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WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 ■ VOLUME 40 ■ ISSUE 20 ■ 715.384.4440 ■ MARSHFIELD, WI

FREE

Beetle invasion: Japanese pest pushes westward

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD -- Brian Hopperdietzel has a problem. A big problem. His company-owned cemetery south of Marshfield has been invaded. The enemy? Thousands of Japanese beetles.

"This spring, right after the snow melted, I noticed the brown patches and the loose grass," said Hopperdietzel, owner and operator of Marshfield Monument and its affiliated Brooklawn Memory Gardens cemetery, which is located about five miles south of Marshfield on Hwy. 80.



The Japanese beetle (left) is actually born as a grub (right) that feeds on your lawn's grass roots. **USDA image**

"I thought it was more like deer pawing at it, but then the more I looked the more I noticed it was all over the front of the cemetery."

Hopperdietzel told Hub City Times during our May 9 visit that roughly two to two-and-a-half acres of his cemetery have been affected by this Japanese beetle infestation. That's about half of the five acres which have been developed for burial plots thus far.

"What happens is in August, after the beetles are done chewing on all the leaves, they go back and burrow down in, release their eggs for the larvae and that's what -- all fall

See **BEETLE** page 5

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Help keep emergency rooms ready by giving blood or platelets

Free haircut coupon by email, chance to win VIP racing experience

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

WAUSAU -- When every second counts, blood products can provide lifesaving care. The

American Red Cross asks the public to give blood or platelets during Trauma Awareness Month in May to keep hospitals prepared

for all transfusion needs, including emergencies. Type O blood donors and donors giving platelets are especially needed right now:

Type O negative is the universal blood type and what emergency room personnel reach for when there is no time to determine a patient's blood type in the most serious situations.

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

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

It's the blood already on the shelves that can help save lives in an emergency. Book a time to give now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Thanks to Sport Clips Haircuts, all who come to donate through May 31

will get a coupon for a free haircut by email. Plus, those who come to give through May 19 will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two and VIP racing experience to the 2024 NASCAR Cup Series and Xfinity Races at Darlington Raceway Labor Day weekend, including entry to the Sport Clips racetrack hospitality tent and a \$1,000 gift card. Additionally, those who come to give through May 19 will also get a bonus \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. For details on all offers, visit RedCrossBlood.org/RaceToGive.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Marshfield: May 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Marshfield Clinic Health System YMCA, 410 West McMillan St.; May 28, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 750 S. Central Ave.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call



People all across Wisconsin are giving blood and platelets, during Trauma Awareness Month in May.

Courtesy of American Red Cross Wisconsin

1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are

in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify your impact - volunteer

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience. Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit X at @RedCross.

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Call Now to get your event in the June Events Calendar!

Events and special promotions happening locally this month!

SAMPLE PAGE

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Admission: 13+ \$3 • 4-12 \$1 • FREE ADMISSION 3 and under • Free for two people!
Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds
Junior Fair Expo Building
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For more info, check out our Facebook page @2024EXPO

4th ANNUAL SPENCER FARM TOY SHOW Sunday, April 7, 2024
9:00am-3:00pm
Spencer High School Gym
300 W. School St. Spencer, WI 54479
Admission: Adults: \$3 • Ages 10-17: \$2 • Children 9 and under: FREE
Lunch & Snacks will be available for purchase. Any questions, please call Cheryl Becker at 715-385-2812. Proceeds go to support the FFA Alumni.

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You can email your info to marshfield@mmlocal.com
The Events Calendar will run Wednesday, June 5th and include the events for June 5th thru July 2nd.
Deadline for June Events is Friday, May 31st at 10:00 am

MARSHFIELD HUB CITY Times
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Money Talk

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Marshfield Clinic to host Pregnancy, Birth & Baby Expo

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Whether you're a first-time parent, juggling a growing family or a grandparent wanting to help out, there is always something new to learn about how we can better care for our families.

Marshfield Clinic is hosting the Pregnancy, Birth & Baby Expo, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Monday, May 20, at Marshfield Medical Center in Marshfield, 611 N. Saint Joseph Ave.

This free, drop-in expo is for expectant parents, grandparents and siblings. Get information on a variety of topics related to all phases of pregnancy and beyond including:

Informational booths and exhibits on childcare resources, infant/child CPR, certified nurse midwifery and doula services, Wood County Public Library, Wood County Public Health & WIC, Wood County Breastfeeding Coalition, OB/Gyn & Pediatric Providers (presentations begin at 5 p.m.), Marshfield Clinic Research Institute (clinical research, research lab, All of Us, Connect study) and many others.

Features include: Hands-on demonstrations, including



car seat safety installations; Videos and speakers provided; Experienced professionals to answer your questions.

You also will have the opportunity to learn more about and register for upcoming prenatal classes.

"The annual baby expo is an opportunity for everyone from the newest parents to the most experienced to learn

about local resources for parents and their families," said Elizabeth Harris, a perinatal lactation consultant and event organizer. "This expo is a great opportunity for families to learn about all of the wonderful pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum resources that are available to them in central Wisconsin."

The event will be held in Marshfield Medical Center's Learning Resource Center and Conference Center (hospital). Parking is available in Lot 12 or Lot E.

Marshfield Clinic Health System serves Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula with more than 1,600 providers comprising 170 specialties, health plan, and research and education programs. Primary operations include more than 60 Marshfield Clinic locations, 11 hospitals, Marshfield Children's Hospital, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Security Health Plan and Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation. Learn more at marshfieldclinic.org.

Mid-State welcomes future students to campus

'Big Decision' scholarship awarded to Pittsville senior

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -- Over 100 graduating high school seniors and their supporters attended Mid-State Technical College's annual Admit Day event on May 3 to celebrate their decision to enroll as Mid-State students. Laila Sankey, Vesper, a graduating senior from Pittsville High School, was also awarded Mid-State's \$5,000 "Big Decision Scholarship" at the event.

