





PAID MARSHFIELD, WI PERMIT NO. 10

POSTAL CUSTOMER ECRWSS



School Board candidates featured at forum



Bohon

BY MIKE WARREN **EDITOR**

MARSHFIELD - The seven Marshfield School Board candidates vying this month for six spots on the April 2 spring election introduced themselves and answered questions, during a forum at Marshfield High School. The twohour question-and-answer session on Jan. 31 was



Forst



Kizer









Steiner

hosted by the MHS Student Council.

Candidates opened the forum with statements about themselves, their backgrounds and why they are running for a seat on the Board of Education. Each of the candidates' responses featured are listed alphabetically.

Frances Bohon

"I am running because

I'm a cheerleader for kids. I have five children that graduated from Marshfield High School, but I have four grandchildren currently in Marshfield schools, one at the high school, one at the middle school, two at different elementaries in our system and I've continuously had kids in here. I've been a student at heart my whole life. I was blessed with a good education. I want the

parents, they emphasized the importance of that in our lives so that we could have options for our future and to pursue our goals and our talents and that's what I want for my kids. I would also want to add that I understand the range of student needs because, throughout the years, I've had kids in remedial programs, regular programs, and gifted-andtalented programs. I have kids that are tech kids

and kids that are art kids and kids that are coresubjects kids, so the whole gamut. Also, all of my work experiences taught me to study issues and then problem solve with others to deal honestly and to understand the expertise of the professionals around me, which is important because the rubber meets the road in the classroom. It's our teachers that we work with who are in there carrying out the policies

and direction of the board, and that's where kids work with teachers who care and incentivize them through their knowledge and their joy of teaching, so that's my goal for all our kids."

Nicole Forst

"I would like to say I'm very invested into the Marshfield School District. and the reason for that is I have three children. In the

See CANDIDATES

page 9



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Crews respond to small fire at Charles Apartments



Marshfield Fire & Rescue Department personnel responded Feb. 5 to reports of smoke coming from the attic above a third-floor apartment at Charles Apartments, 103 W. Second Street. Mike Warren photo

BY MIKE WARREN **EDITOR**

MARSHFIELD -- An electrical arc at Charles Apartments caused a smoldering fire which was almost immediately discovered and quickly extinguished. Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department crews were called just after 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 5 to the three-story retail/apartment complex at 103 W. Second St.

Marshfield Fire and Rescue responded with 10 personnel to investigate a small amount of smoke coming from the attic of the building. Upon arrival crews found light, white smoke coming from a roof vent. Crews made entry to the attic to find a light haze of smoke. A smoldering fire was found contained to an isolated area of the cellulose insulation in the attic. No flames were present throughout the entire

incident. The ceiling of apartment 314 was removed to extinguish the smoldering insulation and to check for extension. This area was not accessible from the attic. A tenant in apartment 314 was displaced as a result of the fire. All other tenants were allowed to return to their apartments. Assistance was provided by Marshfield

Damage was contained to apartment 314 and the attic directly above. The majority of the damage was the result of having to remove the ceiling to gain access and remove the smoldering insulation. The fire damage was limited to the area of origin. No structural damage was present to the building as a result of the fire. The fire was discovered by crews from House of Heating, who were working on the building at the time.

Police Department.

The investigation is still open.

Good Heart Award

Nominations sought for **Good Heart Award**

The Marshfield Area Foundation and the Marshfield Hub City Times are seeking nominations for the "Good Heart Award."

Nominations will be accepted Jan. 1 - Feb. 14, closing on Valentine's Day, for high school seniors who have gone above and beyond in spreading positivity and kindness in their community. Nominees must be a student at a Marshfield school – public or private – or can be a home-schooled Marshfield resident.

The chosen recipient will receive a \$1,000 award to give to the nonprofit of their choice, as well as a presentation dinner with family

To place a nomination, please request an application from Stacey Schultz at info@marshfield.foundation

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The Events Calendar will run the last Wednesday of each month and include the events for the following month.

Deadline for March Events is Friday, February 23rd at 10:00 am



March 00

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City opens bidding on logs from ash trees



MARSHFIELD - The City of Marshfield will accept sealed bids for the sale of ash tree logs until 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19, at City Hall, 207 West Sixth Street, Marshfield, WI. The bids will be opened immediately thereafter and publicly read in the Public Conference Room.

