

# Soldier surprises wife, kids with early return

**BY MIKE WARREN**  
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD -- Kristina Howey suspected something was up when her office calendar had nothing on it.

Kristina, a product development and implementation director at Security Health Plan, was expecting her husband – Captain Jake Howey of the Wisconsin National Guard – back from deployment on or around March 31.

“I told him that I wanted to surprise the kids because we’ve put in almost a year of this, so we’ve been planning on a surprise for the kids,” Kristina Howey shared with Hub City Times, after she was called into a “meeting” at Security Health Plan headquarters on the morning of March 7. Instead, out came her husband, with a dozen red roses.

Kristina said she knew something was up about two days prior to the surprise because her entire calendar at work had been cleared.

“The original plan was just to surprise the kids and throughout the past year talking with Kristina, I wanted to surprise her as well,” Jake Howey told us after his big surprise. “So, about a month ago I started sleuthing.”

Captain Howey has been deployed with the Wisconsin Army National Guard for almost one year. Kristina had been expecting his return on or around March 31. However, Captain Howey was officially state-side as of March 5 and returned to Marshfield the morning of March 7. Kristina was told he’d be back in town the following day.

See **SOLDIER** page 4



After surprising his wife at work, WI National Guard Cpt. Jake Howey receives an enthusiastic “Welcome home” from Kristina Howey’s service dog, Mava, at Security Health Plan on March 7, three weeks earlier than his scheduled return. **Mike Warren photo**



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## School Board candidates respond to questions

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**

Part I of II

**MARSHFIELD** – There will be at least one new member of the Marshfield Board of Education this spring.

Incumbent Karen Shulman is not seeking another three-year term on the board, and filed a statement of non-candidacy on Dec. 13, 2023.

Seven individuals did file candidacy papers for three seats which are up for election this spring. A Feb. 20 Primary election narrowed the candidate pool to six, and those six individuals will appear on the ballot for the April 2 spring election.

Two incumbents whose seats are up for election are running again. They are S.A.M. Steiner and Frances Bohon. Also running are challengers Karen Ott, Nicole Forst, Steven Kizer, and Richard Kranz.

Candidates were sent a pair of questions by Hub City Times and their responses are being published this week and next, split into two groups of three, in the order in which they were received.

## Richard Kranz

*Why have you chosen to run in this election?*

Friends and neighbors approached me about running in this election.

After listening to concerned parents, I felt the school board needed a new perspective.

I decided to run in order to improve the public schools and make a difference in the education of our younger generation.

*As you've campaigned, what are district residents telling you are their top priorities they would like you to champion if they elect you?*

While campaigning, residents have expressed a desire

for new leadership on the school board. Many residents have stated that the incumbents have been there far too long.

Some of the main issues raised are transparency and the need for better parental oversight. In order for there to be transparency, there needs to be better communication by all parties involved including the school board. Parents have the right to be truthfully and fully informed about their children's education. School board members must ensure that rules are being properly enforced. Residents have expressed frustration about the lack of information being readily available to the public. Residents want to improve academic performance and address the decline in students' test scores in basic subjects such as reading and math. We need to eliminate wasteful spending and reduce the burden to taxpayers. We can improve our facilities while still spending wisely. Concerns have been expressed over the treatment of special needs students. I have heard a few residents express their deep concerns over the safety of their children. We need to take steps to prevent violence and not just simply react to it. We need to do a better job maintaining our facilities. Some of our facilities are in desperate need of repair. We also need to do a better job recognizing our excellent students, teachers and staff.

## Nicole Forst

*Why have you chosen to run in this election?*

In addition to my passion for education and my



Kranz



Forst

commitment to the school district, I also have a vested interest in the Marshfield School District. In the fall, I will have a high school, middle school, and elementary student and I want the best quality education for my children and for all of the children in the district. The fiscal health of Marshfield School district is also important to me and I will work to ensure that the district is fiscally sound, which will enable us to remain strong moving forward.



As you've campaigned, what are district residents telling you are their top priorities they would like you to champion if they elect you?

As I have been campaigning, the top priorities that I have heard from residents are transparency, hostile behaviors, declining test scores, spending, and teacher shortages.

## Transparency


District residents explained frustration in not being informed about challenges and opportunities in the school district. While relevant information may be on the school district website, it's not easy to navigate. If elected, I would encourage communication between staff, students, and the community. On behalf of the district, this means making the website easier to navigate to find key information. If open communication doesn't exist, our district will not grow in a positive direction.

