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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 ■ VOLUME 40 ■ ISSUE 10 ■ 715.384.4440 ■ MARSHFIELD, WI

FREE

Marshfield on the move under new legislative maps

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – For just the third time under the modern-day system – and the first time in a decade – the city of Marshfield now sits entirely in one Assembly district.

Gov. Tony Evers on Feb. 19 signed 2023 Wisconsin Act 94, which adopts new legislative maps effective immediately, and which are now in place ahead of this fall’s elections.

“I will always try to do the right thing for our state,” Gov. Evers said following the signing. “Wisconsinites want fair maps, and Wisconsinites deserve fair maps. So, today, I’m enacting fair maps for the great state of Wisconsin,” Gov. Evers added. “Wisconsin is not a red state or a blue state – we’re a purple state, and I believe our maps should reflect that basic fact.

“Today is a victory, not for me or any political party, but for our state and for the people of Wisconsin who’ve spent a decade demanding more and demanding better of us as elected officials,” Gov. Evers continued. “I believe, as I’ve often said, that the people should get to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. And under the maps I’m signing today, I am making good on that promise. It is a new day in Wisconsin, and today is a beautiful day for democracy.”

The Wisconsin Supreme Court previously ruled Wisconsin’s legislative maps were unconstitutional.

Under the new maps, the city of Marshfield shifts into a realigned 86th Assembly District, which covers portions of Wood, Portage and Marathon counties.



Rep. Donna Rozar, during a 2022 debate on the floor of the state Assembly in Madison.

Greg Anderson photo

See LEGISLATIVE page 9

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County Board Supervisor District 1

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for

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Zoo's male cougar loses battle with liver disease

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – The City of Marshfield Parks & Recreation Department has announced the passing of Thunder, the geriatric male cougar, at Wildwood Zoo.

Thunder had struggled over the past few months with hepatic lipidosis (fatty liver disease) and the time came when he was no longer able to be kept comfortable. He was humanely euthanized as a quality of life decision after much consideration by his veterinarian team and zoo staff. At nearly 16 years of age, Thunder had far surpassed the average lifespan of 12 for male cougars under human care. For the past several years, he had been treated for a variety of age-related ailments, including kidney disease and arthritis.

Thunder arrived at Wildwood Zoo in 2008 with his sister, Star, who continues to reside at Wildwood Zoo. They transitioned to their new exhibit in 2019 and could often be found lounging in the sun or enjoying their enrichment items. The zoo will be much quieter without his loud purr and chirps every morning. He was a favorite by many for his majestic looks and sweet demeanor with a flair for the dramatic.



Thunder

Star is currently doing well, but will be closely monitored and supported by zoo staff as she makes this transition.

A huge thank you to the Athens Veterinary Service team for their incredible care in Thunder's golden years and the zookeepers for their devotion towards the best possible quality of life.

As always, the Parks and Recreation staff appreciates your continued support of Wildwood Park and Zoo.

Cribbage players can connect at MCPL Spencer

SPENCER – If you want to learn how to play cribbage, or if you're already a fan of the game, you're invited to the Marathon County Public Library Spencer Branch (105 S. Park St., Spencer) for their monthly cribbage event. The next session of Cribbage at the Library will be held on Tuesday, March 12 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Decks of cards and cribbage boards will be available for patrons to use, or players are welcome to bring their own. From novice to expert, everyone is welcome. A future session is planned for April 9.



This event is free and open to the public with no registration required. For more information, call 715-659-3996.

Marshfield's Brad Fischer is the WIAC Women's Basketball Coach of the Year for the 2023-24 season. Brad led UW-Oshkosh to the WIAC regular season championship this year, and earned a berth in the NCAA Division III tournament. Oshkosh has now won three conference titles and earned nine post-season appearances under Fischer, who is in his twelfth season as Titans' head coach.

Submitted photo

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Chorale presents music from Europe



MARSHFIELD – The Central Chamber Chorale celebrates its spring concert season with music from Europe, “The Old World,” and music from the United States, “The New World.” In the first half of the concert the Chorale performs R. Vaughan Williams’ *Toward the Unknown Region* and Felix Mendelssohn’s *Die Nachtigall*. The second half includes the traditional spiritual *This Little Light of Mine*, show tunes and the central Wisconsin premiere of *Prairie Spring* set to a poem by Willa Cather.

The performance is on Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 1208 W. 14th St., Marshfield. There is also a performance on Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 321 N. Park Ave. in Medford. The concerts are open to the public without charge. The Chorale is under the direction of Hana Worsham, who chose the selections of music, and Kathy Biederwolf is the Chorale’s accompanist.

The concert is sponsored in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the state of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about the Central Chamber Chorale and its mission of keeping the Joy of Great Choral Music Alive, visit www.centralchamberchorale.com or the group’s Facebook page for concert updates.

February golf outing

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – Outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds were given a rare opportunity last month, when Mother Nature couldn’t make up her mind.

A record-setting warm spell Feb. 25-27 had central Wisconsinites shedding coats and jackets and breaking out shorts and t-shirts, as temperatures jumped into the upper-60s on at least one afternoon.

The high temperature hit 68 degrees on Feb. 27 at the Marshfield Ag Research Station. That smashed the record for the date of 58 degrees set back in 2000. A day earlier, Marshfield thermometers topped out at 55, one degree better than the previous high mark, also established in 2000.

The two-day forecast prompted RiverEdge Golf Course owners Jay and Jill Holm to set a record of their own – the earliest they’ve ever allowed golfers on their course.

“We’re excited,” Jay told us. “Happy to have everybody out. An opportunity for them to come out in February. Normally that doesn’t happen here in central Wisconsin, so we’re excited to be a part of it.”