The ash logs are located in the central part of Braem Park. The entrance will be marked on E. Grant St. following an

access road to the north. Bids will be on a per pile basis and logs must be removed by the end of the day, Sunday, March 3, 2024.

Cutting of logs in the park will not be allowed. Conditions of the sale and bid form may be obtained from City Hall or the Street Division.

If you have further questions, please call Public Works at City Hall at 715-486-2034 or the Street Division at 715-486-2081.

Straight as an **Arrow**

Brogan, sophomore at Marshfield High School, took first place for high school boys, while his sister, senior Shylah Brogan - in her third year in the sport took fifth place for high school girls, at the recent Badger State NASP Badger (National Archery in the Schools Program) archery

Submitted photo

Chicken Tenderloins Uncooked - Frozen



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OBITUARY



DIANNA LYNN WOOD

Dianna Lynn Wood (Dede) age 57 of Granton WI, passed away 1/31/2024 at home surrounded by many who loved her. She is a beloved partner, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

No services to be held, cele bration of life to be determined later.

Dede was born 4/24/1966 in Milwaukee WI. She had attended the Lincoln High School Alma Center in 1984. Dede had met her partner in

crime Robert (Bob) Kohl in 2009. She loved to take all of her grandkids camping and fishing all the time. She and Bob loved going to Jackpine and Blue Grass yearly. Dede was a woman who loved life and everything in it. She was always ready for the next adventure.

Dede is survived by her 3 children, Andrea Wood of Granton WI, Patrick Wood of Loyal WI and Leanne Wood of Marshfield WI. She is further survived by her grandchildren. Cameron Wood, Kayden Prior, Keyontae Johnson, Davonte Johnson, Braelynn Stumpner and Holly Wood. Her sisters Laura (Sonny) Prewitt of Granton WI, Carla (Jon) Henaman of Spencer WI, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents Brooks and Hazel Wood, Carl and Jenny Batura. Her

parents Rex and Jean Wood. Her grandson Tristen Lee Farly

and nephew Matthew Wood. Cremation Society of Wisconsin, Altoona is assisting the

family. Online condolences may be shared at www.cremati onsociety-wi.com.









PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Marshfield Buyers' Guide • Hub City Times

Valentine's Day: A Timeless Celebration

Dear Reader,

As we approach St. Valentine's Day, let's reflect on the profound significance of expressing love to someone special. While this day has become a symbol of

affection, it serves as a gentle reminder to celebrate love not just on February 14th, but throughout the entire year.

Love is a force that knows no bounds even in the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. Its celebration should be a continuous journey rather than a fleeting moment in time. Every day offers an

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1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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opportunity to cherish and nurture the bonds that bring joy and companionship into our lives.

So, as we exchange heartfelt gestures on this St. Valentine's Day, let it be a catalyst for a year filled with love, understanding, and gratitude. May each day be an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary connections that make life richer and more meaningful. After all, the true beauty of love lies in its ability to brighten not just one day, but every day of the year..

> PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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



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hubcitytimes.com

New letter to the editor policy

Effective Feb. 5, 2024

Letters to the editor must include the writer's full name, address, and other contact information (only your name and town/city will appear in print and/or online).

We will not accept a letter from an unidentified source. · Letters should be no more than 500 words and may

- appear in our weekly print issue. · Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts. You may be asked to rewrite/add to letters to
- · This publication will only print letters that address a
- specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our readers.
- · Submit letters to: mwarren@mmclocal.com.

We will not print letters that:

Contain potentially libelous material. Libel is any malicious, unsubstantiated or untrue statement about someone that damages their reputation. Submissions must have facts to back up all claims.

Support discrimination on any grounds. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or culture.

Are vulgar, profane, obscene, or otherwise offensive. Make explicit or implied threats. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threat of harm against a person or organization.

Contain copyrighted material or that have been printed in another publication.

All letters must be an original writing by the signer and exclusive to this publication.

Identify another person, unless that person has given their explicit consent. We assume that any person identified in a letter has consented to be mentioned in the letter.

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The writer of a Letter to the Editor maintains copyright of their letter. Any other individual or organization must seek permission from the writer if they wish to reprint a letter to the editor.

Political letters to the editor

All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40 for the first 250 words and an additional \$10 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing. Some submissions may be referred to our advertising department to be run as ads.