*See CANDIDATES page 9*

☒ Vote April 2nd

# Frances Bohon

## School Board



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| OBITUARY |



**STEPHEN F. WAGNER, MD**  
Stephen F. Wagner, MD, 85, passed away March 2, 2024, at Three Oaks Health Services in Marshfield. A family memorial service will be held at a later date.

Stephen was the eldest child of Lester and Martha Wagner. He earned BS and MD degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. During his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, he and Patricia were married. Following his army military service in Vietnam, he was chief pediatric resident at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Returning to Marshfield, he joined Marshfield Clinic and practiced pediatrics and genetics. He established medical genetics at Marshfield Clinic and was active in teaching, serving as director of the pediatric residency program for 9 years.

Dr. Wagner played violin in the Marshfield/Wood County Symphony Orchestra for many years and enjoyed playing the piano, especially ragtime. Photography, genealogy and computers were other favorite pastimes. He took pleasure in reading and listening to music, and was a fan of the Harry Potter books and movies.

He loved his family and showed that devotion in countless ways. Fond memories were made on family trips to San Diego, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Marawaraden Resort on Long Lake. It was a delight growing up with a father who liked Saturday morning cartoons as much as any kid, was an inspired Christmas cookie decorator, and generously supported all his family's interests. A gentle and giving man, he cared deeply for his patients, their families, his friends, and colleagues. He felt very fortunate to have them and a job he loved. Often, former patients would see him out and about and stop by to say hello, which always made his day.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia, of Marshfield, children David of Marshfield and Amy of Columbia, SC, a sister Barbara (John) of Appleton, sisters-in-law Jane, Julie (John), and Cheryl, brother-in-law Tom (Vikki), and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister Elizabeth, and brothers-in-law Fred and Steve.

The family wishes to extend sincere thanks to the caring staff at Three Oaks Health Services and Heartland Hospice who skillfully helped navigate the trials that come with advancing years. Heartfelt gratitude as well to Dr. Hope Maki, staff at Marshfield Clinic and the former St. Joseph's Hospital, and to the many others who brightened Stephen's life.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

**March Forth!**

Dear Reader,

A day recently passed that marks a special occasion as our youngest granddaughter, Madelyn, celebrated her first birthday. It's a delightful coincidence that her birth date, March 4th, aligns with the only day in the year that doubles as a command. To commemorate this milestone, we gathered together, adorning the space with decorations and filling it with presents and birthday hats. Though ostensibly for Madelyn's enjoyment, it's evident that the adults derived just as much, if not more, pleasure from the festivities.

Watching Madelyn, with her innocent enthusiasm, unwrap her presents and dive into her cake fills our hearts with joy. Her unworldly presence adds a special sparkle to each day, reminding us of the love that surrounds us.

Today, we celebrate not just a birthday, but the everyday wonders of having Madelyn in our lives.

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



PAID POLITICAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Veteran supports Bohon for School Board**

I've had the privilege of knowing Frances Bohon for nearly as long as her husband, Commander Randy Bohon, U.S. Navy. Over the past two decades, I've been fortunate to benefit from the wisdom and guidance imparted by both of them.

Randy and I served together in the Navy during the crucial period leading up to the military buildup preceding 9/11. During this time, I had the opportunity to work closely with Commander Bohon and gain insight into the support network he had with his family.

There are few forces as potent as a strong family unit. Frances and Randy exemplify this, earning respect in the Marshfield community over the years and demonstrating their commitment to the right path. As a former Commanding Officer of a Guided Missile Frigate and later of several large installations, I've developed a keen eye for recognizing leaders and dedicated professionals.

In my estimation, Frances Bohon ranks among the most dedicated individuals I've encountered. Her unwavering belief in the students and teachers of her district has consistently been the bedrock of her success. With her strong faith and conservative viewpoint, she fosters an environment where diverse ideas can be introduced and blended to find equitable solutions.

When you cast your vote for Frances Bohon, you can trust that your values will be upheld and not compromised.

*Captain Terry L. Wilson, USN, Retired  
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PAID POLITICAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Author grateful for service**

As an involved parent in the Marshfield School District for the last 17 years I would be an irresponsible constituent if I did not put my money where my mouth is and share my personal experiences with Frances Bohon and S.A.M. Steiner.

Over the years Ms. Bohon has taken much of her time to listen to and discuss my concerns, sharing information and insight appropriate to the situation. She has been unfailingly patient and gracious. Ms. Steiner has also been a breath of fresh air. No one responds more promptly to a question or comment than she. She is energetic and not afraid to speak up. I respect that others may have had different experiences, but my interactions convince me of the sincerity of both Ms. Bohon and Ms. Steiner. They are simply in it for the students and I am grateful for their service.