As far as he knew, Jay said this year marked the first time anyone’s been allowed on the course in February – although it was for walkers and pull carts only. About 60 players took him up on the offer on Feb. 26, including Colton Brandsma of Marshfield.

“It was my birthday yesterday, so I wanted to do something golf-related,” said Brandsma, who was there with his fiancé, Brianna Brandner. “We were gonna go to Clubhaus in town, but I was scrolling on Facebook today and I saw, ‘Twenty dollars for walking. All the holes you want.’ I’m in. That’s a good deal for me.”

Brandsma – a Portage transplant – was playing RiverEdge for the first time.

The three-day run of record warmth began Feb. 25, when the mercury hit 52 degrees, topping a 48-year-old record of 50° set back in 1976.

And as quickly as



Colton Brandsma tees off on No. 10 at RiverEdge Golf Course Feb. 26, during a 55-degree afternoon. **Mike Warren photo**



With the river still mostly frozen over, golfers dot the landscape of the 18th fairway at RiverEdge Golf Course Feb. 26, the earliest golf has ever been played at the course. **Mike Warren photo**

Mother Nature gave us a break from the normal February frost, Old Man Winter ended the party. Just hours after flirting with 70 degrees, Marshfieldians awoke Feb. 28 to a temperature reading of 5 degrees, with wind chills below zero. And our quadrennial event the following morning gave us nothing more than an extra day to shiver, with a sunrise temperature reading on Feb. 29 of 4 above zero, with wind chills once again below.

Good to know one of Wisconsin’s many sayings is still very much intact.

And as quickly as

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| OBITUARIES |



LOIS L. MAURER
Lois L. Maurer, 90, Marshfield, passed away on Monday, February 26, 2024 at Wells Nature View in Marshfield.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Marshfield with visitation from 9:00 am until service time. Rev. Jared Clements and Deacon Ray Draeger will officiate. Burial will take place in Gate of Heaven Cemetery at a later date. Rembs Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Lois was born on April 3, 1933 in Marshfield to Henry Sr. and Lorraine (Miller) Niemann. She graduated from Unity High School. Lois married Edward Maurer on October 1, 1953 at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Bakerville, and they recently celebrated 70 years of marriage.

Throughout her entire life, she devoted herself to volunteering, selflessly dedicating her time and energy to helping others. In 2005, she was recognized by the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFC) with the Fraternalist of the Year award which is given to the nation's top volunteer.

Lois also was a proud member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Catholic Financial Life, and Sacred Heart PCCW.

She is survived by her husband, Ed, children, Debra (Steven) Steiner of Stratford, Michael Maurer of Marshfield, Mark Maurer of Tomahawk, and Donna (James) Schreiner of Milladore, 13 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Betty Reckner, brother, Henry Niemann Jr., grandson, Adam Steiner, and son-in-law, Michael Wolf.

Memorials can be designated to Marshfield American Legion, Marshfield Area Pet Shelter, or Neillsville High Grounds.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the team at Wells Nature View on 21st Street and St. Croix Hospice. Condolences can be sent online at www.rembsfh.com

FRANK L. SCHREINER
Frank L. Schreiner, 96, of Marshfield/Hewitt, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024. No services will be held. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.

JERRY LEE BROWN
Jerry Lee Brown, 81, of Arpin, passed away on Feb. 29, 2024. Private services were held. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.

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GORDON JAMES BORES
Gordon James Bores, age 65, of Marshfield, WI, passed away late in the evening on the 16th day, February 2024, at the Marshfield Medical Center. There will be a Celebration of Life held on April 27th, 2024, at Bakerville Sports Bar & Grill, 10631 Co. Rd. B., Marshfield, WI 54449, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Gordon was born on March 4, 1958, the son of Robert J. Bores Sr. and Evelyn L. Bores (Winter) in Marshfield, WI. He graduated from the Stratford High School class of 1976. On November 13, 1982, he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Joan K. Kleinschmidt, at Zion Lutheran Church.

Gordie had a great interest in automobiles and began working with them at Klemme's doing oil changes. He would then move on to become the parts and service manager for Wheeler's Chevrolet in Marshfield for over 20 years. After that, he would work as a service manager at Chili Implement before moving to Mid-State Truck Service in Wisconsin Rapids, now known as Ascendence Truck Center.

Along with his love for automobiles, he also enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, snowmobiling, and going to see his favorite band, KISS. He also enjoyed taking trips with his family, dog Tika, and best friends, Scott and Kathy Kann, going to the State Fair's, Renaissance Festival, Mall of America, and fishing trips to Canada with his friends and brothers. Most of all, he enjoyed helping people and making them happy. From the customers he worked with to his family and friends, Gordie wanted people to know he appreciated them.

Gordon is survived by his wife: Joan; children: Steven (Meg Przybylinski) Marshfield, grandchildren: Logan and Olivia; Matthew, Wausau; and stepson: Robert Willman, Knoxville, TN, granddaughter: Elizabeth. He is further survived by his siblings, John, Ron (Twila; Brianna, Cassidy, Derek), Jo Ann (Rudy Werner; Cory and Jim Wiesman; Stacey and Lee Spindler; Amy and Ryan Cournoyer), and his sister-in-law: Jane (Al; Jessica and Cory Rudnitski; Stacey and Paul Neumann; Danielle and Cameron Carson).

