR CITY NEWS

The Wisconsin Rapids P.E.O Chapter O recently presented a \$1,000 local STAR AWARD to Nekoosa High School graduate Leah Thomas. The presentation was made during the Nekoosa Scholarship Night program by Rosemary Felice, a member of Chapter O's Scholarship Committee.

P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization of women dedicated to motivating, educating, and celebrating women. Their goal is to help women around the world advance through edu-

Marshfield **Medical earns** recognition for women's health services

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD - Marshfield Medical Centers, including in Marshfield, have been recognized as Birthing-Friendly hospitals by the Centers for Medicare & cation. P.E.O. Chapter O has been active in the Wisconsin Rapids area for 101 years.

Leah has been a member of the National Honor Societv. Link Crew. the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and F.B.L.A president, plus multiple volunteer opportunities at school and in the community. During high school she has worked as a CESA 5 Youth Apprentice in the Business Program helping manage the school concession stands and is a current employee of Walmart. She will attend the Mid-State Technical College University Transfer Program in Associate of Arts after which she plans to transfer to University Wisconsin-Stevens Point to continue her education towards a law degree.

Leah is the daughter of Brent and Bonnie Thomas of Nekoosa.



Leah Thomas, left, accepts a \$1,000 STAR Award from Rosemary Felice of the Wisconsin Rapids P.E.O Chapter O. Thomas is a Nekoosa High School graduate and will attend Mid-State Technical College. **Contributed photo**



State Air National Guard plans flyovers **CITY TIMES STAFF**

MARSHFIELD - Area residents are likely to hear sonic booms the next few weeks as military aircraft with the state Air National Guard per-

form flyovers. Dubbed Sentry North, F-35s, F-16s and other military aircraft are scheduled to train between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day now through June 15. Aircraft flying above 30,000 feet are authorized by the FAA to operate at supersonic speeds within the Volk Military Operating Area, and the sonic booms those speeds create may be heard at ground level. Wood County is in the flight path.

Guard units provide protection of life and property, and preserve peace, order and public safety. State missions include disaster relief in times of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and forest fires, search and rescue, protection of vital public services, and defense support to civil authorities.

As part of the total force, the state Air National Guard also provides operationally ready combat units and personnel to fulfill war and contingency commitments when called to federal active duty by the president or Congress.



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Medicaid Services (CMS).

The Birthing-Friendly designation is part of CMS's broader Maternity Care Action Plan, which aims to improve maternal health outcomes nationwide Hospitals that receive this recognition must participate in a statewide or national perinatal quality improvement collaborative and implement evidence-based practices that enhance maternal safety.

In addition to the CMS designation, Marshfield Medical Centers in Eau Marshfield Claire and earned accolades for maternity care excellence. Each location received High Performing in Maternity Care (Uncomplicated Pregnancy) by U.S. News & World Report. This recognition is based on outcomes such as low C-section rates, strong breastfeeding support and access to midwife-led care.



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Guns 7264

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community sponsored Calendar by

To submit calendar events, please email information to 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. 3rd annual bluegrass festival that benefits the Wood County Critical Incident Stress Management (CSIM) Team, 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

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

EVENTS/SPECTATOR SPORTS

"Longest Day" Brat Fry Fundraiser for Alzheimer's

Awareness • Fri. 6/20, Renaissance by Rennes, 1500 Pepper Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Enjoy food, music & community spirit, all in support of a vital cause. Proceeds will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association. Brats are \$3. Live music by Terry's Music Ministry. Cheesy Ways food truck on site. Bring a lawn chair. Starts at 11 am. rennesgroup.com

Cranberry Blossom Fest Parade • Sun. 6/22, West Grand Ave, downtown Wisconsin Rapids. Expect a parade full of vintage flair, classic cars, retro-inspired floats & throwback tunes that will transport you through the decades all while paying tribute to the iconic cranberry industry that shaped our community. Starting at the South Wood County YMCA, going down West Grand Ave, crossing the bridge onto East Grand Ave, East Grand Ave & 8th St. Starts at 12 pm. business. wisconsinrapidschamber.com/events/details/cranberryblossom-festival-parade-blast-from-the-past-30559

Community Pancake Breakfast at the Wisconsin Rapids Airport • Sat. 6/28, hosted by EAA Chapter 706 at South Wood County Airport, Wisconsin Rapids. Enjoy an allyou-can-eat pancake breakfast. Come see fire trucks, police cars, medical helicopters & lots of airplanes. Starts at 8 am. \$10. \$6 for kids 7 & under. chapters.eaa.org/eaa706

