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ISSUE 11

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Marshfield woman urges cards, letters for cadets

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – The mother of a Marshfield student enrolled in the Wisconsin National Guard’s Challenge Academy at Fort McCoy is asking for words of encouragement for those who aren’t getting much support from home.

“I want people to write some letters because there’s a lot of kids at this academy that don’t even get letters,” Tiffany (Miller) Fritz told Hub City Times in a recent interview.

Founded in 1998, the Wisconsin Challenge Academy is an alternative education program designed to reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce graduates with the values, skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. The Academy is part of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, a community-based program that leads, trains, and mentors 16-18-year-olds so that they may become productive citizens in America’s future.

“He was getting horrible grades, not a good attitude,” Fritz said of her son, Alex Koch. “He wasn’t doing good in school, wasn’t following rules, didn’t like rules, not always respectful, and I told him, ‘Here’s your choice: You’re either going to go to the Challenge Academy or you can stay here, stay in Marshfield school, not have a job, not have a vehicle, and I’ll take you back and forth to school and you will get better grades.’ So, he felt this was his only choice,” Fritz

Before becoming a cadet, Marshfield’s Alex Koch (right) goes through a pre-Challenge checklist of duties as a new candidate in late January.

Submitted photo

added. “I can see the excitement in some of the pictures that they post on their Facebook page. It’s just incredible.”

Fritz knew she made the right decision to send Alex to the Academy as soon as she received two letters from him within his first two weeks at Fort McCoy.

“And I can’t remember the last time he told me he loved me, and he did in the letters,” Fritz told us. “He’s learning discipline, he’s learning how to be respectful, he’s learning

so many things there it’s just amazing.”

The Challenge Academy is a no-cost option which requires cadets to meet certain criteria before admission.

“I think it’s great,” Fritz added. “I think it’ll do a lot for him. We talked about doing military with Alex because he was getting those bad grades. Didn’t want to do the work. But he wanted to work. He had a part-time job at Roehl.”

Alex is currently a member of Class No. 52, and mom says he’s doing very well.

But she also tells us her son has something many kids at the Academy do not – support from back home.

“If I can get some people to write letters to any cadet so the ones that aren’t getting letters get them, if I can do that that would make me happy. It would be so nice to get a huge amount of letters to send to some of these kids that don’t get them.”

Fritz says people can send letters to her and she will pass them on or they can send cards and letters directly to the Academy.

“People can send letters to any cadet there, and they can give information with their address and tell the cadets they can write back, or they don’t have to do that either,” says Fritz. “It’s heartbreaking because some of these kids haven’t even received any mail yet. All they need is a card that says, ‘Cheer up’ or, ‘Hey, you’re doing great. You can do this.’ You know, just words of encouragement.”

Cards and letters can be sent to Tiffany Fritz, 10925 MacArthur Dr., Marshfield, WI 54449 or to Any Cadet, c/o

See **LETTERS** page 4

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Crystal Apple Awards winners announced

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – The Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation has announced its Crystal Apple Award recipients as part of the 21st annual Teachers of Distinction recognition program. The 2023-24 Teachers of Distinction were announced with visits in their schools Nov. 13 and 14, and the top four selected as Crystal Apple award winners were surprised in their classrooms March 1 and 4.

Among this year's Crystal Apple Award winners is Brittney King, Phy. Ed. instructor at Grant Elementary in Marshfield.

"Oh my goodness, I just started shaking," King told Hub City Times moments after the announcement. "I still feel very undeserving. This is just ... it blows my mind, but I am so grateful and I love what I do. Being a Phy. Ed. teacher, it's something that goes kind of under the radar, not always given the credit that it deserves and so it just makes me so happy to bring some light to the importance of what I do," King added. "I actually



Brittney King (left) is surprised March 1 in the gymnasium of Grant Elementary in Marshfield, as she was presented with flowers by MACCI Talent & Member Relations Director Tabitha Wendell, while also being announced as a 2023-24 Crystal Apple Award winner.
Mike Warren photo

went into school thinking I wanted to do something more like sports medicine, but I just started realizing how much sports medicine is very after-the-fact fixing problems, and I loved the idea of teaching kids more of a preventative approach to just taking care of your body and how to be healthy and how to prevent injury, so my Phy. Ed. classes look a little different than traditional. We spend a lot of time talking about your muscles, about your bones, about your body, how

to take care of yourself, lifelong fitness. It's not just playing dodgeball and throwing things around."

As a runner, King practices what she preaches, and in 2023 ran her first marathon.

King has been teaching for ten years and is in her ninth year at Grant Elementary. She grew up in Chili and is a 2008 graduate of Granton High School.

Also surprised on March 1 was Marshfield Middle School Spanish instructor Kris Berg.



As his wife Nicole (right) celebrates with him, Colby Middle/High School Math teacher Brandon Homeyer is congratulated after being announced March 1 as one of four 2023-24 Crystal Apple Award winners.
Mike Warren photo

"One of the things I've taken on in the last couple years is doing an overload," Berg said in his nomination presentation for the Crystal Apple Selection Committee. "Last year I took one extra class so twenty-five students were able to take Spanish instead of not being able to take it as a middle school student. This year I'm doing a double overload. Out of the eight class periods I teach all eight class periods. I did that so fifty students were able to take Spanish

I instead of waiting until high school."