He was preceded in death by his parents: Robert J. Bores Sr. and Evelyn L. (Winter) Bores; as well as his brother: Robert A. Bores Jr. and niece, Kayla Jo Bores.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations out to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

BE OUR GUEST

Flu season is not over

Mid-February is usually when the flu incidence peaks; the flu season traditionally starts in October, kicks into gear in early December and peaks in February. During the 2022-23 flu season there were more than 600,000 hospitalized cases reported and 58,000 deaths from the virus in the US, according to the CDC. However, this flu season, so far, has seen fewer cases and this might be due to a carry-over from the COVID-19 pandemic the past few years, i.e. frequent hand washing, social isolation, wearing a mask in public places, distancing from others that may be infectious, etc. The reasons for this time of the year seem to correlate with temperature (<41 degrees and <30 percent humidity), but hard evidence of that particular time is lacking. Getting the vaccine yearly is a very effective way of avoiding infection; vaccines vary from year to year and contain specific factors from multiple viruses (antigens), both influenza A and B, that stimulate the immune system. Studies have shown that symptoms and hospitalizations with serious illness in adults are similar, however, influenza B seems to cause a more serious disease in children, with a higher rate of hospitalization and mortality. Influenza A is much more common than B and cases of B seem to occur later than A during the season.

There are four subtypes, or strains, of influenza that have occurred during the pandemics of the past and one of the four types or strains was prominent; the 1918 Spanish flu (H1N1) and the 2009 Swine flu (H3N2), both

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Navigating the Terrain of Relationships: Lover versus Companion

Dear Reader,

In the intricate tapestry of human connections, the distinction between having a lover and having a companion carries profound implications. A lover embodies the ardor of fleeting moments, characterized by fervent passion and exhilarating unpredictability. Conversely, a companion epitomizes a steadfast presence, offering solace, stability, and a sense of home.

The allure of a lover lies in the intoxicating dance of emotions, the fiery intensity that ignites the soul. Yet, it is often accompanied by the looming shadows of uncertainty, leaving one teetering on the edge of elation and apprehension. In contrast, a companion exudes the warmth of familiarity, a sanctuary where vulnerability is embraced and fears are assuaged.

However, the demarcation between these roles is not rigid; rather, it is fluid, subject to the whims of individual preferences and evolving circumstances. What one seeks in a lover during the throes of passion may differ from the companionship yearned for in moments of solitude.

Ultimately, the essence of fulfillment in relationships lies in striking a harmonious balance between the ardor of a lover and the solace of a companion. It is in this equilibrium that one discovers the true essence of companionship – a union where passion intertwines with security, and love blossoms in its myriad forms.

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Former Columbus Dons standout Addison Baiert eyes a rebound Feb. 3 vs. UW-River Falls. Baiert is a member of the WIAC All-Sportsmanship team. Addison is a senior at UW-Platteville, and missed much of this season because of a knee injury, but plans to return to Platteville for one more season of college basketball in the fall of 2024.

UW-Platteville Athletics photo



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Honoring Marshfield's 150th

Marshfield 150 for 150: Julie Tharp

NOMINATED BY JANE KENNEDY

Dr. Julie Tharp has been an active member of the Marshfield community since arriving here in 1992. She chaired the Marshfield Cultural Fair from 2007 to 2022, doubling the attendance, moving from one to two performing stages, increasing the number and variety of exhibitors, and guiding a dauntless core committee and hundreds of volunteers.

Dr. Tharp has chaired the Sheltering Hearts annual fundraiser for PDC/Orenda Center since 2006. She contributed annually to the UW campus fundraiser Food for Thought, including organizing the many wonderful chefs. Her Dinner and a Movie class has been running since the 1990s. She has offered over 150 film and food experiences for the community. She has served on the PDC/Orenda Center board of directors since the 1990s and sat on the Marshfield News-Herald editorial board, the Pathway Partners board, the Women's Giving Circle, and Healthy Lifestyles board. She has worked over the years to help the Marshfield Public Library create city-wide reading programs and book discussions, as well as provided researched presentations at the library on topics ranging from Native American literature to international film.

Julie is particularly known for her advocacy for women. Given that her career path eventually led her to a Ph.D. in English, Julie was first attracted to women's literature. Dr. Tharp's interest was in learning how structural injustice affected all women, not just middle class, straight, white women like herself. From there she went on to study international writing, focusing more particularly on Southeast Asian women writers. Her published research is almost exclusively focused on women's literature. During graduate school, she also took classes at the University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Feminist Study.

Early on, Julie became most compelled by gender violence. As a survivor herself and surrounded by other female survivors, she concluded at some point that women's safety and sense of security were fundamental to their ability to survive, to develop and to succeed in life. She became interested in how women negotiated, survived, and thrived despite their experiences with abuse, but also realized that she wanted to address gender violence in any way that she could – assisting victims, shifting mindsets, and helping to transform the culture at large.

Once she finished her

schooling, Dr. Tharp moved to Wisconsin to take up a position as English professor at University of Wisconsin-Marshfield. There she had the chance to be involved in new efforts. Almost immediately, she became involved in grass roots community efforts. Julie's attitude was, "Whatever I applied myself to, I always used principles learned in grad school about empowering those around me and leaving space for people to come forward." She also tried to incorporate power analysis in classes, offering, for instance, a course on Race, Class and Gender in Film, rather than simply Introduction to Film. She also looked for ways to highlight women's history and experiences. For example, when the campus had a 60s theme, she organized a fashion show/champagne brunch for the community with a narrated history of women's fashions. In Dr. Tharp's classes she asked her composition students each to write an essay about sexual assault on college campuses, an academic exercise, without self-revelations. However, once they began, the students discovered that 50 percent of the women in the class had been raped at some point. One outcome of that class was her creation of a Support Group for Survivors of Sexual Assault on the campus. This group ran weekly for years. They never had a shortage of participants.

Julie also taught Women's Literature and Introduction to Women's Studies and took pleasure in helping students to discover new authors and new world views. Eventually she was able to create service-learning opportunities for students, connecting them to area groups, businesses, and agencies where they could volunteer or intern to apply their education in the real world. They also created public exhibits, like a women's history quilt to hang in the library, and activist events, like a community panel on sexual assault.