Admit Day is the symbolic beginning of a student's college career. At the event, students received a certificate of admission, toured campus, met with their advisor and got to know their program instructors. Some of the high schools represented at the event were Granton, Adams-Friendship, SPASH, and Pittsville.

"We are so excited to host these new students and their families at our fourth annual Admit Day and officially welcome them to the Mid-State community," said Jackie Esselman, dean of Recruitment and Admissions. "Our Admit Day event is held each year



Laila Sankey, Pittsville High School, receives Mid-State's \$5,000 Big Decision Scholarship. From left: Micki Dirks-Luebbe, Foundation & Alumni director; Laila Sankey; Nikki Dhein, donor relations manager; and Grit, Mid-State's cougar mascot. **Submitted photo**

at the beginning of May to align with National College Decision Day on May 1. Deciding on a college after high school is a major life decision that deserves to be celebrated."

Laila Sankey was awarded the "Big Decision Scholarship" that was created as a limited-time opportunity for 2024 high

See MID-STATE page 9

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Contact Us

Editorial - Mike Warren - mwarren@mmclocal.com

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OBITUARIES

GARY STENDEL
Gary Stendel, 79, of Abbotsford, passed away on May 6, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family

DAVID SCHALOW
David Schalow, 89, of Marshfield, passed away on May 5, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center assisted the family.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

A Glimpse Into Tragedy

Dear Reader,
Those of you who read this column regularly may have noticed my enduring interest in poetry. Today I would like to share a poem that few have seen. It was written by William McHale, my grandfather, and appeared many years ago in the Chilton Times-Journal, which he published in the 30s and 40s.



The poem is heartfelt and sad, dealing with the death of his son in early childhood. This brings to mind the oft repeated maxim that parents should never have to bury their children. Over the years the poem has meant a great deal to everyone in our family, helping my siblings and cousins to remember the uncle that we lost without ever knowing him.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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For Michael Had I But Known

*Had I but known he did not come to stay,
That he was just a transient little guest
By heaven sent and thither shortly bound
How avidly his smallest small request
I should have heard, and its appeasement found.*

*If I had known he entered at my gate
Only to pause on his far homeward flight –
Sweet soul ordained to bear no taint of earth –
How I had schemed to make the hours more bright
And shield his dimpled hands from every hurt.*

*But I knew not. There are tomorrows yet,
I thought, to mend the playthings wrecked today.
Then, lo, a muffling silence stilled the noise
Of clamorous mirth, for he had gone his way
And left my heart like his poor broken toys.*

William McHale

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Sale Prices Valid through May 18th. While supplies last.

BEETLE from page 1

– they eat all the roots of the grass, so then in the spring this is what you end up with,” said Hopperdietzel, as he showed us a photo of his missing lawn.

It is the Japanese beetle grub – not the fully-grown adult – that eats the roots of your lawn. As for the adult beetles, they are not picky eaters. Because they can consume and destroy over 300 species of plants—flowers, vegetables, flowering trees—very quickly, it is crucial for you to recognize them and know what to do about them before your yard and gardens are decimated. Japanese beetles have six legs, two antennae, and wings. They have a copper-colored back, a distinctive metallic blue-green head, and small white hairs on the sides of their abdomen.

Fortunately for Hopperdietzel, he caught the invasive species in its grub stage, meaning he could start eradication efforts immediately.

“More than likely, I’ll have this issue again next year for the back half of the cemetery,” Brian told us.

“The chemical applications go on typically once a year,” said Jim Bauer, manager of Allied Cooperative’s Central Wisconsin Country Store, 106 S. Peach Ave., Marshfield. “And just about all of the products that you will find on the market are legitimate if used by direction and given enough time to work. The product that we’re using is called Merit. The active ingredient is Imidacloprid. You would put it on your lawn in mid-May to mid-June because that’s, as the creatures are morphing into their beetle stage, are the smallest in the lawn and it’s before they have chewed the spring grass off next to where they have chewed the fall grass off when they went down into the dirt,” Bauer adds. “The other reason you’re doing it then is you are not affecting the above-ground pollinators.”

Bauer says Milky Spore is

also an effective bacterium (Paenibacillus popilliae) specifically for controlling Japanese beetle larvae, grubs, and adult beetles. It is not effective against other damaging grubs. Other organic insecticides target grubs but do not utilize this particular strain of bacterium.

“It’s effective right away, but it has to grow in the soil to be enough to fight the millions of bugs in the soil,” says Bauer. “The pelletized one is three times a summer for two to three summers and the powder is much stronger and you grid your lawn by stepping. So, you would grid the lawn in like three- or four-foot increments. That you only have to do one time

and within three years it supposedly has grown enough live bacterium in the soil to where you don’t have to do it again. The expectancy and how good it works then stays active for seven to ten years.”

Milky Spore works best

in areas where there are high concentrations (about 10 to 12 per square foot) of Japanese beetles and their offspring.

“I’m probably going to use the Milky Spore,” said Hopperdietzel. “So I have to apply that for two to three

years, I think it was twice a year, and then I’ll be good for seven to ten years.”

In the meantime, Hopperdietzel says he will have to totally reseed the parts of his lawn which were destroyed during the winter.

“We’ll have to put new dirt down in between the markers and it’s going to be a long summer,” he said. “When we start reseeding, I’ll put up signs.”

The Hopperdietzel family purchased Marshfield Monument in 1977. In nearly a half decade, Brian says they’ve never seen anything like this at the 10-acre cemetery property before.

“It was sickening looking at it,” he said. “There’s no sod around any stone in the center. We’re meticulous as

See **BEETLE**
page 9



This photo shows some of the damage Japanese beetle grubs have done at Brooklawn Memory Gardens cemetery south of Marshfield. **Marshfield Monument photo**

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AUBURNDALE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL NEWS

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!