PACKING History



The Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame generously opened their vault to share pieces of Packers history with the City Times to be highlighted for our readers. For more information on the hall of fame, visit www.packershofandtours.com. If you would like to donate Green Bay Packers memorabilia to the Packers Hall of Fame, contact Katie at (920) 965-6986 or katief@gbphof.com.

A 1946 Green Bay Packers calendar featuring the "sixtime world champions," including the 1945 scores and 1946 schedule. The calendar was sponsored by Leicht Transfer & Storage Co., Green Bay.

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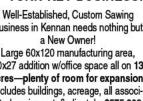
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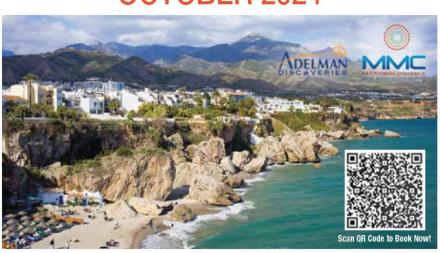
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PAID POLITICAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

School board procedure, history of valedictorian practice explained

Survey results supported board's decision

was glad to see student engagement in the school district in a recent Hub City Times issue. Let me take this opportunity to make corrections and fill in omissions about the process of making decisions at the School Board.

Typically, discussion by the board about a student or employee of the district happens in closed session. In keeping with the confidential nature of closed sessions, no member of the board shall disclose to anyone the content of discussions that take place during such sessions (policy 0167.2).

When an individual brings a concern to all board members, we act as a team. The board speaks through its actions set

forth through motions, resolutions, and other official actions taken at board meetings and officially noted in the minutes and not through its individual members (policy 0143). The board gathers information and seeks input from all stakeholders regarding that concern. Making an informed decision requires a substantial amount of time and careful consideration.

In mid-May 2023, we received a request from a student to change the practice of acknowledging the top 5 percent of the class at graduation that had been in place for three decades. Making an informed decision was not possible in two weeks. When the issue came to the regular board

meeting, SAM Steiner requested that we follow the usual process of information gathering before we vote. A motion to table the issue and send it to the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Committee was made. following Robert's Rules for small boards. It passed with a 4-3 vote.

In documents for the June regular board meeting (found in BoardDocs):

"Background and history on the practice of not publicly recognizing class rank was provided; beginning with 1994 graduating class, valedictorian was not publicly recognized in the graduation program; the High School Course Catalog indicates the district discontinued

the practice of publicly acknowledging class rank in 2010: Board action was taken surrounding both changes; Board action taken in January 2010, 6-0 vote, approving proposed changes to the GPA ranking system at the High School and no longer publicly ranking students [though class rank appears on student transcripts]; Board action taken in July 1993, 4-3 vote, approving the Academic Recognition for Graduating Seniors policy; High School staff spoke to and supported both changes that occurred. Chairperson [Frances] Bohon will report out at the Regular Board meeting in June and will ask board members for feedback on next steps."

Information gathering included surveys to students, parents, and staff to get stakeholder opinion and a fact check of the public comment that our district is the only one in the area that has this practice. Results from the C&I committee follow (see 12/13/23 board meeting minutes):

· Survey data revealed that this issue is neutral or not important to 67 percent of students (897 respondents), 95 percent of staff (64 respondents) and 81 percent of parents (210 respondents).

· All area districts of comparable size, AP program and grading system have similar practices to Marshfield at their graduations.

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No further action was taken on the issue. It has been a pleasure to offer education to the

public about the work and procedures of the Marshfield School Board. And finally, has anyone ever known Frances or

SAM to be silent?

SAM Steiner Marshfield

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FOR HUB CITY TIMES MARSHFIELD

Forward Bank contributed \$100,000 to support the development of a pickleball complex to be located in Braem Park. This project is part of a larger revitalization effort for the area that currently includes frisbee golf.

Pickleball has been an increasingly popular sport that spans generations and encourages families to stay active. The addition of this complex provides access additional for those looking to play in Marshfield. It also serves revitalize tennis and

Village

seeing less use. This effort makes Braem Park more attractive to members of the community, and with the size of the pickleball complex, is likely to draw people from outside of the community.