Over the years, Julie has given many talks and workshops with community folks around the topics of sexual harassment and gender violence. She has also given many conference presentations on this, the most recent of which were her efforts on behalf of the North American crisis of MMIWG—Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Julie's second Fulbright was



in Mumbai, India, in 2016 and focused on the role of Bollywood film in addressing gender violence there. Sharing that research and working with a variety of Indian women and filmmakers (and Indian women filmmakers) really expanded her understanding of this issue on a global scale. She has worked to bring that understanding back to Marshfield and to the wider community of Gender Studies scholars.

Around the time that Julie Tharp's first book, *Creating Safe Space: Violence and Women's Writing*, was published, the local Domestic Violence non-profit agency reached out to her. Personal Development Center's board was looking for new members. She interviewed with the current board, was selected as a new member, and never looked back. She has now been on that board for around 25 years

See **THARP** page 9

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GRANTON HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWS

March 6, 2024

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

Students learn new skills in music class including scales, pitch set, drawing notes, composing their own music, steady beat activities, how to play instruments and more!



Granton Elementary offers an Enrichment Club after school on Tuesdays for any student interested in participating. The purpose of the Enrichment Club is to provide extra opportunities to the elementary students to learn things outside of their grade-level curriculum. Each week offers a different topic of study. Some of the topics covered this year have been STEM, Wisconsin, Space and Music. The club exposes the students to new activities that they don't necessarily get in the classroom. It is a chance for students and teachers to learn together in a fun, inviting atmosphere. Over 60 students participate in the Enrichment Club weekly.



Lettuce tell you about something super cool in Mrs. Schier's 4th grade classroom! In January the 4th graders harvested their first crop of lettuce grown in their classroom hydroponics farming system. They started their project at the end of November and spent 6 weeks caring for their crop and then had the opportunity to work with the school food service staff to clean and prepare it for serving. The 4th graders produced 13.2 pounds of lettuce that was served by our food service program for the salad bar! They were able to harvest another 13.2 pounds of lettuce during their second harvest as well! They have started two new varieties of lettuce and basil seedlings which they look forward to harvesting this spring. The hydroponic system was donated to our school through a partnership initiative between Marshfield Clinic Health System's Center for Community Health Advancement and Fork Farms during the summer of 2023. The hydroponic system has been a unique way to increase the 4th graders' knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating through a hands-on approach. It has also been an amazing way to improve access to fresh student grown green vegetables for our school. The 4th graders are so excited to continue on this adventure of growing green vegetables in their hydroponics farming system throughout the rest of the school year!

Solo Ensemble

Super successful day at solo ensemble Saturday February 17th. Ms. Lloyd couldn't be any more proud of these kids who sang their hearts out today. Also one band member competed. Starred First: Emma Woller, Kara Keiting, Trinten Rasmussen, Tori Seif and the Granton Choir Firsts: Zoey Lumley, Ottillie Jansen, Maya McConkey, Beth Arndt, Brittany Walz, Alyssa Janikowski. Seconds: Kara Heiting, Trinten Rasmussen, Zoey Lumley, Granton Choir, Alyssa Janikowski. Third: Emma Brookhart - Clarinet Solo by Rossini.



The child is the artist!

Teaching for Artistic Behavior, or TAB, is an art teaching philosophy based on the artist's practice. The TAB philosophy states that the child is the artist and the classroom is the artist's studio. This leads to increased creativity and idea generation. As well as a sense of pride in what they have created. Students get to explore many different materials and decide how they want to use them. No two pieces of artwork will look the same! Mrs. Klein started to study the idea of TAB a few years ago and implemented it into the K-5 classroom last school year. This being the 2nd year teaching in the TAB style the students are getting the hang of how the new art classroom runs. They look forward to what THEY will create in art class each day and are excited for new centers to open with new materials to explore.



The Granton Community Library is a public and school library serving the community and the school district. The librarian teaches classes to grades 4k- 8. The library is open to the public Monday 8-4, Tuesday 8-7, Wednesday 8-4, Thursday 8-4, Friday 8-4 and Saturday 10-12 Check our website for summer hours. Follow us on Facebook for upcoming events.



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June 19, 2024 10:00-11:00 Stuart Stotts Music Performer
July 10, 2024 10:00-11:00 Glen Gerard Magic performer



The 2023-24 Basketball Season for the Granton Bulldog Ladies was one of the best ever. With 10 wins and only 3 losses, we had a strong team that was able to crush any opponents willing to face us. Faustina Thomas, Maya McConkey, Anna Kayhart, Emma Woller, Emma Brookhart, Mindy Dix, and Coach Annette Woller were the returning veterans of the sport. We received two new recruits to help fight the battle as well. Abby Schoessow might have been completely new to basketball, but she caught on quick enough once we got her some playing time. Coach Josh Shafto had never coached basketball before, not to mention girls. He soon found out that coaching high school basketball girls is definitely different compared to coaching elementary football boys. With our old ideas and his new, our opinions clashed a bit starting out. Once we realized that he had our best interests in mind, the season went fast. Game after game, our confidence built. With the new plays working, each team member scoring, and winning against most teams we played, we felt unstoppable. Each game, the team was given three goals, called our "Game Plan," that we had to meet. It varied from working on different defensive and offensive skills, to trying to get everyone to score. With our last game bearing down, we knew that one of the biggest goals we had in our season hadn't been accomplished yet. Getting everyone to score in a single game. This might not seem like an incredible feat, but prior to this Abby had only scored one basket in her entire, one year, basketball career. Our goals for this game went like this; 1. Win, 2. Have Fun, and 3. Everyone Scores. The game started off great. Shots were falling, defense was rocking it, and we were having the time of our lives. At halftime we were up by twenty and five out of seven of us had scored. All we had left to do was get Abby Schoessow and Emma Brookhart to sink a basket. We got back out on the court and kept playing hard. Lots of passes were made to the two girls, but nothing was hitting net. Finally, it happened. Abby sent up a beautiful two. Swish! The crowd roared! One down, one to go. The game went on. With only a few minutes left of playing time, coach was pushing hard to get Brookhart to score. Once again, we sent pass after pass her way. The opposing teams' defense got harder on Brookhart as they realized what we were trying to do. Another pass was fired at her. The defenseman guarding her jumped in an attempt to batt it away and failed. Brookhart caught it, squared up, and banked it in for an amazing 2 pointer! We screamed with the crowd!