Auburndale FFA Nutrition on Weekends

Members of the Auburndale FFA pose with bins of Nutrition on Weekends (NOW) bags that are distributed to 49 district-wide students each week. Food insecurity is found in urban and rural settings and our district is not immune. Our students pack each week for these individuals with a partnership with the guidance dept, United Way, and the Ag classes that pack them each week.



Veterans Duck Trip

BY JOREN ANDERSON

The annual Veterans Duck Trip organized by the Community Leadership class was on Wednesday, May 1st. This year 90 veterans participated in the day. Veterans checked in and received their green Ducks shirt and enjoyed snacks and camaraderie. After the four buses were loaded, we traveled to the elementary school where the students greeted the veterans with flags, high-fives, and hugs. When we started the journey to Wisconsin Dells, Wood County Sheriff's Department and Milladore/Sherry Fire Department escorted us to the county line. The veterans were very appreciative of the escort which included stopping traffic on intersections to allow us to continue our journey.

Our second stop was at Kwik Trip in Necedah for a bathroom break and snacks. Kwik Trip was efficient in getting 116 people in and out of the store. They opened up two lanes dedicated to our precious cargo and we were off to Wisconsin Dells.

When we arrived at the Wisconsin Dells city limits, the Wisconsin Dells Police Department escorted the buses to the Original Wisconsin Ducks. They also stopped traffic at intersections making our arrival timely.

Once at the Original Wisconsin Ducks, the veterans and students were divided into six ducks to begin our journey on land and water. Following the informative and exciting ride, the Lake Delton Police Department and the

Emergency Response Department escorted our precious cargo to Pizza Ranch. Again, the veterans were in awe of the special treatment of the escort and traffic being stopped for them. At Pizza Ranch, the crew was able to feed our large group within 45 minutes and we were on the road headed home.

On the bus ride home, every veteran received "Mail Call" with letters, coloring pages, cards from students throughout the district. At Dexterville, Wood County Sheriff's Department picked up the buses and escorted us home to Auburndale. Along the route home, both Arpin and Auburndale Fire Department assisted with the escort. When the buses arrived back at the Middle/High School, the veterans were greeted with the ladder trucks from the Rudolph and Vesper Fire Department holding a large American flag. Getting off the bus, the veterans were welcomed home by the middle and high school student body cheering, clapping and the band playing. The veterans went into the Tim Anderson Gymnasium for a short assembly where they announced their name, branch of service and years of service. Following the assembly, the veterans enjoyed cake and coffee to wrap up the day. This day is to honor our veterans for their service and the sacrifices they have made for our country and freedoms. This trip is completely free for our veterans. If you would like to donate to this fantastic adventure, please make checks payable to Auburndale High School with Ducks Trip in the memo line.

Mother's Day planting

Students from the Auburndale Elementary 4K, and Kindergarten classes made their annual trip to the Auburndale High School greenhouse for Mother's Day planting and crafts. High school horticulture students developed and led activities for the classes including vegetable sensory, Wisconsin farm food products, and planting a surprise for their Moms! The greenhouse is a laboratory for the Agriculture classroom. Students grow and run a small greenhouse business, evaluate crop decisions, learn the aspects of the greenhouse industry, and hold a plant sale prior to Mother's Day each year.



Food for America program

4th-grade students led by High school students in our Food for America program partnered with Trans Canada (TC) Energy to bring awareness to underground dangers including gas and electrical hazards. Auburndale FFA works with Progressive Ag Foundation (PAF) to create Ag literacy and Farm Safety lessons at Liquid Coin Dairy, a 700-cow operation in Milladore WI. 130 4th and 5th graders from Auburndale Elementary took part in the ag literacy and safety day facilitated by Auburndale Animal Science Students



Auburndale Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

At the Auburndale Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build, event, Auburndale FFA members and alumni work together with community members to complete components that will build 75 beds for children in our county who do not have beds. Members and Alumni worked together to raise over \$11,000 used in purchasing materials from local businesses. 150 volunteers came together on Sat. April 7th for 3 hours to sand, assemble components and finish beds to deliver. Over 35 of the 75 beds built on this day were spoken for, as they were loaded onto the truck ready to be placed in homes.



Celebration of National FFA Week

Dairy farmer Aaron Swenson (left) receives a farmer appreciation gift from Auburndale FFA Chapter members Allis Teska and Ray Brummond on Feb. 23 near Auburndale, Wisconsin. Chapter members delivered gifts to 130 farms, including 75 dairy farms in celebration of National FFA Week. This is just one of the farmers who were met by FFA members on a cold Friday in February. The dedication of these members to recognize the hard work of our farmers is truly an act of selfless giving



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PITTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL NEWS



A NOTE TO READERS:

Tragedy often comes from nowhere. This was true a month ago when Pittsville Junior Lucy Vanatta was killed in a single car accident. Her passing has impacted the entire community, and we deeply mourn her loss. Therefore, rather than discuss the goings on at Pittsville High School in this spotlight, we'd instead like to highlight and remember Lucy and the beautiful light she brought to the world.



Photo Courtesy of Jenny Bowden

Memories of Love: A Eulogy for a Best Friend

Transcript of the speech written and given by Gwyn Kumm and Emma Bowden

Lucy was always so thoughtful, caring, and kind. She made it her job to brighten the lives of those around her everywhere she went. There was never a dull moment with Lucy. Whether it be visiting our classes on a "bathroom break", or handing out her backpack full of snacks, the school day always went by a lot faster with her there. She cared deeply about those around her, and always ensured that we knew it. Being around her was chaotic at times, but she always managed to make anything and everything we did fun.