"This project is a natural fit for Forward to support," commented Bill Sennholz, CEO of Forward Bank. "Our building in Marshfield overlooks Braem Park and our employees will have the opportunity to enjoy this new facility. The investment we make in projects like pickleball courts encourages individuals



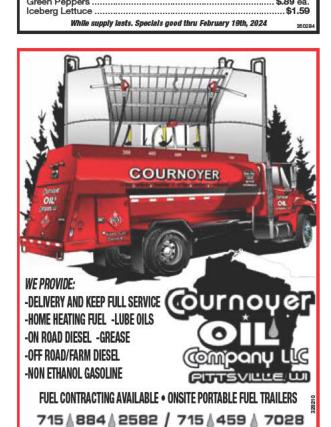
Audra Strasser, Juline Heiting, Dave Jordan, Bill Sennholz, Scott Wucherpfennig, Perry Stargardt, John Dickenson, Mary Bloczynski, and Stacy Brogan, in front of the future pickleball Submitted photo complex at Braem Park.

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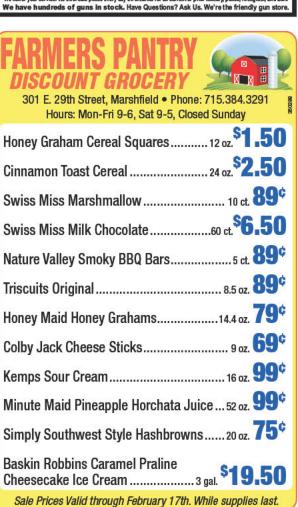
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ARSHFIELD Honoring Marshfield's 150th

Marshfield 150 for 150: Rita and Paul Meier

NOMINATED BY EILEEN KELZ

Chances are that if you've gone out for a Friday fish fry you ate at the Blue Heron Brew Pub where you were greeted with the smiles of Rita and Paul Meier. Rita and Paul, as well as partners Joe and Cari Loos and Tom and Paula Hinke, opened the Brew Pub in the historic Parkin Dairy building in Marshfield.

Owning a restaurant is hard work, so the couple did not go into the enterprise lightly. Rita earned a degree in business through the University of Minnesota and had plenty of other entrepreneurial experience. Also, being raised on a farm in rural Paynesville, MN, Rita had a strong work ethic. Paul, as an obstetrician for high-risk pregnancies at Marshfield Clinic, was also used to long hours and hard, dedicated work.

So, when the opportunity arose to buy the former Parkin Dairy Building, they dove in. Paul had a strong vision for the restaurant. He loved good food and saw a need for an informal gathering place to eat and build community. Part of their vision included a micro-brewery, so they reached out to Central Waters Brewing Company to complete the

Rita originally arrived in Marshfield to follow her spouse, Mike Lindquist, for his new job. Rita stayed home to raise their children, now adults, Jonathon, Natalie, and Allison. All three kids attended and graduated from the School District of Marshfield.

The couple divorced in 1995, so Rita returned to the paid workforce. Her previous employment was with Honeywell in Minneapolis as a contract manager. In Marshfield she went to work as a sales consultant for Weekenders Casual Wear, where she excelled with a sales force of five other women under her management. She was on track to be a Weekender's Manager when the opportunity arose to work for Security Health Plan in Marshfield as a Sales Coordinator. She then moved on to Prudential in 1999, obtaining her insurance and securities licenses to become a financial advisor, and later worked for Catholic Knights and Forward Financial Services.

In 2000 Rita married her "soulmate," Paul Meier. They worked well together, whether it was growing their blended



family of seven into adulthood, running a restaurant or participating in community activities.

When the Parkin building, home of the former Parkin Dairy, went up for sale in 2004, Rita and Paul and the partners decided that the building had great potential as a restaurant. They formed partnerships with the Loos's and Hinke's, purchased the building and did extensive remodeling while maintaining the integrity of the building which is on the Federal Register of Historic Places. West 14th and the brew pub had its much-anticipated opening in 2005. They successfully ran the restaurant with the casual Blue Heron Brew Pub downstairs and a more formal dining space upstairs.