At last, we had done it! As the game ended, we relished in our win over the opposing team and the completion of our own goals. This was the best way to end the season of triumphs for the Lady Bulldogs.



This year, the 2023-2024 Black River Falls Tigers Girls High School Hockey team, coached by Russ Hunter and Destiny Muir, had three representatives from Granton High School: Ottillie Jansen, Jordan Berg, and Jessi Berg. The Varsity team ended the season with a regular season record of 14 wins and 10 losses. The JV team ended the season with a record of 11 wins and 6 losses. These records were some of the best to be had by the Tigers for the first time in years. Granton's Varsity representative was junior Jordan Berg who played all 24 Varsity games as defense. Berg ended the season with two goals and seven assists in the regular season. Freshman Ottillie Jansen played on JV during the season as a forward. Jansen was able to get multiple goals throughout the season. Freshman Jessi Berg also played on JV as one of the goalies. Berg was able to secure a save percentage around 90 percent.

The Black River Falls Tigers Girls Varsity Hockey team was seeded sixth out of seven teams in their section for this year's postseason games. The girls would have to face the third seeded team, the Hudson Raiders for the opportunity to advance to the next round of playoffs. On February 15, 2024, the Black River Falls Girls Hockey team traveled to Hudson to try to keep their season going. At the end of the first period, the teams were tied 2 to 2. Black River's goals were scored by #5 Alizah Hayes, a junior from Tomah, with an assist from #23 Zowie Hunter, a senior from Black River Falls, and Granton's own #29 Jordan Berg. The score after the hard fought second period was 4 to 2, with Hudson taking the lead. The final of the game would be 6 to 2, with the Hudson Raiders advancing to the second round and Black River Falls taking a heartbreaking loss to end the season.

The Black River Falls Tigers Girls Hockey team fought hard through the entire season, facing the adversity of sickness, injuries, poor weather conditions, and so much more. Every girl on both the JV and Varsity teams worked until the very last second and we could not be more proud of that fact. Like all sports, hockey is a family. We have said good-bye and thanked our seniors and now wait for next season.



The Granton school kitchen started a fresh fruit and vegetable program. We've tried, golden kiwi, apricots, bok choy, Swiss chard, kiwano melon, passion fruit bell peppers, English cucumbers, persimmons, cauliflower yellow, green beans, dragon fruit, yellow and red snap peas, dew drop cabbage just to name a few. Each week we try two different items: one fruit, one veggie.



The Granton Area School District PTO brought in motivational speaker Jesse Horn on Wednesday, February 21st. Students heard the story of Jesse overcoming the struggles of his autism diagnosis through grit, determination and a chance encounter with a unique sport, sport stacking.

His passion for sport stacking has caught on in the district. Below you will see pictures of our Physical Education students trying out this sport. We are hoping to reach and inspire our students that they can overcome any obstacles, just as Jesse has done.



NEILLSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWS

March 6, 2024

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

Neillsville Elementary School: Fostering Growth, Engagement, and Community



BY MRS. MARCY KUNZE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Introduction: Neillsville Elementary School is a vibrant learning community dedicated to fostering academic excellence, character development, and community engagement. This report highlights the school's recent activities, initiatives, and commitment to providing a well-rounded and enriching educational experience for its students.

Engaging Activities and Community Involvement: Neillsville Elementary offers a diverse selection of field trips, catering to different grade levels and interests. This first semester, students explored the outdoors at apple orchards and Schuster Park, and pine tree farms. They also enjoyed rewards trips to Action City and Rogers Cinema. We are also planning field trips that will deepen their understanding of Wisconsin's history. We plan to visit the Wisconsin State Capitol, museums, and historical landmarks.

Our school also has a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports committee that prioritizes nurturing positive character traits through monthly assemblies, reward programs, and student council initiatives. These efforts foster a supportive and positive school environment where students learn valuable life skills and embrace social responsibility.

Neillsville Elementary School also encourages students to be leaders. We have a very popular and successful student

council in the elementary. The active student council plays a crucial role in planning school-wide activities and organizing community service projects. This empowers students to take ownership of their learning experience, engage in meaningful activities, and contribute to the wider community. The student council has organized penny wars that assist families in need. In addition, they have organized food drive contests to support our local food pantry.

Focus on Reading and the Science of Reading: The Neillsville Elementary School recognizes the importance of a strong foundation in literacy. Neillsville Elementary has implemented a comprehensive reading program grounded in the Science of Reading research. This approach emphasizes explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, ensuring students develop the necessary skills to become proficient readers.

The Neillsville Elementary School has steadily made changes to our reading program. We started making improvements to our program over 3 years ago. Therefore, Neillsville Elementary is ahead of Wisconsin's Act 20 early literacy legislation plans. Wisconsin Act 20 states that all schools in Wisconsin need to provide a science-based literacy program in whole group instruction and reading interventions. Our school is happy to state that we have been following this research in grades 4K through 5th for a few years!