Kindly note: No one asked me to write this and I am paying for it myself.

*Sincerely,  
Lisa Lonsdale  
Marshfield*

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**SOLDIER**  
*from page 1*

Howey's unit – the 112th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Wisconsin National Guard, Madison – was deployed to Poland and he was stationed at Camp Adazi, Latvia.

Captain Howey was deployed for ten months, although Kristina said it was longer than that.

"I want to claim the month beforehand," she said. "So this has been about a year because we found out the end of March (2023). He left April 5 for a month, came home for two weeks, and left, so for me it's more than ten months. I'm claiming my year," she told us.

With their oldest already out the door, Howey still had five children at home while Jake was deployed.

"Everything that could possibly go wrong went wrong," she said. "Five

days into the deployment, the water heater went out. He also left me with a couple of construction projects, so I learned how to do construction. I finished a bathroom and built a bedroom. The washing machine went out. The dishwasher went out. The kids had...there were a couple of ER visits. You gotta be resilient," Kristina said. "I just would take a breath and figure it out."

Kristina has also dealt with mental health-related issues for many years, and now uses a service dog to help control her symptoms.

"This was supposed to be the last deployment of his career," said Kristina. "We've been in this for thirteen years."

However, Jake's latest deployment may not have been his last.

"I filled out an application for an O-4 major position, and if I get that then I'll stay in for a

minimum of three to four more years. If I don't get that, then I'm going to push my retirement back in and hang it up," said Jake Howey. "I'm committed to my country. I'm committed to the Wisconsin Guard and committed to the Army. But I'm also committed to my wife and family, so therefore, if it's time for me to retire, it's time for me to retire, but I'll keep on truckin' if I can get one higher position."

Jake Howey joined when he was 17, and now has 21 years of service in with the Wisconsin National Guard. When he's not soldiering one weekend a month, he's cruising parts of west-central Wisconsin and portions of I-94 as a Wisconsin State Patrol officer based out of Jackson County, a post he's held for nearly five years.

"He trades out one uniform for another stressful job," Kristina said. "I grew up in law enforcement. My mom retired from law enforcement, and all I thought was, 'One war zone to another.' All it takes is one angry person coming up the highway."

From Security Health Plan, the couple surprised their children – students at Lincoln Elementary and Marshfield High School – with dad's early return home.

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Honoring Marshfield's 150th

# Marshfield 150 for 150: Renee Schulz

NOMINATED BY JANE KENNEDY

Renee Schulz grew up in Marshfield, the youngest of four children, with siblings 18, 15 and 12 years older. When she was three, her parents divorced, and she was raised primarily by her mother, although her older siblings played a significant role in her upbringing. Despite the age differences, she has always been very close to her siblings and her mother and says, “My family made me who I am. My mother and I were like a team.” Her experience having visits with her father gave her a special compassion for children of divorce. An abusive relationship in high school gave her a deep personal insight into the psychology and power, control, and threats associated with domestic abuse. This experience later informed her decision to devote her career to helping others escape abuse.

Renee took a psychology course early in her college career at UW La Crosse. This class prompted her to switch from a major in physical therapy to psychology and sociology. Recently out of college, she landed the job as Executive Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of La Crosse. She established that organization as a 501(c)3 agency and developed fundraising efforts and personnel, program, and fiscal policies.

In 2004, Renee moved back to Marshfield with her children. Her mother, always a steadfast support, opened the Marshfield News-Herald on her first day home, looked at the Want Ads and said, “What about this job?” She pointed to an ad for the Executive Director of Personal Development Center, Inc. Although Renee had grown up in Marshfield, she had never heard of PDC. She landed the position and worked very hard to increase the visibility of the agency, which seemed to be “completely unknown, hidden.”

When asked what inspired her to such a challenging career, Renee said, “I was always that person that people – family, friends, coworkers – came to in working through concerns or problems.” Renee always loved advocating for others, loved children, and had a special empathy for families in trouble. Her goal, described in her resume is “to utilize my skills and experience to ensure the availability of programs and services that support victims and children impacted by domestic and sexual violence locally and throughout the state.”