Christian Women's Connection Ladies Brunch • Wed. 7/16, The Elk's Club, Wisconsin Rapids. Speaker, Barbara Hoffner will present "Are You Ready for Adventure?" Special feature will be Becky Mischnick & her therapy dog. Reservations are essential. Starts at 9:30 am. \$20 includes meal, tip and program. 815-994-1317 or 701-741-5905 for reservations by 7/8

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

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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

Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Parents

Twelve Step Meeting • Every Tues., First Congregational Church, 311 2nd St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Hilltop lot entrance. Starts at 6 pm. 920-475-6202

Lunch by the River • Thursdays from June-Aug., Veteran's Memorial Park, Wisconsin Rapids. Enjoy live music, local food trucks & outdoor games. Starts at 11:30 am. Free. wisconsinrapidschamber.com

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 or 715-652-3131

Annual Chamber Golf Outing • Tues. 7/22, The Ridges Golf Course, Wisconsin Rapids. Enjoy playing golf outdoors while connecting with other fellow members & promoting your business. Starts at 10 am. \$125/golfer. Includes 18-holes of golf with cart, a grill/grab & go lunch and a buffet dinner. business.wisconsinrapidschamber.com/ events/details/42nd-annual-lucky-s-summer-golf-classicjuly-22nd-2025-30561

Lectures/Workshops

Power of Business Luncheon: All About AI! • Tues. 6/24, Mid-State Technical College, Wisconsin Rapids. Join us for an engaging luncheon focused on the power of Artificial Intelligence in business. Learn how to apply AI tools in your workplace-including prompt engineering, building your own bot, instant organizing & more. Register by 6/17. Starts at 11 am. \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers. business. wisconsinrapidschamber.com/events/details/power-ofbusiness-luncheon-30554

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/

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 or 715-421-2028

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LIFELINES

Blood Drive • Fri. 6/13, South Wood County YMCA, 601 W Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10 am. Redcrossblood.org

Blood Drive • Fri. 6/20, McMillan Library, 490 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10 am. Redcrossblood.org





Buttercup the Balloon took a test flight on June 4, getting ready for her debut during the Dairyland Balloon Jubilee.

Test Flight

Buttercup the Balloon took a test flight on June 4, getting ready for her debut during the Dairyland Balloon Jubilee. Organizers Steve and Nancy Woller said they had the balloon built in Brazil for the first-ever hot air balloon festival, set for July 11 and 12 at Seehafer Acres in Marshfield. It will feature more than 40 balloons from around the country, and the Wollers said it's expected to be the largest balloon rally in Wisconsin. Sirena Mankins / **City Times photos**





Lady Royals head to state track meet

BY KATHERINE MAZUREK FOR CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS The Assumption Track and Field team competed at the Marathon Sectional on May 30, with Top 4 finishers advancing to the state tournament. The whole team performed very well in a tough sectional; however it was the Lady Royals who punched their ticket to state meet next weekend.

The girls were lead by sectional champion Bella Thomas in the 100 and 200 meter dashes, and sectional champion Lucy Dolan in the 3200m run and sectional runner-up in the1600m run. Also advancing is Brooklyn Schoenick with a fourthplace 1600m run. The 1600m relay team of Emily

STATE TRACK AND FIELD RESULTS The results for the WIAA state track and field meet were not available at press time; please see our website: wrcitytimes.com

Mrozek, Brooklyn Schoenick, Lucy Dolan and Bella Thomas placed fifth but ran a time fast enough across the division to earn an extra qualifier spot.

Four school records were also broken that night: Bella Thomas in the 100M (11.94) and 200M (24.71) dashes; and Lucy Dolan in the 1600M run (5:02.09) and the 1600M Relay (4:07.88)

Brooklyn Schoenick also ran the 800m placing 10th. Callie Schoenick placed 14th in the 800m and 13th in the 3200m run, and Leire Sainz De Rosa placed 7th in the 3200m run.

The boys 400m relay of Joseph Johnson, Owen Hagan, Trey France and Cullen Thomas just missed advancing, placing fifth. The 800m relay of that same team of boys placed seventh.

The 1600m relay of Cullen Thomas, Aiden Daliege, Thomas Hannum and Joseph Johnson narrowly missed advancing by placing sixth in a very close finish.

Reed Hartjes placed eighth in the 1600m run and seventh in the 3200m run.