Gift giving was something that was important to Lucy, and she was so good at making things personal and meaningful. That being said, I wanted to tell you about one of my favorite gifts I've ever received. One day I was sitting in my first block class, and Lucy strode into the room just seconds before the bell. Because, as you know, that girl was *always* late. She sat next to me and asked what my favorite animal was. I was a little stunned by this question because it was so out of the blue, but I answered - a hummingbird. And she immediately said "No, pick a different one". So we settled on a dog. She never told me what this was for, but I figured it out a couple months later. She was trying to crochet us our favorite animals for Christmas. So, naturally, we received homemade blankets on Valentine's day. I use this blanket every night - it's about 99% gray, with a little strip of white on the last row. When I inquired about this, she said that she ran out of gray yarn and used some

leftover yarn from Emma's. Accompanying the blankets were sheets of notes that she wanted to give us. To us, this was the real gift, as she had a way with words. I'll always cherish that I have a physical copy of our friendship. I think this story illustrates Lucy's personality well. It shows both her thoughtful nature and her ability to know just what to give us.

There are no words that would sum up Lucy as a whole. She loved flavor blasted goldfish, Starbucks, and, surprisingly, camping trips. She refused to wear the color green even though she looked beautiful in it, for fear she would remind people of a leprechaun. Lucy was absolutely gorgeous on the inside and the outside, and we're thankful for all of the memories that we got to make with her, and stories that we have. Our time together was too short, but we wouldn't trade it for the world.

Memories of Lucy from Friends and Loved Ones

Lucy never failed to make anyone's day shine brighter, no matter if it was with jokes or sarcasm. She used her bright presence to her advantage and also let everyone know she was there. I was never very close with Lucy as we spent most of our time in different friend groups but I remember very vividly when she came to my birthday in eighth grade. I was so happy that she said yes and I remember the blanket she got me covered my bed for many months after that. She was someone who you could always turn to if you needed a friend; someone who put herself out there to try and change everyone's day. She truly was all of our ray of sunshine, whether you knew her well or not. We all know the name

Lucy Vanatta and we will keep her with us for the rest of our lives because we never should go a day without sass or smiles, hard work or skipping class, Old Bay seeds or goldfish, Starbucks or Creamery coffee, but most of all we should never go a day without being ourselves. That's all Lucy ever was - herself.

Lucy was the type of person that everyone wanted to be around. Her presence was known in every room she was in, and in the best way possible. She was dedicated to the tasks she completed, and she had a very strong work ethic. I had many classes where she would pop in to say "hi" on her hourly bathroom walk. Lucy has made an enormous impact on everyone's life without her knowing it. Lucy had a bright and powerful attitude that the world will greatly miss. She was and is a graceful angel that everyone in Pittsville Wisconsin will remember, and treasure the memories we were fortunate enough to be given. - Vanessa Pelot

There will never be enough words in the universe to sum up Lucy - or as I liked to call her, "Goose". She was the kindest and most accepting person I knew. Every time she walked by my Spanish class or saw me in the halls she screamed my name and frantically waved her hand, and her smile made my day better every time. She was also very patient, like when in Algebra two she would recite the lesson to me and help me understand the topics without ever getting frustrated (and I asked a lot of questions). When you had a conversation with her you never felt judged because she always made you feel safe and understood. Because of this we would always classify her as a "girl's girl". I admired and looked up to her in many ways. She had an ability to make anything and everything more fun just by being there as her bubbly personality and her goofiness made every hangout a blast. Her bright light and eccentric personality will forever be missed and I am grateful for every second I got to spend with her. I couldn't have asked for a better friend.

-Kaylee Jacobson

I consider myself extremely lucky to have known Lucy all the years I did, and I have no doubt that everyone else feels that way too. Whether you were close with Lucy or not she left a great impact on everyone's lives. She was always so unapologetically herself and brightened every room she entered. One of my favorite memories that I think encompasses her personality, I am able to share with many people. There was a specific volleyball game where we weren't doing the best and our coach was trying to pep us up and Lucy says something along the lines of, "Yeah, because we're Confident Bad Biddies." We all kind of laughed, but it worked. Lucy always knew how to lift everyone up and was the biggest hype woman. We kept this saying for the rest of the season - referring to ourselves as the confident bad biddies. Adding to the humor of this memory, the varsity head coach was in our huddle for a later game and Lucy used our reference like usual; it left Becky speechless. She definitely did not hear the "biddies" correctly and it was obvious that it came from Lucy. Just this small silly thing made so many people happy and it was effortless. She simply had a personality that brought joy to so many people's lives, and I strongly believe she will continue to do so even with her absence. - Leah Downs

Although I only knew Lucy for a year, I secretly had a crush on her for 4 years. The first time I ever saw Lucy was my freshman year in Mrs. Grossman's room during PPT. My fear of talking to people got the best of me, and I ended up waiting 3 years to talk to her. I saw her as a mean, stuck-up person. But then, when Gwyn and Lucy invited me to sit with them in the library during junior year, I got to know her a bit more. That's when I knew "she was the one". Many people use the term "nobody's perfect" but Lucy *was* perfect. Anyone and everyone would say the same, even the people she maybe didn't get along with the most. I like to think Lucy and I are the same people, just in different genders. As

she loved to procrastinate, this tribute was written just in the nick of time to send in. Lucy was my buddy, my best friend, my tutor, and, I would strongly say, my forever. Lucy impacted me the way nobody else ever will, and without her, my life will never be normal again. I am very grateful she was in my life and can't wait to reunite with her. I'm still scared that the memories will fade and the pictures will seem like someone I never knew. But one thing others, as well as myself, will never forget is the bright smile that shined when she walked in the room and the outgoing personality she had, making new friends anywhere and everywhere.

Lucy never failed to bring a smile to anyone's face. When I saw Lucy in the hallway, she would always say, "Hi Brookie" followed by a bright smile and a giggle. I was lucky enough to sit by Lucy everyday at lunch for the past two years, where our conversations would mostly consist of talking about clothes, makeup, school and sports. My favorite memories with Lucy are getting ready for Prom and Homecoming together, going over to her house to make cookies or watch movies, and playing softball and volleyball with her.

-Brooke Grossman

Small School Response to A Tragedy

ROD WATSON, PHS PRINCIPAL
The loss of a vibrant, bright young lady just beginning a life full of promise and opportunity on a beautiful spring day seemed unreal and impossible to comprehend. The school community was forced to come together to mourn, remember, and heal from the loss of a friend in a situation no one was prepared for. Fortunately, Pittsville showed its character and everyone has been there for each other throughout the mourning period.