Renee has been influential in Wisconsin as a victim advocate by serving on the Wisconsin Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse. She was the Council Co-Chair from

2012 to 2019, chaired the Legislative/Policy/Systems Collaboration Committee, and was the Legislative Liaison for the Council. She continues to serve as co-chair of the Council’s Budget Committee. Renee has also been instrumental in leading the Wood County Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT); the Central Wisconsin Sexual Assault Response Team (SART); and is a member of the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth (MACY) and Marshfield Child Advocacy Center (MCAC) multi-disciplinary team, where she serves on the leadership committee.

Some of the challenges Renee has faced in her career include sustaining programs and services among an ever-changing funding landscape and sudden large funding losses; securing direct federal grants and ensuring adherence to all funding contract requirements; attracting and retaining staff; and maintaining agency policies and procedures that ensure safety and account for best practices in service delivery and state/federal funding mandates. She has worked along side the Board of Directors to develop fundraisers and public relations efforts and has worked very hard to establish and maintain collaborations with community partners.

During her tenure, PDC has grown from a handful of employees to a staff of 14. She added many programs to benefit victims, and has overseen the transition of PDC into the current Orenda Center building, a shelter for victims and their children. She is proud of having increased the visibility of the agency and for acquiring federal funding. She established a supervised visitation and exchange program. She has worked tirelessly to keep victims safe and to keep her employees safe. She has established a presence in the school system and lots of transitional programs for victims for resources, education, housing, employment, and childcare. Her one regret is that the agency is still not able to meet all the needs in our community. She says, “Every day I fight to keep the doors open here.” Renee believes that her legacy is having made our community far safer through the programs she has developed and has established PDC as “a strong presence in our community” by forming collaborative relationships with other agencies and community partners.

I admire Renee Schulz and her life’s work advocating for victims of domestic abuse and assault. I appreciate that her work has helped strengthen our community and make it safer for all of us.



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## Nine people killed in Clark County crash

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

TOWN OF DEWHURST – Seven members of an Amish community visiting from Virginia, their driver and an Iowa County man were killed when a semi collided with a van. The crash – among the deadliest in Wisconsin’s history – occurred the morning of March 8 at Highways 95 and J in the Clark County

Township of Dewhurst, approximately 13 miles southwest of Neillsville.

According to the Clark County Sheriff’s Office, a northbound passenger van – driven by James K. McCoy, 46, Pounding Mill, Virginia – entered the intersection and was struck along its driver’s side by an eastbound semi hauling milk, driven by Daniel G.

Liddicoat, 51, from Rewey in southwest Wisconsin.

When Deputies arrived on scene, they saw the semi-tractor in the north ditch and its trailer lying on its side behind it, east of the intersection of CTH J facing west. There was also a van lying on its driver’s side east of the intersection, facing a northeast direction, in the

westbound lane that was on fire.

Liddicoat was ejected from the semi when it entered the north ditch and struck a driveway

See CRASH page 9



Crews work to remove the wreckage of a collision between a tanker semi truck (left) and passenger van, which occurred March 8 in Clark County. The accident left nine of the ten people involved dead.

Submitted photo

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# 2024



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**2024 Business Card Directory Contest Entry Form!**

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COLUMBUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS



Welcome to Columbus Catholic Schools! To learn more, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Angie Loucks, Director of Marketing and Communications at 715-387-1177 ext. 3318 or [loucks.angela@columbusdons.org](mailto:loucks.angela@columbusdons.org); or visit our website at [www.columbuscatholicschools.org](http://www.columbuscatholicschools.org).

Columbus Catholic Schools (CCS) System

At Columbus, one of our key communication points is that we have smaller classroom sizes. As a matter of fact, as a system, we strive to keep each classroom population at around 13 students. As a result... as our enrollment grows, our classroom sizes do NOT, and we add teachers to our staff so we can keep our promise. You might ask yourself... how much does this really matter? We do know that students in smaller classroom settings receive more one-on-one support that may result in better test scores and disciplinary issues. Our students routinely say that one of the best qualities of CCS is how the teachers demonstrate their care for each student; expressing the strong feeling that they see their teachers also as mentors and guides. The result for each student is the achievement of his or her potential as a confident, compassionate, contributing graduate.



Fifth graders Alba Wayerski and Vasilisa Pristoupa participate in Ms. Marquardt's FACE (Family And Consumer Education) Class during Stepping Up Day on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Columbus Catholic Middle School. During this day, fifth graders from Our Lady of Peace School spent a day at the middle school to prepare them for next year.