When the Loos's left the partnership in 2009, Rita made the decision to resign her financial advisor job to manage the restaurant. The greatest challenge that Rita found to being a restauranteur was juggling all the moving parts, such as staffing, keeping equipment running, finance and food quality. The most rewarding aspect, according to Meier, was when it all came into balance and all the parts were running smoothly. After Paul's retirement from Marshfield Clinic in 2012, he came to work alongside Rita each day and/or evening. When Paul began to experience some health issues, they made the decision to sell the restaurant. They could have closed the restaurant down, but their vision for good food and a community gathering space stood strong, so they decided to find a buyer. Their commitment to Marshfield prevailed to the end. They knew that their many friends and patrons would be disappointed, so the business was sold to Justin and Renee Graff who they felt would keep the friendly business going with the same integrity and vision.

On top of her business acumen, the term "Minnesota Nice" applies to Rita. She is a truly kind individual who likes to be "on the go" and achieve things. The fact that Rita has remained strong friends with the Hinkes throughout the pressures and difficulties of their business together speaks volumes to the kind of person she is. Paula Hinke says of her former restaurant partner, "Rita is a wonderful woman. She is kind, caring and considerate of others. If there is a problem, she evaluates the entire situation and how various actions will affect everyone involved, in business and everyday life."

Rita's commitment to the Marshfield community extended beyond the restaurant. She served on the UW-Marshfield/Wood County Foundation Board with a stint as president. While a member of the board, the foundation started "Food for Thought," a successful fundraiser. She also served on the board of St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation with the last two years as its president. The foundation managed and approved the use of and raised funds to purchase items, services, or training that the hospital didn't have in their budget.

Rita was also a big supporter of Main Street Marshfield, where she served on the board with the last years as president. In that role she accomplished the hiring of a new executive director of Main Street and initiated the Tuesday Downtown Farmer's Market and the Antique Tractor Show while coordinating concerts and festivals around town for events like Hub City Days.

Sadly, Paul passed away in 2023. Rita is now moving ahead with life and figuring out what is next. While temporarily retired, with Rita's drive, commitment and energy, she will continue benefiting the Marshfield community.

SPORTS

Dons lose close battle with Indians

BY MIKE WARREN

MARSHFIELD - In a back-and-forth game that saw several lead changes throughout the evening, the Greenwood Indians girls' basketball team edged Marshfield Columbus, 43-40, Feb. 6 at Columbus Catholic High School.

Points were hard to come by for both teams in the early going. Then, Greenwood seemingly flipped a switch and scored 10 straight points to grab a double-digit lead midway through the first half. The Dons battled back and trailed by just four at halftime, 21-17.

Columbus kept at it in the second half, and eventually chipped away the Greenwood lead and went in front. From there, every possession counted, and every basket and free throw were big for both squads.

The Indians grabbed a 39-38 lead with just over three minutes left in the game, when Columbus senior Courtney Sommer fouled out with 3:14 remaining.

Two free throws by sophomore Tatym Travis gave Greenwood a 41-38 lead with 2:10 left.

Following a Columbus miss and then foul, Greenwood's Addison Davidson made one of two free throws, for a 42-38 iead.

A big moment in the game came when Columbus senior Mattea Schlafke picked up her dribble and Travis reached in, grabbed the ball and forced a jump ball call, with the possession arrow in Greenwood's favor, with just over a minute left.

Following a Greenwood timeout, the Indians picked up an offensive foul on Tysen Lindner, giving the ball back to Columbus, with the Dons trailing by four with less than a



Columbus senior Mattea Schlafke takes a shot, in a 52-43 Dons' win over Colby Feb. 1 at Columbus Catholic High School Lucky Shot Media photo in Marshfield.

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Marshfield Hub City Times

minute remaining.

Gracie Wilczek had a great look at an open three-pointer, took the shot and appeared to make it. But the ball went halfway down then popped out, and Greenwood grabbed the rebound.

With time winding down, the Dons quickly fouled Britney Walde, who made one of two foul shots, after going 0-for-3 earlier in the game, giving the Indians a five-point advantage.

After Walde missed her second attempt, the Dons grabbed the loose ball. A quick steal by Avry Wuethrich gave the ball back to Greenwood, but then she stepped out of bounds. The Dons now had the ball back with 22 seconds remaining, down by five.

Columbus junior Gracie Wilczek passed to senior Maggie Callaghan, who got the ball to Schlafke. Mattea missed a shot down low, but grabbed her own rebound and got the ball to senior Sam Casperson, who connected for a bucket as time expired, and the Indians hung on for the win.

Greenwood was led in scoring by Travis, who had 18 points. Sommer led Columbus with 12 points, including eight in the second half. Schlafke and Gracie Wilczek each added nine. Sam Casperson had eight.