Berg is a 1992 graduate of Marshfield High School. He has been teaching for 26 years, 18 of those in the School District of Marshfield. He taught in Medford prior to Marshfield and was a Teacher of Distinction in 2011.

This year's winners also include a teacher from one of the newest participants to join the Crystal Apple Awards program this year – Colby Middle/High School. He is math teacher

Brandon Homeyer.

"Complete surprise and shock," said an emotional Homeyer, following a full student body assembly in the Colby High School gymnasium. "I think it's a great honor, but I feel like I just ... I don't know. I'm just blown away. Completely honored to get this. Really didn't expect it."

Homeyer teaches Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics and Lifetime Math (Personal Finance). He is a Medford High School graduate.

"In school I always liked Math. I did really good with Math. Had no idea what I wanted to do," said the former consumer loan officer.

Homeyer graduated from UW-Marathon County and UW-Eau Claire.

The fourth and final Crystal Apple Award winner – Joren Anderson – was announced on March 4 in front of a school assembly at Auburndale High School. Anderson teaches Social Studies, History, Psychology and a Community Leadership class.

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Squirt B

Front: Archer Rueth, Michael Green; Middle: Edwin Kornrtved, Mason Bever, Bryson Anderson, Ethan Tong, Coach Matt Bever; Back: Coach Chuck Kenney, Coach Josh Kornrtved, Ashur Widmann, Holden Peterlik, Hunter Smazal, Madison Kolstad, Ellie Kraus, Coach Kevin Kraus

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JAMES BLIESE

James Bliese, age 82, of Spencer, passed away Monday, March 4, 2024, at Colonial Health and Rehab in Colby. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.



Cadet Alex Koch, Marshfield, goes through CPR training, as part of his regimen at the Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy based at Fort McCoy.

Submitted photo

LETTERS from page 1

Wisconsin Challenge Academy, 749 E. 12th Ave., Fort McCoy, WI 54656.

The Academy runs two classes a year for 22 weeks each. The current cadets get to go home for a week at the end of May, then go back and prepare for graduation June 19.

“They still have to keep in contact with their mentor (which every cadet needs for enrollment into the Academy) for the next year,” Fritz tells us. “When they come home on that break at the end of May they have homework they have to do here. They have things they have to do here before they go back there and get done,” she added. “They have to have a plan. They can’t just say, ‘Okay, I’m done.’ They actually have to have a plan, whether it’s work, school, joining the military, they gotta have a plan.”

Fritz says her hope for Alex upon his Challenge Academy graduation is enrollment in the US Army.

“He may like all the structure because it is so structured at this school,” Fritz stated. “I’m very proud of my son for choosing to go because you can’t force them to go. They have to choose to go. But once they’re there, they’re there unless they talk a parent into letting them come home. And some parents give in. Some do not. But there’s so many opportunities at this place. I think it’s pretty awesome.”

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Marshfield 150 for 150: Carol McCart Brennan

NOMINATED BY JANE KENNEDY

Carol McCart Brennan lives her values of social justice and equality. Her influences, many and varied, include her interactions with significant people – teachers, professors, family members, friends and colleagues.

Carol moved to Marshfield in 1991 to assume the position of Dean and CEO of what was then the University of Wisconsin Marshfield/Wood County Campus. Her story begins in 1943 when she was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, a community of approximately 30,000 residents at the time, to middle-class parents.

The following is an event that happened when she was a junior in high school. It was an experience that awakened in her an awareness of inequality and discrimination. Her high school Spanish Club, which she and a few fellow students started, hosted a group of Venezuelan community college students for an afternoon tea. Carol listened speechless as they described various incidents of being treated unwelcomingly. “I was amazed that anyone could treat these charming, beautiful and intelligent young women with anything less than kindness and was nearly in tears as I listened as they told of other such encounters.” This incident had a lasting impact on her values and future.

Carol’s years in undergraduate school deepened her awareness of unfair and unjust treatment, especially for people of color and women. She joined the International Club and learned a great deal from various foreign students. And she had a profound experience as a sorority president who nominated a Black woman for membership in the sorority. This young woman, the daughter of two physicians in New York City, was smart, talented, and

lovely. And in her innocence, Carol thought she would be an excellent member. It did not occur to her that this person would be found unacceptable solely because of her race. Within a week, the head of the National Sorority flew to Carol’s campus and ordered her to immediately withdraw the nomination. In response, Carol resigned from her position and from the sorority as she refused to make the withdrawal. The naïveté of a small-town girl raised in the 50s ended abruptly and she developed an awareness that would continue to shape her values and beliefs throughout her life.

Following her undergraduate education, Dr. McCart taught social studies in a St. Louis suburban high school for four years. Her goals in the classroom were to instill in her students the ability for critical thinking and an awareness of social issues such as racism, the juxtaposition of wealth and poverty, and the lives of those in our country that were less fortunate. “I encouraged my students to question what they were being taught and to learn how to find reliable information (research).” She realized that she

wanted to continue her education.