On Monday morning, halls were quickly filled with the sights and sounds of nearly 200 grieving teenagers that needed each other. That day, and the rest of the week, students made art projects for Lucy, talked quietly

together, and helped plan other tributes. They went in groups to the local ice cream shop and sat together. The softball team designed a t-shirt in "Lucy Blue" to wear at an upcoming game. Her friends decorated her locker with pictures. Students gathered at the crash site to discuss what Lucy meant to them and process their loss. It was a sad time, but also uplifting. Students supported each other as their grief ebbed and flowed, and the school united in its efforts to get through this together.

Pittsville School District worked closely with the Vanatta family throughout this time. Mr. and Mrs. Vanatta asked for us to help them to set up a scholarship fund in Lucy's honor for students in Lucy's class of 2025 and beyond. We offered the use of our varsity gym for the Celebration of Life and on Saturday, April 20th, our gym filled with hundreds of community members united in their grief and trying to find a path forward without a young lady who was beloved by all. Crossroads Church hosted a dinner for the community afterwards where people continued to honor Lucy and her memory.

As a principal in a small school enduring such an imaginable loss, I am struck by the impression that a student death in a small school hurts more, but we may heal better in the long run than we would if this were a large high school. In a small school, everyone's lives are so closely intertwined that everyone is touched by it. In larger schools, the grieving students can feel lonely and confused about how other people, who may not have known the student, are acting as if everything is normal. In a school this size, it is impossible to pretend as if everything is normal. Nothing without Lucy is normal here. We will get through this together, however, as that is our only choice. Fortunately, our grief has united us and we will continue to work hard every day to remember Lucy while living our lives the way she would have wanted us to- with daily joy, music, and friendship!

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Honoring Marshfield's 150th

**Marshfield 150 for 150:
Margaret Bloczynski**

NOMINATED BY JANE WROBLEWSKI

Even though Mrs. Margaret Bloczynski was born in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in Thorp, she considered Marshfield her home. She came to Marshfield to go to school at St. Joseph's School of Nursing and graduated in 1945.

After graduating, Margaret worked as a nurse, mostly in pediatrics, at St. Joseph's Hospital for the next 44 years, retiring in 1989. She was Head Nurse on the Pediatric Ward for many years. She was affectionately known as "Mrs. B." to both hospital staff and patients. Her co-workers and patients loved her for her devotion and high-quality nursing skills. Often when they were unable to get an IV started in the Emergency Room, they would call on her assistance. She was so well loved that many of her former patients sent her Christmas cards until her death in 2010.

As head nurse, Margaret worked with local charities to make sure the children that had to stay at the hospital over the Christmas holiday had gifts. She also started a tutoring program for the patients, so they wouldn't fall behind in their studies when they had extended hospital stays. She often gave up her Mother's Day corsages to her young patients that would never get flowers of their own. Additionally, she took up candy for other holidays to make sure that all the children had treats.



She helped develop a program to educate children in Marshfield and the surrounding area about what to expect if they or a family member need a hospital stay. Upon retiring, she served as tour coordinator for St. Joseph's Hospital for this program. She also used her nursing skills as a volunteer rocking babies and helping at the blood bank and at the shot clinics. Margaret remained in close touch with nursing friends, joining in monthly luncheon dates and writing a yearly Christmas card to all the friends in her graduating class updating everyone on the news from all the friends.

Besides caring for the children at St. Joseph's Hospital, Margaret cared for her nine children that she had with her husband of 57 years, John Bloczynski. She was involved in their lives and supported them by attending school events and volunteering for social groups. She was a Cub Scout leader, Girl Scout leader, and Camp Fire Girl Leader.

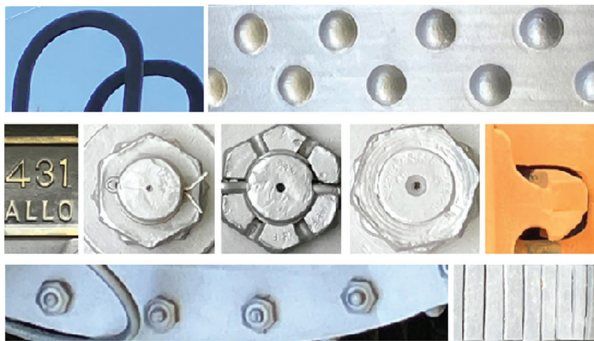
Margaret was a devout Catholic and a member of Saint John's and Sacred Heart Catholic Churches. She was a long-time member of the Parish Council of Catholic Women at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. After her retirement, she continued to share her time and talent as a volunteer Eucharistic Minister at Saint Joseph's Hospital, the House of the Dove and for home-bound parishioners of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Historic Preservation Month: Out & About

This week's clue: Scale is an interesting phenomenon. The same object can look large and cumbersome at one scale, and small and delicate at another. What are the actual sizes of the objects shown? Most important, how do they relate to each other? Where can you find them? Why are they important in Marshfield's history?

Your task is to tell us the location of what is pictured. You will have one chance each week to either email us your entry at outandaboutmarshfieldhpm2024@gmail.com or put your entry in the box at the information desk on the second floor of the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. Your entry must include 1) your name, 2) contact info (email or phone number) and 3) address of where the building, structure is located.

Deadline for each week's entries will be the following Monday at noon. No entries for the previous week will be



accepted after that time.

Last week's photo was of April's bare trellis in the Heritage Rose Garden at the Upham Mansion. The house, located at 212 W. Third St., has been owned by the North Wood County Historical Society since shortly after William Upham's second wife Grace died in 1976. The garden was designed to compliment the Victorian style of the House. The rose garden opened in 1993, and has been cared for by the NWCHS, volunteers, and Rotarians since. There are over 30 historic varieties of roses, some dating from about 200 A.D. Since life is all about "smelling the roses," what a wonderful place to relax this summer.