The Science of Reading research has been ongoing for 5 decades. It explains how reading and writing develop. The research also explains why explicit reading instruction is so important. Phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension are the five main components of the Science of Reading research. Dr. Ollis Scarborough has made a very easy to understand graphic, the Scarborough's Reading Rope. It shows that language comprehension (background knowledge, vocabulary, language structures, verbal reasoning, and literacy knowledge) and word recognition (phonological awareness, decoding and sight recognition) are vital for students to become skillful readers.

Recognizing the critical role of parents and families in supporting reading development, Neillsville Elementary encourages families to read aloud and engage in shared reading activities with their children. This fosters a love of reading, builds vocabulary, and strengthens the bond between parent and child.

Conclusion: Neillsville Elementary School demonstrates a clear commitment to creating a dynamic and engaging learning environment that fosters academic achievement, character development, and community engagement. By implementing well-researched programs, supporting student leadership, and fostering strong partnerships, the school empowers its students to become curious learners, responsible citizens, and active contributors to their community.

Neillsville High School

Neillsville Middle School

BY CRAIG L. ANDERSON RUSKIN
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



At Neillsville High School we strive to provide our students with a variety of activities that are hands-on as well as community-centered. Our graduates, as with most communities, go in many different directions following their graduation from high school. Many will choose to further their education by entering a technical college or university program while others will choose to remain in the area and enter our workforce. Regardless of the path they choose, our goal is for them to be prepared to be active, compassionate, and engaged members of a larger community.

Every year our high school student council hosts at least two blood drives. We team with the Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin and have an on-site blood drive for students, staff, and community members. Giving back to our local community in this way is very important and can help save lives. We hope that our students see the value in giving back to the community and make the choice to continue doing so when they exit our buildings as members of the community.

Our science and agricultural programs are very popular in our school. Our students can experience many hands-on learning opportunities in these areas. Now more than ever, there is a global focus on the role and importance of renewable energy. This past fall we were invited to have students attend a regional Energy Fair at Osseo-Fairchild High School. Students were able to learn about drone technology, electric vehicles, and other energy-related science topics.

Our high school students taking Ecology have teamed up with local property owners to have a scientific analysis done on the health of their pond or waterway. Under the guidance of their instructor, students gather evidence from the field, analyze their findings, and provide scientific feedback. Within our agriculture department, students can gain firsthand knowledge by visiting a local farm where they can use their prior knowledge about large animal science. Within the school, we strive to bring together students of all ages for shared learning experiences in areas such as aquaculture and taxidermy.

Through our relationship with CESA 10 in Chippewa Falls and other outside agencies, we can give our students unique experiences that take their prior knowledge and skills and put them to the test. With sponsorship from OEM Fabricators, Inc. of Neillsville, we had a team represent Neillsville High School in the MAKE48 regional competition at UW-Stout which was sponsored by 3M. This truly unique experience was something our students learned a great deal from attending. Additionally, every year a team from Neillsville High School competes in a regional "Machine" competition where students compete in a project-based competition using random items, problem-solving skills, and prior knowledge to complete a task.

Our Academic and Career Planning (ACP) program is very robust! Every high school student has an academic and career advisor. Through this program, we strive to have constant communication with staff, students, and parents regarding academics as well as future planning. Engaging with our community is vital to the opportunities and success of our students. Many evening events are scheduled for the academic year to engage and educate families about topics pertinent to their children. Families are informed about these events through various modes of communication. The list below pertains to evening events related to ACP; different school faculty members are present at each event. Back to School Open House (August) Senior Night (August) Financial Aid Night (Fall) Sophomore Night (October PTC Night) and ACP Night (January).

A vital piece of our ACP program is our Business Mentorship Program. This program was created in 2022 to build a stronger ACP connection between Neillsville High School and area businesses. Business Mentors (local business owners or employees) come into the high school once a month on a rotating basis. The Business Mentor and Career Advisor co-teach employability skills lessons to students in grades 9 & 10. Students learn valuable information directly from "real world" people about the skills and qualities employers are looking for in their employees. At the end of the year, Business Mentors and Career Advisors meet to discuss ways to improve the program for the following year. In this way, our Business Mentors serve as an "Advisory Committee" to our ACP program. Our mentors take part in classroom presentations, mock interviews, ACP Night, Career Fairs, Career Interviews, Job Shadowing Experience, Career Internships, Youth Apprenticeship (YA), and Paid Employment Positions.

Our school is the hub of our community! You may see our choir or band students performing in the surrounding community showcasing their talents for events at the Highground, local retirement facilities, and other venues. We have students attending the Educators Rising program at CESA 10 as they ponder becoming future educators. Perhaps you saw members of our senior class volunteering their time to decorate a local park for the holiday season. Maybe you attended an event at the fieldhouse and saw the vinyl banners created by our students. Neillsville High School students have many opportunities to learn about their community and also give back to it!

It's a great day to be a Neillsville Warrior!

BY KORY POESCHEL
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Welcome to the second semester! I hope that this finds you excited and optimistic for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year. I don't know where the time goes, but as I type this, we are wrapping up the tail end of January 2024. With the start of second semester as with the start of the New Year, we reflect back on what went well in the past year and set goals and hopes on what we would like to improve. The first half of this school year was eventful in the middle school with field trips, guest speakers, celebrations, service projects, kindness activities, club activities, sports, all in addition to continuous academic and social-emotional growth through daily coursework.

The middle school has a character trait of the month where students are recognized by staff and peers for demonstrating the monthly character trait. The submitted character cards are hung up on our "Character Board" in the middle school hallway. At the end of the month, the students get to keep the character card that was filled out for them along with a small token of appreciation. Some of the monthly character traits have been responsibility, acceptance, bravery, and commitment.