As she began her graduate work in sociology, she continued to read the literature available about social injustice and inequality and became involved in both the women’s and civil rights movements. With fellow students, she worked with the Black Egyptians of East St. Louis (the local version of the Black Panthers) and a group of Catholic nuns on projects to support young Black children, create community support systems and to organize protests and demonstrations.

Also, during her master’s studies, Carol engaged in a research project comparing the District Attorney’s and the Public Defender’s Offices in the city of St. Louis. That experience demonstrated dramatically the inequality of policing and defense for Black men and women.

Carol’s academic field of sociology also led her to continue the study of literature on women’s issues and inequality. When she became a university faculty member at a St. Louis college, she began adding classes such as “Sex Roles and the Socialization Process” to her teaching load, and eventually assumed the administration of a program in Women’s Studies which she grew into a master’s level degree program. In addition, she worked in the campus admissions office to extend the recruitment of the university in inner-city schools. She also worked with another suburban school district (Ferguson-Florissant) to establish a safe place and support center for Black students being bused into the white district. She obtained her PhD from Pennsylvania State University in 1991 in higher education and sociology.

As her administrative career continued, Dr. McCart stressed the

See BRENNAN page 5

Tiffany announces Service Academy Day

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

WAUSAU – Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) on March 4 announced his 2024 Service Academy Day, on Saturday, April 6 in Merrill. The event will be held at the Northwoods Veterans Post from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m.

“Attending a Service Academy Day allows students to speak directly to representatives from each service academy and is a great way for them to get involved early with the application process,” said Congressman Tiffany.

“I attended two Academy Days with Congressman Tiffany and it really helped me make my decision to want to pursue a USAFA appointment.” - Gabe, who received his 2023 USAFA and USMA Nominations and a USAFA

Appointment in December 2023.

This Service Academy Information Day is designed to familiarize students and parents who reside within Wisconsin’s Seventh Congressional District with the application and nomination processes for applying to each of the U.S. service academies. The deadline to apply for a U.S. service academy nomination from Congressman Tiffany is Friday, Sept. 27 at 5 p.m.

Students will get the chance to hear the best practices of the nomination and application processes and have the opportunity to talk with members of Congressman Tiffany’s staff and representatives from all five military branches representing their respective academies. Admission is free, and parents, teachers, and

students at any grade level are welcome to attend.

All high school students admitted to our nation’s military service academies must first receive a nomination from at least one member of their state’s Congressional Delegation, the Vice President, or the President of the United States. Accepted students receive a fully funded, four-year university education and a commission as a U.S. military officer upon graduation. High school students seeking Congressman Tiffany’s service academy nomination should visit his website (<https://tiffany.house.gov/services/service-academy-nominations>) to access the application and learn more about the nomination process.

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from page 4

As the Dean of UW-Marshfield/Wood County, Dr. McCart also was pleased to participate in the hiring of women and diverse faculty and staff members and to watch their careers develop. One of the many reasons why she accepted that position was the tradition of the University of Wisconsin to provide opportunities for accessible higher education. Carol holds a strong value for public education as she was fortunate to progress through higher education because of high quality public universities. Carol's family could not have afforded for her to attend private institutions.

Carol says that recent developments “have made it apparent that our society continues to suffer from the same issues of social justice – inequality, poverty, discrimination, systemic racism and sexism – of which I first became aware in the 1950s and 60s. Yes, there have been improvements, but the struggles are far from over. May we all accept the challenge to keep up the good fight.”

Dexter incident appears to be something other than reported crash

Deputies initially were being told by one of the individuals they were involved in a traffic crash. Due to the extent of the injuries and the lack of damage to the vehicle involved, Wood County

The Wood County Sheriff's Department is being assisted in the investigation by the Pittsville Police Department. Medical care was initially provided by Pittsville Ambulance.

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PAID POLITICAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Service to others now sought on school board

Forty years ago, I was dropped off in the morning by my mother in front of Madison Elementary School in Marshfield. I walked about halfway across the playground and turned to look back at her with tears in my eyes. We had just moved here from Michigan, and I was terrified to walk into my new school in my new hometown for my first day of second grade. That is the only memory I have of that day, but it is one that will always be with me. I survived that day and went on to grow and learn and love Marshfield's schools and teachers. I developed some wonderful connections with teachers and still maintain some of those connections after all these years.

After graduating in 1995, I joined the United States Marine Corps where I learned to solder microchips on circuit cards so small that I had to use a microscope to see them. My certification qualified me to work on space shuttles, but instead of doing that I was assigned a special clearance to repair cryptographic radios. I'm very proud of my service as a U.S. Marine and wouldn't change it for the world. It gave me the emotional tools to adapt and work through any situation life might throw at me. My upbringing through Marshfield's school district and through the U.S. Marine Corps, two places I started out feeling very alone in, taught me the incredible value of human connection.

I currently work in cardiology in Marshfield's beautiful hospital, and I help save lives every day. Most of my adult life has been dedicated to service to others and I wouldn't

have it any other way.