MID-STATE from page 3

school seniors undecided on their path after graduation to help make the decision easier.

"I was shocked and excited when I got the email about the scholarship, and I wasn't sure if it was real," said Sankey, who plans to pursue the Phlebotomy Technician program and general education courses at Mid-State. "Since my credits can transfer, my counselor encouraged me to start at Mid-State for one year to save money before continuing on to the veterinary technician program at Northcentral Technical College."

"Congratulations to Laila for being named the winner of our Big Decision Scholarship," said Micki Dirks-Luebbe, director of the Mid-State Technical College Foundation, Inc. "We are so excited for her to begin her post-secondary academic career at Mid-State. Opportunities like this wouldn't be possible for our students without the generosity and efforts of our donors and Foundation Board."

Sankey is one of the 1,603 local high school students automatically accepted to Mid-State through its Direct

Admission program. Through Direct Admission, Mid-State partners with local high schools in its district to advance the 60 Forward initiative by removing admissions barriers to the college by admitting all 2024 seniors. Learn more about Direct Admission at mstc.edu/direct-admission.

Those interested in Mid-State Technical College scholarships for fall 2024 should apply before May 24 at mstc.edu/scholarships.

About Mid-State Technical College
Mid-State is one of 16 colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System, offering associate degrees, technical diplomas, certificates, apprenticeship training, customized workforce training, and industry certifications. The College district serves a resident population of over 170,000, with campuses in Adams, Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids. Mid-State is also home to the Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship (AMETA™) Center, central Wisconsin's premier Healthcare Simulation Center, and the LEAD Center, supporting leadership growth.

BEETLE from page 5

heck at that cemetery and to see it in this condition, it's sad."

While the Japanese beetle infestation is new to Hopperdietzel, it is not new to Wisconsin. Over the past decade, the pests have found their way into Great Lakes and Central Plains states, pushing past the Mississippi River by January 2015.

"We are probably in the fifth year of aggravation as far as the community goes," Bauer told us. "I think we're too new into it to know what the cycle is."

In the meantime, be prepared. Hopperdietzel warns Brooklawn Cemetery – first developed in the early 1960s – won't look the best this Memorial Day weekend, when it always sees lots of visitors.

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| SPORTS |

Columbus baseball closing in on conference title

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD -- With just a handful of games left in the regular season, the Columbus Dons baseball team is doing something the school's championship basketball team is accustomed to doing — dominating the Eastern Cloverbelt Conference. The Dons are coming off recent conference wins over Neillsville/Granton, Gilman and Loyal.

Columbus beat Loyal on May 10 at Jack Hackman Field in Marshfield, 4-0.

On May 8, the Dons recorded their second win over Gilman in as many weeks, a 12-1 decision. Columbus jumped out to an 8-0 lead before the Pirates got on the scoreboard with a run in the bottom of the



Columbus senior Alex Edwards drives on a pitch, in a 13-2 win over Neillsville/Granton April 25 at Hackman Field in Marshfield. **Lucky Shot Media photo**

third inning. Columbus added a run in the top of the fourth and three more in the sixth. Sophomore Mac Konieczny led the Dons at the plate, going 2-for-4 with a double and two

runs batted in. Freshman Carter Sommer also went 2-for-4 and knocked in a run. Junior Drew Lang was 1-for-3 with an RBI, a walk, a strikeout and two runs scored. Blake Jakobi,

Emmitt Konieczny, the Beckers, and Carson Eckes also drove in runs. Jakobi was the winning pitcher. He threw five of six innings and gave up one earned run on eight hits, walked

none and struck out four. The Pirates were plagued by seven errors.

On May 3, Columbus Catholic shut out Loyal at Hackman Field in Marshfield, 4-0. The Dons scored three runs in the first inning and one more in the third. Mac and Emmitt Konieczny, Cy Becker, Eckes and Sommer each had hits, while Sommer drove in three runs with a first-inning double. Nate Nemitz knocked in the other run for Columbus. Emmitt Konieczny pitched a complete-game shutout, while giving up just two Loyal hits and striking out thirteen Greyhound batters.

In their first matchup with Gilman, the Dons used two runs in the bottom of the third inning, three in the fifth and two

more in the sixth to grab a 7-3 come-from-behind win over the Pirates April 30 at Hackman Field. Mac and Emmitt Konieczny each had two hits and Cy Becker drove in three runs. Carson Eckes picked up the win with three innings on the mound in relief of Jakobi.

The Dons on April 23 and 25 scored back-to-back wins over Neillsville/Granton, after suffering their only loss to this point, dropping a 6-1 decision to Rib Lake in a non-conference game April 22 in Marshfield.

After closing out conference action May 16 in Greenwood, Columbus has non-conference games with Rosholt, Amherst, McDonell Central and Marathon to close out the regular season.

THE FREE PLAY

Draft recap: Packers address defensive, O-line needs with versatility and athleticism

BY JALEN MAKI

All-in-all, I can't say any of the Packers' picks were overly surprising, during the 2024 NFL Draft, held April 25-27 in Detroit. The Packers have historically prioritized versatility, they see competition as a key component in fielding the best team possible, and they

generally gravitate towards good character guys.

This year's draft embodies those ways of thinking. Green Bay brought in several offensive linemen who can slot in at multiple spots, they doubled (and even tripled) up at a few positions, and five of their picks were

team captains during their college careers.

Here's a little more on the newest Green Bay Packers:

Jordan Morgan, OT, Arizona
Heading into the draft with 11 total selections, the Packers had the ammo to move up or down the board if they wanted to. But, General Manager Brian

Gutekunst and company stood pat at pick 25 and took Arizona offensive tackle Jordan Morgan.

Morgan played nearly his entire career as a Wildcat at left tackle. Over his last three seasons at Arizona, Morgan allowed eight sacks, 10 hits, and 39 hurries. Morgan sought to enter last year's draft, but he chose to return to Arizona for the 2023 season after tearing his right ACL in November 2022.