Columbus Catholic High School

BY MS. THOMPSON  
HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH / LITERATURE TEACHER & QUIZ BOWL ADVISOR

The Columbus Catholic High School Quiz Bowl Team takes part in tournaments sponsored by NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournament). The tournament format requires four-person teams to compete head-to-head with another school. They are presented a series of 20 tossup questions from categories including history, science, literature, music, geography, current events, and pop culture. Teams who answer correctly first have the chance to answer bonus questions for more points. The Columbus team has entered multiple teams at each tournament and rotates players throughout so as many students as possible have the chance to compete.

The team is having a successful season so far. Led by Seniors Jonathan Hafferman and Seth Roewe, the team has competed in Madison, Holmen, and Onalaska and will finish at the Wisconsin State Tournament at UW-Madison in April. For the second year in a row, the team has qualified for the NAQT Small School National Championship. Several individual team members have also been recognized for their contributions in competition. Seth Roewe, Lucky Laessig, Kate Fieweger, and Mary Keding have each finished in the Top 10 as individual competitors at tournaments. Sophomore Lucky Laessig has finished in the Top 10 at all three tournaments this season and received an invitation to compete in the Individual Quiz Bowl National Championship.



The CCHS Quiz Bowl (front row, from left): Jenna Hafferman, Mary Keding, Livvie Laessig, Jackson Bernitt, and Jonathan Hafferman. (Back row, from left): Monica Thill, Kate Fieweger, Sally Wolf, Teisen Schifelbine, Seth Roewe, and Lucky Laessig.



Middle school students celebrated "Read Across America Day," aka "Dr. Seuss' Birthday" on March 1st.

Columbus Catholic Middle School

BY MRS. TOLLEFSON  
CCMS LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER

As an English Language Arts Teacher, I am always trying to find ways to engage my middle schoolers with reading. When I realized that Dr. Seuss Day (Read Across America Day) was coming up, I knew that I needed to pause our normal lessons and give my students a fun day to celebrate. Middle schoolers are still kids at heart and love to be able to celebrate just like they did in elementary school. I brought in Dr. Seuss themed snacks, we played Dr. Seuss Trivia, read Dr. Seuss books, and colored Dr. Seuss coloring pages. Dr. Seuss' goal in his writing was to make reading fun, and I hope that I am able to do that for my students as well!

Varsity Boys Basketball

State Champions!!! On Saturday, March 16, 2024, our Columbus Boys Basketball Team became the WIAA Division 5 State Champions! We couldn't be more proud of this amazing group of kids who truly gave it their all. Congratulations boys, you've earned it!

Members of the CCHS Boys Basketball Team stand for the National Anthem during a Pep Rally held on Wednesday, March 13 at CCHS.

(Photo by Trinity Brunzo, CCHS student and Photo Club Member)



Second graders from St. John's School catch a glimpse of what school will be like next year as they visited Our Lady of Peace School on Stepping Up Day. Pictured here are some second graders with Mr. Dean, Head Custodian at OLPI as they explored the playground.

St. John the Baptist Primary School

On March 6, 2024, many of our students had the opportunity to experience Stepping Up Day! During this special day, second graders from St. John the Baptist Primary School (SJBPP) "Stepped Up" to Our Lady of Peace Intermediate (OLPI) School, which will be their new school next year when they enter third grade. In a similar fashion, fifth graders at OLPI "Stepped Up" to sixth grade at Columbus Catholic Middle School. How do we do this? Well, we wait until the 8th graders are on their annual retreat so there isn't any overcrowding in our buildings.

"Stepping Up Day for the second graders at SJBPP is all about getting students familiar with the transition to a new school building," said Principal Jill Fortin. "The benefit of this day is to get students excited about the change. This lessens the anxiety for students who have always gone to the same school. This day allows students to interact with the teachers that will be teaching them and familiarize them with the building."

Our Lady of Peace Intermediate School

Every year at Our Lady of Peace Intermediate School, our fourth graders "go back in time" during "Pioneer Day." On Friday, February 9th, our fourth graders experienced the days of "Little House in the Big Woods," the novel they were studying at the time. The day started with an old-fashioned pioneer breakfast that included flapjacks, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and applesauce. Then, the "frontier-folk" learned arithmetic, how to make corn-husk dolls, and how to churn their own butter from scratch. They even got to see real antiques from the era of study thanks to some parents who brought in their impressive collection.



Fourth grade students from OLPI enjoy their flapjack breakfast during Pioneer Day on February 9th.