I am a father and a husband, and I am forever a United States Marine.

I stand before you now as a candidate in Marshfield's School Board election in hopes of continuing my service to others.

My wife and I have three children. One is now a third-year art major at UW-Stout and she is doing very well. Our second-oldest has autism and graduated last year and we are very proud of his accomplishments. Our youngest is a seventh grader and she absolutely loves school.

I know that our school system's arts and language and music departments need to be revived. I intend to do that.

I know that our special education programs need more resources and need to be appropriately staffed. I intend to make that happen.

I know that the connection between parents and teachers needs to be restored, especially post-pandemic, and I will not rest until I feel we've succeeded there as well.

I know that teachers, parents and most importantly students, all need to feel confident that their school board will not only listen but address their concerns with vigor. I intend to provide that.

If elected, this is what I will bring to Marshfield's School Board.

Sincerely,
Steven Kizer

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

School district has security cameras, and then some

One of our School Board candidates claims that there are no cameras in our schools. Where does he get his information? At any rate, his claim is completely false.

There are in fact numerous security cameras throughout the school facilities in the School District of Marshfield. The Marshfield Police Department, in collaboration with the School District of Marshfield, has two School Resource Officers (SROs) assigned to work in Marshfield schools, one placed primarily at Marshfield High School and one placed primarily at Marshfield Middle School. Both SROs help support Marshfield elementary schools. The SROs are regularly involved in the monitoring and use of the school district's video surveillance system.

The School District of Marshfield works with the Marshfield Police Department to provide school district staff with school safety training. Every school year,

the School District of Marshfield completes required emergency safety drills in all school buildings. These are often referred to as "lockdown drills."

All school district staff are required to complete annual training on "Mandatory Reporting of Threats of School Violence." The SROs and school administrators in the School District of Marshfield complete specialized school safety trainings through the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety, such as a program called "Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management."

To you parents who may have panicked to think your child may be subject to unsafe conditions in our schools, be rest assured multiple systems have been put in place for their utmost safety. Be a wise voter and check out facts, whether they be true or false.

Shirley Mook
Marshfield

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Crossing Continuums

Dear Reader,

A fact of life is that as soon as we are born, we begin the brief or lengthy process of dying. No time is a "just right" time for death because of the many complex variables of living starting with the humanity around us.

I once knew a number of people who ran life in the fast lane. They ran hard. They accomplished a lot. And then boom! It was over, just like that. A heart attack. Cancer. Here and then gone in a few minutes, or a few weeks or months. If it wasn't immediately, it would be one sort of problem that cascades into another and then another. No one expects it. Fate steps boldly and dispassionately in; Fate is deaf to any brand of supplication. Prayers generally ameliorate yet don't affect the outcome.

Each believed that they had so much more to do, so much more of life ahead of them. Not so. Sadness and disappointment barged in because there was so much more to do (or so they thought). And yet these untimely, hard stops were meant to be, for reasons no one has ever explained well. The hills ahead and the mountains behind falsely summoned – not knowing that the climbing can, as in so many cases, abruptly end. And then we are left with a legacy of what we have done with others remaining to witness and judge.

Perhaps it doesn't have to be what I've described above. We can make short-term plans for the foreseeable trails ahead. We can make the long plans, that may or may not happen, with low expectations. In a way, our past accomplishments are banked as a foundational legacy. The hopes and dreams which hopefully materialize beyond that can be icing on the cake if they are realized.

Being ready for the inevitable crossing over to the continuum of spiritual infinity makes us feel confident in what was done in our wake. The present and future are bonus deeds we garner as we try to live as beings with purpose – the noble purpose of doing good before departing, secure in the knowledge that what we left in the continuum of physical finitude has made it a better place.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher
Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.



AWARDS
from page 2

The remaining Teachers of Distinction include: Charles Treankler and Jason Karrels from Marshfield High School; James Bennett, Marshfield Middle School; Ruth Fleischmann from Columbus Catholic; Angela Lange of St. John's Primary/Our Lady of Peace; Lara Endries, Grant Elementary; Jordon Wolff, Lincoln Elementary; Kaitlyn Aumann from Madison Elementary; Samantha Andreae of Nasonville Elementary; Cari Martin of Washington Elementary; Emma Winkelman, Spencer Middle/High School, Janet Wolf, Spencer Elementary; Sue Fowler, Auburndale Elementary; Sally Wenzel, St. Joseph's Catholic in Stratford; Meghan Utecht, Granton Schools; Lindsay Meissner, Pittsville Middle/High School; Michelle Abel, Pittsville Elementary; Stephanie Glaser,

Greenwood Middle/High School; Rebekah Dorwaldt, Greenwood Elementary; Kendra Friemoth, Neillsville Middle/High School; JoAnn O'Leary, Neillsville Elementary; Nancy Schroetter, Colby Elementary; Krista Keech from Abbotsford Middle/High School; Johnneen Schwab, Abbotsford Elementary.

Partners in Educational Excellence and Workforce Development received a total of 1,758 nominations for 388 different teachers, as students, colleagues, parents and community members submitted nomination forms, based on educators who they thought

were making a difference. From these names, an online ballot was created for teachers to vote on their top selections. A minimum of one teacher was selected to represent each school.