While the selection might've felt a tad underwhelming in the moment, I - like many other Packers fans - was hoping to hear Iowa defensive back

Cooper DeJean's name called. Quarterback Jordan Love is likely about to get a contract extension (if he hasn't already by the time you're reading this), and the guy's going to have to remain upright. Longtime left tackle David Bakhtiari is no longer in the building, and with six tackles coming off the board before Morgan, nabbing a potential day-one and long-term starter at the position when they had the chance was good business for the Packers. Green Bay is known for its flexibility up front (a recurring theme in this draft), and Gutekunst said he believes Morgan can line

up in both tackle and guard positions. You could call it an "eat your vegetables" kind of pick, but if Morgan hits, the Packers will have yet another player in a long line of reliable big men.

Edgerrin Cooper, LB, Texas A&M

The middle of the defense was among the Packers' most glaring needs entering the draft, and Gutekunst took a step towards addressing it with the team's second pick. In round two, at 45th overall, Green Bay selected Texas A&M linebacker Edgerrin Cooper, praised as one of the best at the position in this year's class.

With De'Vondre Campbell signing in San Francisco this offseason, and with new defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley transitioning from a 3-4 scheme to a 4-3, the Packers needed another guy in its linebacker room. They now have a fantastic athlete in Cooper, who ran a 4.51 40-yard dash at the NFL Combine — tied for the third-fastest time logged by a linebacker. In his final season as an Aggie, Cooper had 83 tackles (including 17 for loss), eight sacks, two forced fumbles, and one fumble recovery.

Pairing Cooper with the similarly speedy and athletic Quay Walker could give the Packers one of the most dynamic linebacker duos in the league.

Javon Bullard, S, Georgia

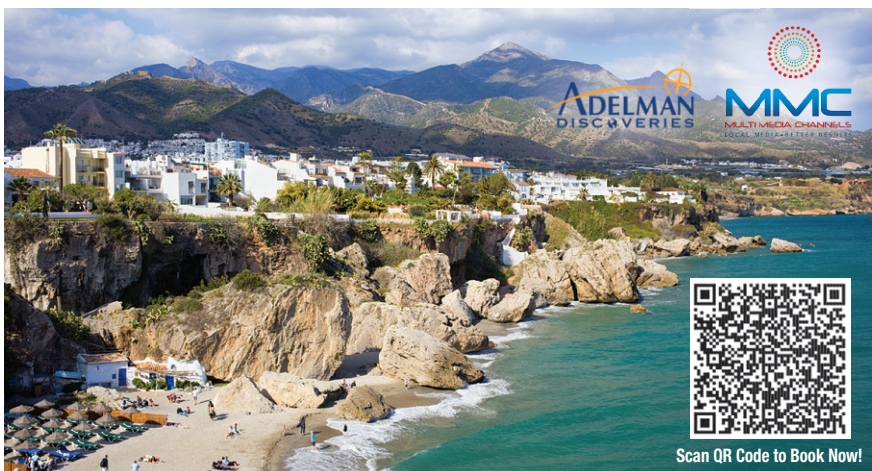
Speaking of the middle of the defense, the Packers landed one of the draft's top safeties in the second round.

Georgia's Javon Bullard, taken by the Packers at 58th overall, is known for his competitive nature and eagerness to make tackles. Bullard was a versatile piece of Georgia's defense, taking snaps at nickel corner on the 2022 National



Second-round draft pick Edgerrin Cooper makes a one-hand grab during linebacker drills, in rookie minicamp drills May 3 at Ray Nitschke Field. **MMC/Shane Fitzsimmons photo**

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USDA announces economic development investments in Rural Partners Network communities

Projects in Granton, Loyal among those to be funded as part of network's two-year anniversary

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

STEVENS POINT -- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Wisconsin State Director Julie Lassa announced May 1 that USDA is funding 18 projects related to infrastructure upgrades and clean energy projects in rural and Tribal communities participating in the Rural Partners Network (RPN) in Wisconsin.

"Two years ago, the Biden-Harris Administration and USDA launched the Rural Partners Network to help rural communities access their fair share of federal resources," said Lassa. "RPN is about removing barriers and building relationships with people and businesses located in rural areas so they can find the resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure and support long-term economic vitality on their own terms."

USDA is awarding \$3,372,703 in grants to support 18 projects that will help Wisconsin RPN communities address immediate needs and carry out long-term strategies for economic growth and stability. Several of the projects will create jobs and expand business opportunities.

Wisconsin projects include: Rella's Way Century Farm in Granton will use a \$97,500 REAP grant to install an energy-efficient grain dryer, saving the farm nearly \$7,500 per year.

Richard Loos, a farmer in Loyal, will use a \$17,801 REAP grant to install a small solar electric array, saving the farm \$722 in electrical costs per year.

This announcement marks two years since the Biden-Harris Administration launched RPN to ensure people in historically-underserved communities receive their fair share of funding from federal agencies. Since its launch, USDA has provided more than \$1

billion to support approximately 4,700 economic development projects in RPN communities.

The funding recently announced by USDA Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small will support RPN communities in Alaska, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Puerto Rico. One project also will benefit communities in South Carolina.

Rural Partners Network

Launched in April 2022 and expanded to Wisconsin in November 2022, RPN is now active in 36 community networks in 10 states and Puerto Rico.

Community networks receive support from full-time USDA staff who provide technical assistance based on each community's needs, helping them navigate federal programs, build relationships, and apply for funding. In addition to USDA staff, there are staff at 24 other federal agencies supporting RPN and making resources across the government easier to access for people in rural communities. For more information on RPN, visit Rural.gov.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. Visit the Rural Data Gateway to learn how and where these investments are impacting rural America. To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit the GovDelivery Subscriber Page.

BE OUR GUEST

Sources of energy

Here in the US, people are curious about the energy provided to the grid by various sources. They are concerned about our ability to carry on the current lifestyle or level of living with the shift to renewable sources of energy.