Greenwood improved to 16-6 overall with the win and 10-4 in the Eastern Cloverbelt Conference. The Dons dropped to 9-13 and 6-6 in conference play. Greenwood's win was their seventh on the road this season, and their second straight over Columbus, after losing seven in a row to the Dons dating back to 2020. Columbus still leads the overall series between the two teams, 40-8, dating back to 1967.

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

COLBY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL NEWS



The Colby High School Student Services Office continues to make serving our student population top priority. We strive to provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for our students with easy access to resources from college and academic planning to mental health and counseling services. Our office consists of Chrisie Wright, counselor and Monica Dukelow, counseling secretary. We have introduced a few new activities and platforms that make our services readily available and also provide students with career exploration opportunities.

New this year is the creation of a Google Classroom for the Student Services Office. It is a one stop location for our students to find a variety of resources related to Registration, Student Mentorship, Youth Apprenticeship and Scholarships. We even had the teachers create videos of the courses they are teaching and those are posted on Google Classroom.

One of our current and ongoing projects this year is the revamping of our school course registration process though our student information system. Starting this upcoming scheduling year, students will have access to online academic planning progress and the creation of a four year plan to help students choose classes that meet their needs postsecondary. The four year plan will be a guide to help students develop their interests and pick classes during high school that highlight those interests or future career endeavors.

With the strong ties to the workforce development initiative, we have created pathways within the various career clusters for students to follow while choosing classes in our coursebook. A student would be able to choose a pathway and then take all of the Colby classes listed under that pathway to take full advantage of those opportunities that will apply to their future career. Currently we have 12 comprehensive pathways that a student can choose from and gear their class selection to meet those pathways. The culmination of their pathway experience would be to apply for the Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program. YA is a partnership between the school, Northcentral Technical College and a worksite. Students in this program have the opportunity to leave school early each day to go to their workplace for on the job training. This is a paid work experience and it is overseen by a school and a job site supervisor. A student is able to participate in the YA program for their junior and senior year. Once a student has met the hour requirements of supervised workplace experience and the competencies, they are eligible for a state-issued skills certificate.

Starting this school year, Colby School District has opened up a Youth Apprenticeship opportunity within the school district in the field of education. Partnering with our elementary school, a junior or senior that





offer the NTC Intro to Educational Practices class which ties into this experience and is a stepping stone for education based classes.

Although we started holding an Academic and Career Planning Speaker Day last year. it was so successful that we have continued it through to this school year. Using the 16 career clusters as our guide, we find a speaker that falls into that cluster to speak to our students. Students have the opportunity to individualize their experience by picking three speakers or job areas that are of greatest interest to them. These first hand accounts

with a mentoring teacher and his/ her class and the path the speaker followed to get to during a portion of the school day. We also where they are in their place of employment. The Career Speaker Day helps to showcase local businesses and their importance in our community.







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CANDIDATES

from page 1

fall I will have a high school student, a middle school student and an elementary student, so I will be exposed to all levels of education in Marshfield. Currently I volunteer in the schools, specifically at Grant for my youngest. I also am involved in many extracurricular activities that range from Marshfield wrestling, Silver Laces, sixth-grade volleyball club, so I like to be very involved. I like to know what's going on. I want to make a difference. I feel that being a voice of our district and drive changes is what is needed for our students and teachers. A little bit more about me. I'm very passionate, I'm driven and enthusiastic. For a career I am an IT Project Manager. For those of you that don't know what project management is, I organize chaos, so I create plans, I work on executing a plan and I evaluate results, and I feel that those things are crucial in having a successful school. Outside of that, I have a degree in administration business with a minor in psychology."

Steven Kizer

"I have many reasons why I'm running for a seat on the school board, and it seems as though I get a new one every single day. It first started with my seventh grader, Maggie, and as much as she loves school. just wanting to maintain that environment that she enjoys so much. Thinking more into it, and thinking of what we've been through in the past few years with the pandemic and everyone trying to handle it as best they could and taking information from so many different places and wondering if we're doing the right thing, I

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think that that created a communication barrier and a lack of trust in some areas between parents and the school board and the teachers themselves as well, just an all-around unfortunate wall there, so I would really like to work to restore that."