All Teachers of

Distinction will be honored at the Crystal Apple Awards banquet May 1 at Hotel Marshfield.

Hub City Times is a proud sponsor of the Crystal Apple Awards program.

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SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWS

March 13, 2024

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

Spencer Therapy Dog

Meet Laverne. Laverne lives with Cindy and John Semenchuk. Laverne has been approved as a therapy dog for the School District of Spencer.

What is the difference between a Service dog vs Emotional Support dog vs Therapy dog? According to the American Kennel Club website:



- #### Service dog
- Each dog is individually trained to perform specific tasks and to work with people with disabilities.
 - The work of the service dog must be directly related to the handler's disability.
 - Examples: guide dogs for the blind or deaf, dogs that recognize seizures
- #### Emotional Support dog
- Emotional support dogs are not considered service dogs under the ADA.
 - They may be trained for a specific owner, but they are not trained for specific tasks or duties.
 - They must be prescribed by a mental health professional.
 - Examples: dogs that ease anxiety, depression, some phobias, and loneliness

Therapy dog

- These dogs —with their human teammate, often the dog's owner volunteer in clinical settings (such as hospitals, mental health institutions, hospices), schools and nursing homes.
- They provide comfort, affection, and even love in the course of their work.
- Therapy dogs are trained to be comfortable in new environments and to interact with different people.

Laverne is registered through Therapy Dog International (TDI). She was viewed by a certified TDI evaluator and passed all 13 tests of the TDI exam (on the first attempt and after only 2 ½ weeks of practice!) as well as the temperament evaluation for suitability. Therapy Dog International strictly monitors regular veterinary visits, vaccinations, and wellness exams to maintain certification. There are also specific guidelines for cleanliness and grooming.

Laverne and Cindy are a TDI team. They greet students in the hallway before school and often during passing times between classes. Laverne is in the room where Cindy is a guest teacher. The students in that room have the opportunity to sit with Laverne while they work on their assignments. Based on studies, therapy dogs create:

- a safe, comfortable, happy, and judgment-free classroom environment.
 - positive changes towards learning and improved motivation
 - decreased depression and anxiety behaviors resulting in improved learning outcomes.
 - changes in attitude toward reading, reading skill levels, schoolwork, homework, attendance
 - changes in self-esteem or self-confidence
 - easing of social isolation and helps children learn social skills.
 - gives children a friend
- And now a little bit of information about Laverne. She arrived at the South Wood County Humane Society as a stray (with another dog they named Shirley) in April 2023. John and Cindy adopted her at the beginning of May. She is a sweet, gentle, affectionate soul. She does not bark. She does not run. She is not bothered by noises, movements, or other animals. Laverne likes to go fishing and grouse hunting. She likes to go for walks. Most of all, Laverne LOVES LOVES LOVES to be close to people.



One of the highlights happening in the Elementary School is the emphasis on student leadership. Last year there was a 4th and 5th grade leadership team developed under the guidance of the Elementary School Counselor, Mrs. Leah Boon. This leadership team has continued to grow in the role it plays in our school and community. This was never more evident as they helped plan an assembly for one of our Rockets who recently won his over three-year battle with cancer. Parker Klimmer was first recognized as a Captain of Character for Perseverance during the assembly. Then, the big surprise came. The leadership team brought his family up to award them with mat-side



Oliver Schweiger, Anna Willcome, and Jax Schweiger participated in the WISDAA sub district festival at SHS in play acting. Their scores were high enough to allow them to compete at the district festival on March 9th at SPASH.



During FFA week Mr. Schmitt, Erna Schultz, Hailey Rucker, Hannah Schreiner, and Caitlin Clark participated in a feed sack race. FFA week is filled with many activities and provides the chapter with great bonding activities to celebrate such a great organization.



Quiz Bowl Members Lyra Van Hoof, Jaylyn Strey, Braleigh Wallace, and Ashley Fitzgerald took second place at the District Leadership Development Event hosted by Auburndale. They put in a lot of work and were practicing for several weeks to make the most of this opportunity.



Seventh grade agriculture students make homemade beef jerky during their food science unit. They learn about all aspects of food production including food safety and preservation. This is one of the most popular activities students participate in.



Dylan Lang, Addison Knecht, Kaitlin Radue, Lauren Kosar, Rebecca Gomez, and Nathan Giles Jr. attended the FFA FIRE Conference where they learned about all the basics of FFA. This event is geared toward young members who are interested in FFA.

LEFT: Family & Consumer Science and Agriculture students attended a presentation by Alice in Dairyland hosted by the Marathon Public Library. Students learned everything about agriculture in Wisconsin and how we benefit from it. They also got to make butter from scratch!



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STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWS

March 13, 2024

A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

DEAR CENTRAL WISCONSIN,

When I was asked to write an article for the Hub City Times, I was ecstatic to have the opportunity to share about our wonderful school district. For those of you who don't know me, I am Dr.Nathan Lehman, the District Administrator for the School District of Stratford.

