

## Record-breaker

Wilson becomes UWS's all-time leading goal scorer.

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# SUPERIOR Telegram

Covering Northwest Wisconsin since 1890

Friday, October 28, 2022

## City could save \$100K

### Self-funding workers' comp nets savings

By Shelley Nelson  
Superior Telegram

**SUPERIOR** — For the last six years, workers' compensation claims for the city of Superior have averaged around \$136,440 per year.

This year alone, the city's premium for workers' compensation insurance was \$433,641.

That reality prompted the city's finance committee to spend the better part of a year reevaluating how the city is insured.

When all was said and done, the finance committee on Monday, Oct. 24 approved changing the way it funds workers' compensation claims and the company that will provide the city's insurance protection.

"From my knowledge, we've spent more time vetting this than anything else," said Councilor Jack Sweeney, committee chairman. In addition to the months of work the committee put into it, he said the city's assistant finance director, Deb Kamunen, put countless hours into the project researching the city's options.

After months of review, the finance committee approved a one-year proposal from Community Insurance Corporation and Marsh & McLellan Agency to provide municipal liability, self-funded workers' compensation, property, crime, five-year tail, equipment break-

down and injunctive relief insurance coverage for 2023, a move that will save the city of Superior \$165,950 next year. Savings on workers' compensation alone will come to about \$100,000 when the cost of processing the claims is taken into consideration, according to Kamunen.

"It does make sense for the city to move to self-funding given the savings," Kamunen said.

Under the plan, the most the city would pay out-of-pocket for any one workers' compensation claim is \$100,000; anything above that would be covered by insurance, Kamunen said.

While the proposal from Community Insurance Corporation and Marsh & McLellan Agency wasn't the lowest cost proposal, it did have advantages over other bids submitted, according to Kamunen. The municipal liability has an aggregate of the deductible of \$150,000 where as another insurer doesn't have aggregate protection. The per occurrence limit was double the amount for cyber coverage and there's opportunity for additional savings.

In addition, Marsh & McLellan has worked with the city at a high level of accuracy, efficiency and responsiveness, Kamunen said in a memo to the committee.

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Photos by Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

Brielle Pederson, 6, reacts as she gets to the back of the haunted school bus during the trunk-or-treat event at Northern Lights Elementary School on Monday afternoon.

## HAUNTED RIDE

### Superior drivers debut Halloween-themed bus

By Maria Lockwood  
Superior Telegram

**Superior** school bus packed with skeletons, low-hanging fog and smears of what looked like blood traveled to the trunk-or-treat event at Northern Lights Elementary School Monday, Oct. 24.

The first visitors rated the bus as creepy, but cool. There were even some screams.

"Scary, especially the spider. I'm scared of spiders!" said Wes Pederson, 9.

His sister, Brielle, 6, said the coffin at the end was the most frightening part.

Owen Schulz, 9, said



Bus driver Stacy Fornengo adjusts the cobwebs on the first seat in the haunted school bus during the trunk-or-treat event at Northern Lights Elementary School on Monday afternoon.

it was scary, but "it was actually pretty cool."

As they stood outside, watching other participants assemble

different stations — a "Frozen" set, tables with candy, rows of balloons — Wes was still thinking about that

spider.

"The spider was huge!" he said.

The haunted bus will travel to three elementary schools this week before reaching its final destination — the trunk-or-treat event at Four Corners Store from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29.

This is the first year district bus drivers assembled a haunted bus.

"I love it. We should have done it a long time ago. Us drivers like to get involved quite a bit," said bus driver Terri Karren, who wore a creepy laughing mask for the event.

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## Neighbors rally to save Gordon Post Office

**Editor's note:** This story first appeared in the Tuesday, Oct. 25, e-edition of the Telegram.

By Maria Lockwood  
Superior Telegram

**TOWN OF GORDON** — One of Northwest Wisconsin's oldest post offices is on the national chopping block, and local residents are fighting back.

More than 80 people rallied at the town of Gordon Post Office Oct. 20, carrying signs and sharing their concerns. The

post office, which has been in the community for 162 years, is slated to close at the end of the business day Nov. 9.

Residents said they haven't received any information about the closing in their mail boxes, post office boxes — the Gordon building has 300 — or via phone. A sign taped to the door announced the closing and the fact that residents will have to travel

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Maria Lockwood / Superior Telegram

Town of Gordon residents hold up signs outside the Gordon Post Office during a rally on Thursday to keep it open.

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