



HEADED FOR MAD-TOWN

SPASH, Marshfield send wrestlers to state tournament | 1B

Central Wisconsin Sunday

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GANNETT WISCONSIN MEDIA INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

CRITICAL NEED

INSPECTOR: 23 PERCENT OF WIS. AMBULANCES REQUIRE UPDATES

By Kathleen Foody | Gannett Wisconsin Media Investigative Team

If you were injured in Adams County on Jan. 5, 2011, and ended up in any one of the Friendship Fire Department's three ambulances, the vehicle carrying you to the hospital either had faulty emergency brakes or balding tires that needed to be replaced.

How do we know? When the state's lone ambulance inspector reviewed the Friendship Fire Department's equipment the next day, he recorded those violations — among others — and gave the owner, Curtis Universal Ambulance Service, 10 days to fix the problems.



Paul Schilling, Wisconsin's ambulance inspector, examines an Oshkosh Fire Department ambulance on Jan. 22 in Oshkosh. SHARON CEKADA/GANNETT WISCONSIN MEDIA

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GANNETT WISCONSIN MEDIA ILLUSTRATION/SEAN MCKEOWN-YOUNG

HOW WE DID THIS REPORT

When state ambulance inspector Paul Schilling visits an emergency medicine provider, he completes a checklist of 150 required items. Those checklists aren't typically made public but were provided to Gannett Wisconsin Media in response to an open records request. The records were used to create a database and also were checked against a list of ambulance providers to ensure every department or company was checked during 2011 and 2012 as required.

Interviews with current and former emergency medicine providers, state officials, patients and others connected to the field were used to complete this report. State statutes, studies performed by emergency medicine researchers and complaints about ambulance service filed with the state also provided background information.

COMING TOMORROW

Former EMT Matt Deicher was paralyzed when the ambulance he was working in crashed and rolled over on a highway. Almost 10 years after that crash, Deicher has some ideas for protecting both patients and emergency medicine providers riding in Wisconsin's ambulances.

BY THE NUMBERS

6,000: Ambulance trips in Wisconsin during 2011 (latest available)

45 percent: Ambulance patients 65 years or older

5 percent: Ambulance patients 12 years or younger

\$44,538.58: 2012 salary for ambulance inspector Paul Schilling

\$0: 2011 overtime for Schilling (latest available)

AMBULANCE

Plans for automatic spending cuts concern National Guard

By Logan T. Carlson
Central Wisconsin Sunday
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Unless Congress cuts a deal to avert a series of automatic spending cuts set to take place March 1, the effects on the nation's military readiness will be disastrous, the Department of Defense's top leaders said

Tuesday when they testified before the Senate's Armed Services Committee.

The cuts also could have far-reaching implications for the 10,000 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen, who primarily are funded by the federal government, and defense contractors in the state.

"Although National Guard warfighters will continue to receive support, the ability to provide ready forces and equipment to respond to disasters in support of our nation's governors and to meet our federal obligations will be negatively impacted," said Gen. Frank

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Food service needs jump in Wood County

By Kevin Lu
Central Wisconsin Sunday
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Wood County is seeing an increased need for emergency food services, but the need in Portage County is stable.

The number of people St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Services in Marshfield helped with food jumped between 2011 and

2012, going from 17,658 in 2011 to almost 21,000 last year. In the final quarter between October and December, St. Vincent DePaul helped 5,803 people, an increase of 700 from the same period in 2011.

"I think we're seeing more families now that have never asked for help before," said Deb

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Mary Scholze

Weather/10B

Today:
Times of clouds and sun
High: 24 Low: 17



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