Growing up in nearby Fenwood/Edgar, my parents, who were factory workers at Marathon Electric, taught me and my siblings the value of doing our best, the importance of learning how to work and serve others, and always looking to continuously improve. Spending the last year and a half as the District Administrator in Stratford, I am confident in saying that we have amazing staff, amazing students, and a great community that supports our students, our school system, and believes in these same values!

We have seen a lot of successes in the Stratford School District that our school community is very proud of. Just to name a few:

- Elementary School Significantly Exceeding Expectations with a score over 90 (one of the highest in the state)
- Exceeded expectations as a school district on the state report card!
- 3rd most Dual Credits and Youth Apprenticeship numbers in the Northcentral Technical College Consortium
- Third highest ACT scores in the area behind Marathon and Wausau West
- Huge successes in our many clubs and extracurricular activities while participating in many state championships
- We have been fiscally responsible with the goal of keeping our costs down while still providing a top-notch education. Our spending is one of the lowest in the area. Based on 2022 Department of Public Instruction Data, we ranked in the lower 25% of the state in total district costs (316th out of 420) spending \$1,098 less per student than the state average.

These successes are a testament to the efforts of a strong community that expects excellence! We have shared a few pictures of a few events that have taken place throughout the last month in our district. Enjoy!

In partnership,
Dr. Nathan Lehman



Our 5th graders shared their love for science with other students at the science fair.




Students attended a STEAM day at Northcentral Technical College having the opportunity to be guided by engineers to create electric vehicles.



Our FFA Club organized a fantastic week of events for FFA week. A few activities included an epic assembly featuring Kiss a Cow, Trivia, Milk Chug, Sack Races, and more!

GOOD LUCK TO OUR STATE QUALIFIERS!



2024 INDIVIDUAL STATE

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#GOTIGERS

We had eight of our wrestlers make the trip down to Madison for state wrestling.



We had 23 students, 13 high school and 10 middle school, participate in forensics in February, all making it to level 2.



Our third graders went to the Wausau School Forest. It was a great day for learning about habitats, adaptations, wildlife, making souvenirs, playing the bear game, and going on a hike.



For literacy night we had many different activities for our K4-5th grade students.



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Unlocking opportunities: Staab Career Day showcases construction jobs

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Fourteen hands-on stations with local contractors sparked interest in the construction trades among local high school students, during Staab Construction's annual Career Day, held

Feb. 13 at 1800 Laemle Ave., Marshfield. The event addressed the critical need for skilled workers in various construction trades such as carpentry, electrical, roofing, plumbing, and more.

industry is experiencing a pressing demand for talented professionals, yet many individuals are unaware of the vast opportunities and career growth potential it offers. Many of these opportunities do not require a college degree and can begin during and immediately after high school with company-paid, on-the-job training. Staab Construction is working to change this narrative by providing a hands-on experience that showcases the diverse career paths within the industry.

Attendees of the Career Day had the unique opportunity to explore 14 interactive stations hosted by local contractors. These stations offered firsthand experiences in various trades, allowing participants to engage with professionals and learn about the skills, techniques, and technologies involved in each sector.

"We are thrilled to host this Career Day event in collaboration with other local contractors," said Ben Lee, President of Staab Construction. "Our goal is to inspire



Welding was one of the many job opportunities students explored Feb. 13, during Staab Construction's annual Career Day. **Submitted photo**

individuals to consider a career in the construction trades by showcasing the exciting opportunities available and highlighting the importance of skilled workers in driving innovation and progress within our industry.”

From mastering the art of carpentry to understanding the intricacies of electrical systems, attendees gained valuable insights into the rewarding and dynamic nature of construction careers. Moreover, they had the chance to interact with industry experts who shared their knowledge and experiences, offering guidance on pathways to success in the field.

In addition to promoting career awareness, the Career Day event also underscores the urgent need for skilled workers in the construction industry. With an aging workforce and increasing demand for infrastructure projects, there has never been a better time to pursue a career in construction.

“We want to emphasize that the construction trades offer not just jobs, but fulfilling and lucrative careers,” added Lee. “By participating in this event, individuals can discover their passion, explore their potential, and embark on a rewarding journey in the construction industry.”

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A photograph showing two high school students participating in a drill competition. They are wearing hard hats, safety glasses, and high-visibility vests. They are using power drills to make holes in wooden blocks. The background shows a warehouse or construction site setting with various materials and equipment.




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Adolph A. Vorba Memorial Scholarship

Beverly and Marvin graduated from MHS in 1960 and 1957, respectively. Their experience with their teacher, Adolph A. Vorba, was so memorable that they have created a memorial scholarship in his honor. Marvin went on to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics and taught at the University of Miami for over 55 years. For more information, you can visit www.marshfield.foundation. If you'd like to donate directly to this fund, go to <https://marshfieldcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/> and you can search for this scholarship fund there.

A black and white photograph of Adolph A. Vorba. He is a middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is seated at a desk, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. His hands are resting on a notepad, and he appears to be writing or about to write. In the background, there is a bookshelf filled with books.