Currently fossil fuels provide 80 percent of the world's energy while approximately 20 percent is provided by renewables. However, this is a bit misleading and currently controversial; renewable sources make up 21 percent of the energy to the grid in the US and nuclear (which is non renewable) provides 19 percent, leaving approximately 60 percent that is provided by fossil fuels. This is front and center and on everyone's mind now that there is a priority of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels that are responsible for the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to the warming of the planet (fossil fuels are responsible for 75 percent of the GHG emissions and 90 percent of CO2 released into the atmosphere). There is now a



Mazza

worldwide effort by both developed and developing countries to transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy in the future (wind, solar and hydro as major sources). Nuclear energy is also an alternative source and contributes 18 to 20 percent to the grid here in the US, but it is not considered a "renewable" source of energy. However, this transition will vary and depend upon the natural resources available and will be a major challenge to our ability to generate enough electrical power needs for a highly-technical world. Think about the large number of devices and appliances that require electricity; it's frightening to think what life would

be like without sufficient electrical power.

This trade-off we are asked to accept for the future of society and the environment is daunting, and the implications of the necessary compromises will require some deep thinking and life changes. However, there are some people who don't believe that this transition is necessary and that climate change is a natural cycle that we have little or no control over and that fossil fuels are a gift of nature that are there to be used and exploited. Nuclear energy is certainly an alternative, even though it is non renewable. It's worth noting that here in the

US, 18-20 percent of the energy for electricity comes from nuclear; in France nuclear provides between 75 and 80 percent to the grid, in China nuclear supplies only 5 percent and in India, only 3 percent comes from nuclear (in both China and India the major source of energy is coal).

So, as I mentioned in my article that I wrote a few months ago, are we ready for renewables?

JJ Mazza, Marshfield

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DRAFT
from page 10

Championship team before shifting to safety last year. Over his final two seasons as a Bulldog, Bullard logged 102 tackles (including eight for loss), 3.5 sacks, and four interceptions.

Bullard and the newly-signed Xavier McKinney would give the Packers an aggressive and athletic one-two punch in the defensive backfield, but the job isn't Bullard's just yet - he could have some competition with another safety (or two) taken later in the draft.

Bullard is the latest Georgia defensive player to be drafted by the Packers. Over the last four years, Green Bay has brought in three other Bulldogs - Walker, cornerback Eric Stokes, and defensive lineman Devonte Wyatt. Georgia's consistently fielded top-tier defenses in recent years, so I won't complain if there's a pattern developing here.

MarShawn Lloyd, RB, USC

Joining safety as another (mostly) new-look position in Green Bay is running back. Aaron Jones left for the Minnesota Vikings this offseason, about an hour after the Packers signed former Las Vegas Raider Josh Jacobs, and AJ Dillon is set to return to the team this season.

In the third round, with the 88th pick, Green Bay added the tough yet quick MarShawn Lloyd to their RB room.

Lloyd had the best season of his college career in 2023. In his lone year at USC, he averaged 7.1 yards per carry on his way to racking up 820 rushing yards and nine touchdowns. He also averaged about four yards after contact and logged 13 receptions for 232 yards. Prior to

that, Lloyd tallied 793 total yards, ten rushing touchdowns, and two touchdown catches at South Carolina from 2021 to 2022. Lloyd ended his college career with 2,000-plus total yards and 21 scores.

Head coach Matt LaFleur noted that Lloyd has "really good speed," while Gutekunst pointed to Lloyd's physical running style and tackle-breaking ability, saying the team thinks his best football is ahead of him.

And, Lloyd didn't hesitate in making it known how he feels about what he can bring to the Packers.

"I'm the best running back in this draft, for sure, and I think Green Bay got the best running back in this draft," he said.

Depth at linebacker, safety, and O-line

The Packers made several other selections in an effort to shore up the middle of the defense and the offensive line, while adding some depth.

Just a few picks after taking Lloyd, Green Bay selected Missouri linebacker Ty'Ron Hopper at 91st overall. Similar to Cooper, the athletic Hopper was touted for his speed heading into the draft, and bringing him in seems to signal there'll be some competition at the position, which also includes Isaiah McDuffie.

After doubling down on the linebacker position, Gutekunst and company decided to follow suit in the fourth round, this time at safety. At 111th overall, the Packers took Oregon's Evan Williams, who could go head-to-head with Bullard for the second starting safety spot alongside McKinney.

With the first of their two fifth-round picks, the Packers selected Duke offensive lineman Jacob Monk at 163. Monk, who was slotted in at right tackle, right guard, and

center over the course of his five years as a Blue Devil, is yet another O-lineman that provides interchangeability for the Packers.

Why not triple down at safety? At pick 169, Gutekunst chose Oregon State's Kitan Oladapo. With Bullard, Williams, and Oladapo now on the roster, the Packers have almost completely revamped their safety room from last year. Darnell Savage, Jonathan Owens, and Rudy Ford are gone, and Anthony Johnson Jr., a 2023 seventh-round pick, is the only safety set to return.

The Packers continued their strategy of bringing in O-linemen they can shift around when they took Georgia State offensive tackle Travis Glover in the sixth round at 202nd overall. Glover logged snaps at right tackle, left tackle, and left guard in college.

The Packers had two picks in the seventh round. At 245th overall, they selected Tulane quarterback Michael Pratt. Earlier this year, Gutekunst said he'd like to see the team get back into drafting QBs, as they'd done in the past (see: Matt Hasselbeck, Aaron Brooks, Mark Brunell, etc.), and Pratt will likely square off with Sean Clifford, the Penn State product the Packers took in the fifth round last year, for the backup role behind Jordan Love.

With their final pick at 255, Green Bay selected Penn State cornerback Kalen King. King had a stellar 2022 season before seeing a dip in production last year. With the pick, the Packers added some positional depth, but if King returns to his 2022 form, he could be among the biggest steals of the draft.

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

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