As part of our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Support) program, students are able to earn "Warrior Pride Tickets" for demonstrating safe, responsible, or respectful behavior. The homerooms have a collection container for students to deposit their tickets. Each homeroom works towards a common reward goal that they collectively set. This year we have continued implementing Restorative Circles during eighth-hour non-movement Mondays. Restorative Circles are valuable tools for developing relationships and building classroom communities by giving each participant in the circle an equal opportunity to speak and be heard. In addition, eighth-hour non-movement Mondays also include grade check emails home, social-emotional learning mini-lessons, and all student celebrations. Furthermore, as part of our PBIS program, we have a Tier 2 Intervention called Check-in/Check-out implemented for students that have reached a determined behavioral threshold. Students in this program check-in and out with their staff greeter each day along with receiving increased feedback throughout the day from their teachers to increase positive interactions and relationships at school and therefore, improve behavior.

A couple of the highlights this school year thus far are Middle School Week, Mix-it-up Day, and ACP Night. Activities for Middle School Week are organized by the Middle School Student Council. A few of the Middle School Week activities include dress-up days, door decorating contest, and a penny war.

January 29th from 6-8 pm, students currently in grades eighth through eleventh along with their parent(s)/guardian(s) were invited to ACP (Academic and Career Planning) Night. On ACP night our current eighth-graders will join the High School. This opportunity allowed them to meet their Academic and Career Advisors and get a flavor of what to expect in high school along with an assortment of presentations for the parents to attend. In addition to the high school portion of ACP night, there was a variety of informational tables set up in the high school hallways for students and parents/guardians to visit.

So far this year we have been fortunate with Wisconsin winter weather. We have only had one remote learning day thus far. For remote learning days, middle school students were given a remote learning day folder to keep home in a safe place in case of any inclement weather days or any other unforeseen circumstances where school would not meet in person. Inside the folder, there are activities and/or practice for ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science. There is enough work in the folder for multiple remote learning days. Therefore, for each remote learning day, students choose one activity/worksheet of their choice from each of the subject areas (ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science) to complete. The students return only the page they completed from each to their teacher. The folder and the undone sheets are to be kept at home in case we have any other remote learning days. Middle School students do not need to access technology on these remote learning days.

I am enjoying watching each of the middle school students grow and change over the course of the school year and look forward to the academic, physical, and social-emotional growth the remainder of the 2023-24 school year will bring.



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THARP
from page 5

with a few breaks while she was teaching overseas in Singapore, Scotland, and India. With immense amounts of hard work and personal sacrifice on

LEGISLATIVE
from page 1


In Wood County, the 86th now covers the cities of Marshfield and Pittsville, the villages of Arpin, Auburndale, Hewitt, Rudolph and Vesper, and the towns of Arpin, Auburndale, Cameron, Cary, Hansen, Lincoln, Marshfield, Milladore, Richfield, Rock, Rudolph, Sherry, Sigel and Wood.

In Marathon County, the villages of Edgar, Fenwood, Marathon City, Spencer and Stratford now find themselves entirely in the new 86th, along with the towns of Bergen, Cassel, Cleveland, Day, Eau Pleine, Emmet, Green Valley, Marathon, McMillan, Rib Falls, Spencer and Wien, and a portion of Stettin.

Parts of Portage County which now find themselves in the realigned 86th are the village of Junction City, and the towns of Carson and Eau Pleine.

The entire village of Milladore – which falls in parts of Wood and Portage counties – is also now in the new 86th Assembly district.

Since 2013, the city of Marshfield has been split among two Assembly districts – the 86th and the 69th. Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield) has represented the 86th district since then. Bob Kulp was the 69th district representative from December 2013 through 2020. Rep. Donna Rozar (R-Marshfield) has represented the lion's share of Marshfield since January 2021.




Since 2013, Rep. John Spiros has served in the Assembly's 86th District, which until now had included just a small portion of the city of Marshfield. Submitted photo

Under the new maps, Rozar and Spiros would have to face each other in a Republican Primary Aug. 13 should they both decide to run for the 86th district seat. Rozar told Hub City Times Feb. 26 she has decided to run, in a district she says is the 86th in name only.

"Forty-eight percent of the new 86th Assembly District is part of my old 69th Assembly District," Rozar noted. "Around six percent is 'Jimmy Boy' (James) Edming's (former 87th Assembly District). But he took that six percent from me two years ago," said Rozar. "So, two years ago, I had Edgar and that six percent that now has been put back into the 86th Assembly District. About twenty-one percent of this district is Representative (Nancy) VanderMeer's because she had that whole central part of Wood County. Twenty-five percent of the new 86th Assembly District is Representative Spiros's. So I looked at that and I thought, 'These are my people,' and I decided to run in the 86th Assembly District," Rozar added.

When the modern-era, 99-seat Assembly was established following the 1970 Census, Marshfield was placed into the 70th district, although for one term – 1983-85 – the area was known as the 60th Assembly District. In 1986, the region reverted back to the 70th district, where it stayed until 2013, when redistricting split the city into the most recent versions of the 69th and 86th districts.




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had to say what she is most satisfied with in her life, it is with her continuing commitment to this agency, the board and staff, and the many participants who have entered with the hope of creating a better life for themselves and their families.

One motto that has always stayed with Julie is to "think globally and act locally." She has done her best to apply that approach to her career, her community service efforts, and her personal life.

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Dons close out up and down season

BY HARRY TOUFAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARSHFIELD -- Would the “Third time is a charm” adage hold up for the Columbus Dons girls’ basketball team, as they rolled into Greenwood Feb. 23 to take on the No. 3 Greenwood Indians in a Division 5 Regional semifinal? Greenwood had won both regular-season games by single digits.