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A group of six people (three men and three women) are standing behind a large ceremonial check. The check is from Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation, dated December 4th, 2023, for the amount of 201,246.00. The check is payable to "Cruise to the Cause" and is signed by "Don Nove".

Cruise for a Cause has best year yet

MARSHFIELD – Dan and Linda Neve had yet another successful year with their non-profit “Cruise for a Cause.” Last year was the best year yet in supporting cancer research locally and they are looking to do even better in 2024.

Dan travels the state and across the country raising funds at car shows and events in support of cancer research. The largest local events that you will see Dan at are the Hub City Days car show, as well as the Iola Car show. Each year Dan ends the season with a five-day event in Wisconsin Dells the first weekend of October, with a golf tournament, car show plus much more.

Last year's donations of \$201,246 to Marshfield Clinic Health System exceeded the previous year's giving by almost \$40,000. Thanks goes to Staab Construction, Feltz Tire, Johnson Towing, Prosticker.com, TLC lettering, Ford Motor Company and all those who made donations or bought tickets to win the car sweepstakes car. This year, with your support, you could win a 2024 SEMA custom-built Dark Horse Mustang by visiting www.cruise4acause.org for more details.



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On the Road with Alice

A look back on how we became America’s Dairyland

BY ASHLEY HAGENOW
WISCONSIN’S 76TH
ALICE IN DAIRYLAND

MADISON – Around the time Wisconsin became a state in 1848, it was known as America’s breadbasket, with one sixth of the nation’s wheat being harvested here. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), settlers in Wisconsin chose wheat because it did not require much money, was fairly easy to grow, and it could be harvested twice a year. So, what caused our change from America’s breadbasket to America’s Dairyland?

Wheat became a rather risky crop here at home. It had a varied yield, and the 1860s brought about an insect called chinch bugs, which further decimated crops. Needing to change course, Wisconsin’s farmers found that dairying was a viable replacement for the earlier wheat boom. Our climate was ideal for dairy cattle and the soil was better suited for feed crops.

Prior to Wisconsin’s dairy boom, New York was the leading dairy state. Many New Yorkers moved to Wisconsin and brought with them their knowledge and skills for dairying on a commercial scale. WHS states that even before the dairy boom happened here, Charles Rockwell was one of the earliest cheesemakers in Wisconsin. He began production at Koshkonong, near Fort Atkinson in Jefferson County, in 1837. Taking the lead from Rockwell and other budding cheesemakers in the state, many dairies primarily produced cheese because it kept longer than the butter that was being made in other dairy-producing states.

Seeing a fast-growing opportunity for farmers,



Called the “father of modern dairying,” William Dempster Hoard’s advocacy for scientific agriculture and the expansion of dairy farming has been credited with changing Wisconsin’s agricultural economy.

the University of Wisconsin soon began researching ways to support the dairy industry. William A. Henry, the UW’s first professor

of agriculture, used the school’s farm to experiment with various methods, and Professor Stephen Babcock developed the first test for butterfat content in milk. Babcock’s test enabled high-quality butter and cheese to be manufactured consistently. The university also started a short course to educate farmers about the dairy industry.

William Dempster Hoard, the 16th governor of Wisconsin, should also be recognized for the success of Wisconsin dairy farming. WHS shares that he started the Wisconsin Dairyman’s Association in Watertown in 1872. With an original focus on marketing, the Dairyman’s Association

also provided education on new dairying methods through its publications and meetings. *Hoard’s Dairyman* was established in 1885 and quickly became the nation’s leading dairy magazine.

Dairy cow numbers grew

See ALICE page 14

Spring garden conference set

NEILLSVILLE – It’s time to think Spring. The Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers will be hosting their annual Spring Garden Conference Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Clark County Courthouse Auditorium (517 Court Street, Neillsville). Please use the East Sixth Street entrance.

Presenters and their topics planned are Dr. Brian Hudelson of the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic at UW-Madison (Diseases in the Vegetable and Herbaceous Ornamental Garden) and Richard Halopka, Certified Crop Advisor (Biologics and Your Landscape).

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Another deep run

Dons advance to WIAA State Tournament



Columbus Head Coach Joe Konieczny presents his team with the Div. 5 Sectional Championship plaque, after the Dons beat Cashton 80-77 on March 9 at Logan High School in La Crosse.
Lucky Shot Media photo

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

Marshfield – For the eighth time since joining the WIAA in 2000, the Columbus Dons boys' basketball team advanced to the sectional final round of the postseason. The Dons did so with a 57-54 win March 7 over Royall in a Div. 5 sectional semifinal contest played at Adams-Friendship High School.

"I think it was just kind of a classic, as far as a high school basketball game goes," said Columbus Head Coach Joe Konieczny following the contest. "We got a seven- or eight-point lead early. Royall takes an eight-point lead with seven minutes left, and then our kids just made some big shots and got just enough stops. Unfortunately that somebody had to lose a game like that."

The Dons led 22-17 as the clock was winding down on the first half, when Royall's Tyrus Wildes sank a near-half-court buzzer beater to make it just a two-point game at halftime.

The Panthers – a state tournament team from

a season ago – kept the momentum going into the second half, and at one point had built a seven-point lead with seven minutes remaining.