Richard Kranz

"I'll say the reason I ran is - first of all was a little bit reluctant - with encouragement of friends and neighbors, I decided to run because I think there needs to be improvements. There's a lot of good, but we still need to have improvements. I'm doing it because I want to make a difference in students, faculty, in our schools. I do have some fond memories. I think three stand out. I'm from Wisconsin. I went to public schools in the Milwaukee area and a university in the Milwaukee area. And some of the things stand out to me. One was I remember being in grade school and the teacher would wheel the piano out in the auditorium where we would sing, and I absolutely loved that. And then later on in high school - I went to a suburb in Milwaukee - I loved watching all the games and just supporting the teams, supporting the school. And then later in the university, really what stands out to me is the outstanding teachers. To me, the best teachers were the ones that actually listened to their students and actually learned from their students. And you know what? That made you respect them so much more. The good ones, again, stand out, and I want to make a difference in the school system. I want to make improvements, improve the academic standards, safety is a very pressing matter right now I think, too. I think I just keep

my mother, and she would say to me, 'Always respect every individual, remember that people don't fit neatly into categories.' If you live by that, I think you can be respectful to people, be open-minded and I'd like to bring together some dialogue between the teachers, students and the faculty - a little better communication I think."

Charles Norton

"The reason why I'm running for school board is because I have children that have gone through the school district. When I moved here from New Jersey, I fell in love with this town and I see so much potential in how this town can improve and how our students can improve and be the future of Marshfield. I guess I'm running to also help guide Marshfield as a community to improve, grow and be stronger."

Karen Ott "I'm running for school board because of my experience in this district as a student and a parent and grandparent and a teacher. I know I can support all students in working toward their greatest potential. As a student at Marshfield High School I benefitted from many opportunities as a member of the band. We marched on Lambeau Field twice. We performed at the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee and we marched in the Lilac Parade in Mackinac Island, and so great experiences there lifelong experiences I'll never forget. As a starter on the Tiger girls' basketball team, and a pitcher on the Tiger fast-pitch softball team, I learned life skills that impacted who I am and gave me a sense of pride in being a Tiger. I learned selfdiscipline, commitment, teamwork, and respect. Additionally as a student, I had outstanding teachers. I wish I could name them all. They laid the groundwork for me in becoming a teacher. In these programs and in my classes, I felt supported by the Marshfield community and grateful for that support. As a parent, and now a grandparent, I appreciate opportunities I see and evidence of learning and the development of strengths and talents that have led my children

and I know will guide my grandchildren to theirs as well. Again, I witnessed the community support in their ventures. I'm proud to say I was a teacher for the School District of Marshfield for thirty-two-plus years. Though I understand there are those who see my being a retired teacher as a detriment, common sense speaks differently. Working with students as a trusted teacher, experiencing the workings of how education unfolds in the classroom. having experience collaborating with parents, community members and other staff can only be valuable experience for a school board member to have. And yes, again, I felt supported throughout my career here. So why am I running? Throughout my life I've understood appreciated the and opportunities available to me and to all students district. And in this throughout my life, I've developed insights that can only be good in my decision-making as a board member."

down their career paths,

SAM Steiner

"I am running for school board because of my experience previous to being here in Marshfield I would say. We lived Portland, Oregon in seventeen for years before we moved here. My whole adult life I've been concerned about the welfare of children. I taught high school Biology for about one year and that was enough for me to recognize that teachers are some of the most important people influencing our children's lives. I did say once that I think teachers should be paid as our pediatricians are paid. My husband's a pediatrician and he had to just swallow that because I feel that the connections that kids make with teachers and their schools last a lifetime. I can't honestly say that I remember a conversation with my pediatrician when I was growing up, but I remember so many wonderful conversations life-shaping and experiences that I had in high school in Barrington, Rhode Island. That's where I started. Then I went to... I'm a native Texan, but I did as a speech pathologist. My under-graduate degree was in biology and French. And all of that did not prepare me for what we had to deal with in Portland when my husband and I were raising our four kids there. The Portland public schools started slashing the school budget far before it became a national trend. and we really saw that. Many of the public schools in Portland - in fact the one that we chose to put our kids in - did not have a music program or an art... this was a K-8. No music. No art. And two years before we got to our school they had no P.E. either. Tough choices for parents, to have to deal with this vacancy in their children's formation. So, we had to do that ourselves. The school chose to increase class size to thirty per class - twentysix for Kindergarten, but still way too high - in order to carve out an FTE to have P.E. And it was determined that we could patch together something for music and other things. So, that's what brought me here to Marshfield. were really looking forward to a wonderful

Candidates answered questions pertaining to mental health initiatives and how school buildings and facilities impact students' education and co-curricular activities and others.

school experience for our

two sons that went through

some of middle school and

high school here. It's been

a great experience. Public

education is the linchpin

of a healthy civic life.