The 3200m boys relays placed 15th.

MSOE names Dean's List for spring

FOR CITY TIMES

MILWAUKEE -Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) has named the following students to its Spring Semester 2025 Dean's List.

· Julia Drewiske of Wisconsin Rapids, High Honors. Drewiske is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering

• Ruby Semenchuk of Marshfield, High Honors. Semenchuk is pursuing a Bach-

elor of Science in Architectural Engineering.

· Daniel Venegas of Wisconsin Rapids. High Honors. Venegas is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

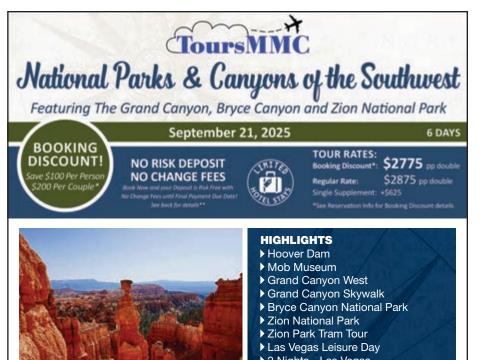
MSOE is a nonprofit university with about 2,800 students. It offers bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, business and nursing.

Ripon College names Spring Dean's List

FOR CITY TIMES

RIPON - Ripon College has announced its Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester, recognizing academic excellence. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must achieve a 3.40 grade point average or higher on a 4.00 scale and complete at least 12 credits of regular letter-graded work.

- Ryder Ebbe of Nekoosa
- Dawn Freeberg of Rudolph
- Samantha Schaefer of Wisconsin Rapids Founded in 1851, Ripon College enrolls more than 700 students with a student- tofaculty ratio of 12:1.



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Cranberry Blosson Festival June 19-22, 2025





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www.blossomfest.com

Keep flexibility in your retirement income plan



BY LOUANN SCHULFER, AWMA®, AIF® ACCREDITED WEALTH MANAGEMENT ADVISOR SM ACCREDITED INVESTMENT FIDUCIARY®, PUBLISHED AUTHOR

Planning for retirement can seem intimidating and is often filled with ambivalence.

On the one hand, we fantasize about how great it would be to have a schedule filled just with our own personal activities, not having to report to work anymore. On the other hand, it's often scary to think about a life without the paycheck we've received and relied upon for our entire adult lives.

Fewer and fewer people are retiring with a guaranteed pension, and they need to rely on their own personal retirement accounts and savings to pay bills and lead the lifestyle they want.

Structuring income from your nest egg for the retirement chapter of your life can feel like a daunting task. I ask every new client two crucial questions: "What is the most important thing I can help you with?" and "What is your biggest fear?"

When facing retirement, the answers are consistently a variation of two answers: "I would like a comfortable retirement" and "I don't want to run out of money" due to a significant market loss or spending too much too soon.

Some even say they'd like me to help them so that they spend their last dollar on their last day. Wouldn't that be great?

There are few absolutes that apply to everyone in retirement planning because every situation is different. One of those absolutes is to maintain a level of flexibility in your retirement accounts.

Diversification is important not only in your investments but also in your sources of retirement income. You may choose an annuity for guaranteed income. While the guarantee may be great, the flexibility may be limiting. The contract likely includes surrender charges for taking lump sums of money out (usually in excess of 10%) within the first several years, and the guarantee either changes or goes away if excess money is withdrawn.

These rules are not necessarily bad as long as you fully understand and build your strategy around them. Pair that with one or more accounts in your strategy that have full liquidity so

that money is accessible in lump sums for things like a new vehicle or a vacation.

If you are analyzing investments that produce income, consider the flexibility to start and stop income when you want. Sometimes in retirement, people end up not spending all of the inflows that they are receiving. It's great to have the ability to stop the income, reinvesting into new shares and/or deferring to avoid withdrawals that result in income taxation.

Consider the flexibility to completely sell out of your investment. How do you liquidate when you want to? Your "best" investment today may no longer be desirable in the future. Markets change. Interest rates change. Your needs will change.

Your sources of retirement income should be diversified, complimentary to each other and have a degree of flexibility. You'll know in your stage of planning when you reach this point because the outlook for the future is less daunting and is often replaced with a sigh of relief.

LouAnn Schulfer of Schulfer & Associates LLC Wealth Management can be reached at (715) 343-9600 or louann.schulfer@ lpl.com. Find her online at TheWealthInformation-Lady.com and SchulferAndAssociates.com. Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment adviser.

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