With their backs against the wall, senior Blake Jakobi seemingly put the team on his back and guided the Dons through what had been their toughest half of basketball to that point all season.

"He did," Konieczny told us. "He hit a big three, got to the rim one time. I thought Lucas Kreklau hit two really big shots as well. And then somewhere in there, Emmitt (Konieczny) got to the rim once or twice to give us just a three-point lead. But Blake hits two free throws to go up four. They come down and hit a deep three with 13 seconds left. Blake hits two [free throws] again. We're up three. They come down and bank one in. And luckily, his foot was on the line, so we get a one-point lead, and then Blake makes two more [free throws] to ice the game, so I thought down the stretch we handled things really well."

Jakobi knocked down

eight consecutive free throws in the closing moments of the game to keep Columbus in front and eventually put the game away. He led all scorers with 23 points. Kreklau added 15, including ten second-half points, on a night when the Panthers held Charlie Moore scoreless. Emmitt Konieczny added 13 points for the Dons, who moved on to face Cashton in a Div. 5 sectional final at La Crosse Logan High School.

Columbus built a 43-38 halftime lead.

In the second half, the Dons built a 72-62 lead before the Eagles used a 10-0 run to tie the game with just a few minutes left.

Back-to-back three-pointers by Charlie Moore and two late free throws by Emmitt Konieczny propelled the Dons to an 80-77 win.

Columbus faces Solon Springs in a Div. 5 state semifinal March 15 at 9:05 a.m. at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Marshfield boys one win from state

BY GREG SEUBERT
CONTRIBUTING
EDITOR

WAUPACA – There was a time when things were not exactly looking good for the Marshfield boys' basketball team.

Four minutes into the Tigers' Division 1 sectional semifinal matchup with Kaukauna, Chris Pohl took a seat on the Tigers' bench after picking up his third foul.

Once he got back into the game, however, he scored 17 points to help lead top-seeded Marshfield to its 25th win of the season, a 71-68 victory over the fifth-seeded Ghosts March 7 at Waupaca High School.

The win set up a sectional final matchup with sixth-seeded Neenah March 9, in Stevens Point which the Tigers lost, 52-48. The sixth-seeded Rockets had stayed alive in the WIAA state tournament with a 68-50 win over second-seeded Stevens Point in another semifinal.

Neenah handed the Tigers one of their two losses during the regular season, a 58-31 setback Dec. 16 at Marshfield High School.

Against Kaukauna, the Tigers connected on 16 three-pointers, including 10 in the first half alone.

Eighteen of Landon Lee's game-high 26 points



Joey Ketterer guards Kaukauna's Keegan Van Kauwenberg in Marshfield's 71-68 win over the Ghosts, March 7 at Waupaca.
Greg Seubert photo

came on six three-pointers. Brooks Hinson chipped in with four, while Pohl and Valin Ramberg added three each.

Five threes in the opening minutes helped the Tigers take a 19-14 lead. The lead changed hands 11 more times before Marshfield took a 40-38 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Kaukauna took its final lead – 44-43 – on Jon O'Neill's steal dunk, but the Tigers answered with three-pointers from Hinson and Pohl to push the lead back to five points.

Another three-pointer from Pohl gave Marshfield its biggest lead – 60-52 – with eight minutes remaining. The Ghosts cut the deficit to three points twice before Keegan Van Kauwenberg's three made it 67-65 with just under three minutes to go.

A pair of free throws from

Pohl with eight seconds left gave Marshfield a 71-65 lead. The Ghosts weren't finished, however, as O'Neill's three-pointer with 3.3 seconds on the clock made it a 71-68 lead.

Kaukauna had one last opportunity after Hinson missed a free throw, but the buzzer sounded after Andrew Jensen missed a shot from well beyond the half-court line.

Ramberg and Hinson also finished in double figures for Marshfield with 12 points each.

Four players accounted for 65 of Kaukauna's 68 points. Van Kauwenberg led the way with 24, followed by Jensen (17), O'Neill (13) and Nathan Deprez (11).

The Tigers end their season at 25-3, and missed making Marshfield's first trip to the state tournament in 30 years by just one game.

ALICE from page 13

quickly, and by 1899 more than 90 percent of Wisconsin's farmers raised dairy cows. By 1915, Wisconsin had become the leading dairy state in the nation, producing more butter and cheese than any other state.

Fast forward more than 100 years and Wisconsin still maintains the title of America's Dairyland. Today, our state is home to nearly a quarter of the nation's dairy farms, 95 percent of which are family owned. Our farm families understand the importance of keeping cows healthy and comfortable, as well as

managing land and water resources. Our nearly 6,000 farms house more than 1.2 million cows, which are milked and cared for using the latest technology to ensure cow comfort and product safety.

The history of Wisconsin dairy isn't just on a statewide level. While visiting farms throughout my life, and especially during my time as Alice in Dairyland, I have been honored to hear the histories of those family farms. The next time you're able to visit with a farmer, ask them their farm's history – you won't be disappointed. You can also find inspiring stories from some of our dairy farmers at wisconsinmilk.com.

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