Regardless of how much

you personally consume

education, your community

is affected and the health of

your community is based

upon a public school that is

thriving and healthy."

product of public

the

Candidates also identified areas they would like to see improved. Because of limited space, just a portion of their responses to that question follow.

Frances Bohon

"I have a continuous improvement mindset and I think our district does too, but if I'm picking one area I think it's strengthening our core curriculum. That sets the base for all the other classes."

Nicole Forst

"I personally feel one of the top areas that need to be improved on is parent engagement. There is a lack of parents helping out. If everybody took one hour of their day over the span of nine months it would be so appreciated by the teachers and the students there."

Steven Kizer

"I'd very much like to work very closely with the special education program. I have a son with Autism who struggled very much in school. I think that our special education program has a lot of very wonderful people who work extremely hard and I think that they just could use some more support. I'd like to work closely with them and seeing how we can get them more support, get them more resources.'

Richard Kranz

"I have to start with safety. We are one of the only school districts in the area that does not have cameras. That's a problem. Before something bad happens, I think it's something that the Marshfield School District needs to address."

Charles Norton

"I was going to talk communication. about and not just the board communicating with the community, but also the parents communicating with the teachers and vice-versa. It's important because when you don't have that conversation it develops that idea of fear, that idea of speculation of what's going on, that misinformation.'

Karen Ott

"I would like to see that one area in our district improves communication. The district works so hard and does so much in the way of presenting information and yet there's sometimes still a disconnect. I think that a district priority needs to be to continually reevaluate the vehicles to distribute new information. Collaboration is going to be key to solving the issue of people feeling like they're missing information."

See CANDIDATES

page 10

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First State Bank announces scholarship opportunities

NEW LONDON -- First State Bank is once again offering ten \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors pursuing their education after graduation. Application forms are available online at bankfirststate.com/scholarships.html and must be returned by Monday, March 25.

Applicants must either be attending a high school located in a community where First State Bank has a branch location, or the applicant or their parent(s) must be a First State Bank customer as of Dec. 31, 2023. In addition, applicants must be enrolling with an accredited college, university, or technical school on a full-time basis for the term immediately following graduation from high school.

"First State Bank is proud to continue its support of area students as they move



on to this next exciting chapter in their lives," said Brenda Hansen, vice president of marketing.

First State Bank is a community bank with offices in New London, Auburndale, Clintonville, Manawa, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Waupaca, and Wisconsin Rapids. For more information visit bankfirststate. com or call (800) 994-2500.

COMPLEX

from page 5

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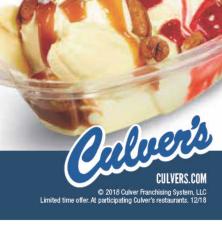
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CANDIDATES from page 9

SAM Steiner

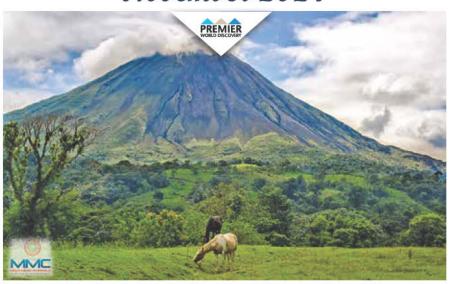
"Communication is my greatest concern and it was when I first started. We've made some progress within the board in terms of communication, but there's work to be done. I think we have momentum to

make some really concrete changes that will help with communication, such as a regular newsletter to the public."

To view the school board candidates' forum in its entirety, visit www. marshfieldbroadcasting. com, select Video Archives and find the video entitled, "School Board Forum Incumbent Karen Shulman is not seeking another three-year term on the board, and filed a statement of noncandidacy on Dec. 13, 2023.

The term of office for incoming school board members is three years, beginning on Monday, April 22 and expiring on April 25, 2027.

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