From the opening tipoff, it looked like the Dons were ready for the challenge. After an Avry Wuethrich field goal, the Dons went on a 6-0 run. A Courtney Sommer basket, sandwiched in between 3-pointers from Sam Casperson and Maggie Callaghan, gave the Dons an eight-point lead. After two Greenwood free throws, Katelyn Casperson hit from long range, Mattea Schlafke made a free throw, and Callaghan made her second three, giving the Dons a 15-4 lead with just under ten minutes to go in the half.

After Greenwood scored its first basket since the beginning of the game, Sophie Wilczek garnered a 2-pointer for the Dons. But Columbus went into a mini deep freeze as the Indians rattled off six unanswered points. Courtney Sommer managed to score inside to end the Indians’ run, while Greenwood scored twice more. Sommer scored again, but Tatym Travis continued to be a thorn in the Dons’ side as she scored eight points toward the end of the half. Callaghan scored to end the half with Columbus out front 23-20, after grabbing an early 11-point lead.

Mattea Schlafke scored within the first 10 seconds of the second half to increase the Dons’ lead. Avry Wuethrich hit back-to-back threes to give Greenwood its first lead since their opening basket. Gracie Wilczek countered with a basket to put the Dons back up by one. Greenwood’s Tysen Lindner scored her first basket of the game, putting the Indians back in the lead. The Dons took the lead back



Columbus senior Maggie Callaghan goes up for a shot, in a 59-16 win over Northland Lutheran Feb. 20, in a Div. 5 Regional quarterfinal contest at Columbus Catholic High School in Marshfield. **Lucky Shot Media photo**

when Schlafke scored. Addison Davidson then scored twice, putting the Indians up by four with 4:30 left in the game. Forty seconds later Sophie Wilczek drilled a three pointer to tie the game. Lindner made a basket and Travis made one of two free throws, putting the Indians up by three with less than a minute to play. Columbus came down the floor and missed, but got the rebound. Sommer was fouled shooting, then made one of two free throws, pulling her team to within two. With 9.7 seconds left on the clock, Lindner was fouled. She missed both free throws, giving Columbus another chance. The Dons brought the ball down the floor with a chance to tie or take the lead. The Greenwood defense tightened up the pressure, not allowing the Dons to get off a decent shot, as a three-point effort at the buzzer missed just to the right. The game marked another heart-breaking loss for the Dons, as their season came to a close. Schlafke led Columbus in scoring with 8 points. Sommer and Sophie Wilczek each scored 7. Callaghan tallied 5 points. Sam and Katelyn Casperson each scored 3. Gracie Wilczek finished with 2 points.

The loss brought down the curtain on the high school careers of Columbus seniors Maggie Callaghan, Courtney Sommer, Sam Casperson and Mattea Schlafke.

Three days earlier, the Columbus Dons used a smothering defense in the Regional quarter-final round of the postseason, double teaming the ball wherever it was passed. The Northland Lutheran Wildcats wilted under the pressure, turning the ball over numerous times. The Dons took advantage, racing out to a 34-12 halftime lead. The Wildcats could not buy a basket. Their only field goal of the second half came as the clock was winding down.

Meanwhile, the Dons – with many of their subs playing the second half – pushed the lead to a 59-16 victory.

The start of the game was not indicative of what the final score showed. Gracie Wilczek put three points on the board the old fashioned way, making a basket and being fouled in the process. She calmly sank the free throw, putting the Dons up by three points. Northland Lutheran was able to put some points on the board in the first six minutes of play. However, the Dons were also zoning in on the basket. Mattea Schlafke had two baskets, Maggie Callaghan dropped in a charity toss and Gracie Wilczek drilled one from long range, putting the Dons up 11-9 with 12 minutes left in the half. It all went south from there for the Wildcats. The Dons went on a 17-0 run before the Wildcats made a free throw. Callaghan dropped in her second free throw of the half before Sophie Wilczek scored the next seven points, including a three pointer. Sam Casperson got into the scoring column by making a basket and a free throw. Consecutive buckets by Courtney Sommer, Gracie Wilczek and Hailey Hargraves pushed the Dons’ lead to 28-10. Two free throws by Callaghan, another Hargraves basket and one by fellow sophomore Kaitlyn Casperson finished the Dons’ scoring for the first stanza. The Wildcats made two free throws, making the score 34-12 heading into the locker room.

The second half was almost a carbon copy of the first, as the Dons manufactured another 17-0 run. Sommer scored first, followed by baskets from Gracie Wilczek and Schlafke. Sophie Wilczek canned a three pointer followed by two more baskets from Sommer, increasing the lead to 47-12. Chayse Blenker hit a free throw and Hargraves made a three pointer. Blenker finished the Dons scoring with a basket and three charity tosses. The Wildcats finally made a three pointer to end the game.

Nine Dons players reached the scoring column, with Gracie and Sophie Wilczek scoring 10 each. Hailey Hargraves added 9 and Courtney Sommer had 8. Blenker scored 7, including a 5-of-7 performance at the free throw line. Mattea Schlafke scored 6. Sam and Kaitlyn Casperson each had 3 points, as did Maggie Callaghan. Making 3 pointers for the Dons were Sophie Wilczek (2), Hailey Hargraves and Gracie Wilczek.

The Dons ended their season 11-15 overall, including an 8-6 record in the Eastern Cloverbelt Conference, under first-year Head Coach Eric Wilson.



Courtney Sommer drives to the hoop Feb. 23 against Greenwood, in a Div. 5 Regional semifinal. The Columbus senior tallied seven points, in a 37-35 loss. **Lucky Shot Media photo**

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