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MARSHFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



ANASTASIA COMING TO MHS STAGE APRIL 11-12-13



The new musical, Anastasia, will grace the stage of MHS auditorium in April. The story is inspired by true events surrounding the fall of the Romanov Empire in Imperial Russia in 1917. In addition, a rumor engulfed Soviet Russia that a young daughter of the Emperor, Anastasia, survived, and perhaps could restore hope to their divided nation. The musical includes songs from the Disney film of the same title, that was released in 1996, but includes other new songs as well. The musical includes student performers, ballerinas, crew, and musicians, representing close to 80 students across the Marshfield district, including two elementary-aged performers. The show is a memory play, where sequences of dance and song help Anya, who people believe is Anastasia Romanov, to reconnect with her past, as she tries to prove to the Dowager Empress, the only surviving relative of the family who had fled to Paris, that she is her granddaughter. Tickets are currently on sale online at our.show/mhsanastasia or by calling the MHS main office at 715-387-8464. There are three performances, one on Thursday, April 11, another on Friday, April 12th, and on Saturday, April 13th. The show begins promptly at 7:00 PM, doors open at 6:30 PM, and all seats are reserved. Tickets are paperless and cost \$15.00 at the door, or \$10.00 if purchased in advance. Thank you for supporting the arts at MHS!

SOUP-ER BOWL SUCCESS



The Chiefs may have won the Super Bowl, but the community of Marshfield came out the real winner! Over 2,000 canned goods were collected and donated to the Soup or Socks Program in collaboration with Marshfield High School, Middle School, Lincoln Elementary, and Madison Elementary. The elementary schools came out on top with students and staff at Lincoln collecting 981 canned goods and students and staff at Madison Elementary collecting 898. This project was a joint effort between MHS FCCLA and Student Council and was initiated by Audrey L., Gage S., and Paige S. as a part of their FCCLA Chapter Service Project. Due to the soup drive success, these members also earned a silver award and will be competing at the state leadership conference in April!




XTREME XPLORATION




In February, Marshfield High School students in grades 10-12 had the opportunity to participate in the annual Xtreme Xploration event held at UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield. Business and educational leaders shared real life experiences to prepare students for post high school opportunities. Numerous volunteers facilitated sessions as students explored career opportunities in their community, discussed employability skills, received feedback regarding interview skills, created or updated their resume, and learned more about post-secondary education opportunities.

CAREER BASED LEARNING



All Marshfield High School sophomores learned about the various career-based learning programs and avenues available for students at Marshfield High School. Sophomore students heard testimonials from students currently enrolled in each program, alumni who are now working in the Marshfield community, and MHS Career and Technical Education Coordinator Mrs. Fredrick. This serves as a great opportunity for all students to learn more about the 16 career pathways as they prepare for college and career readiness.

STUDENT RECOGNITION FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Marshfield High School recently celebrated the achievements of Advanced Placement (A.P) Scholars during its annual AP Scholarship Awards Ceremony. During this program, over 150 MHS students were recognized with the prestigious "A.P Scholar" award, highlighting dedication and perseverance throughout their high school journey. Marshfield High School takes pride in offering an extensive selection of over 30 Advanced Placement (A.P) level courses for students in grades 9-12. This amazing achievement helps students earn college credit while still in high school, allowing them to either graduate college early, study multiple majors while in college, and/or successfully decrease the cost of their undergraduate degree. As we applaud the accomplishments of past and current AP Scholars, we look forward to continued success and growth in the A.P program at Marshfield High School. Congratulations to all students for this incredible milestone!



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# Clinic, city reach property tax agreement

BY MIKE WARREN  
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – The City of Marshfield and Marshfield Clinic Health System have avoided a Circuit Court trial and have reached an agreement over a property tax dispute. The agreement was approved by the Marshfield Common Council March 12 on a vote of 9-0 with one alderman abstaining, following a 40-minute closed session. Marshfield Clinic officials then signed the out-of-court settlement the following morning.

At question was the tax-exempt status of Clinic properties at 1000 and 1001 N. Oak Ave. The parties arrived at an agreement whereby the properties are deemed to be partially exempt, and the assessment structure fully addresses and resolves the tax payments for tax years 2020–2028.

“The City greatly values its relationship with Marshfield Clinic Health System, and we are pleased to have reached an agreement that is acceptable to both parties,” said City Administrator Steve Barg. “This paves the way to continue and strengthen our cooperation and coordination to the greatest degree possible for the betterment of our community and the surrounding area.”

“Marshfield has been our home for more than a century, and we are fully committed to seeing the community thrive,” said Dr. Brian Hoerneman, interim chief executive officer for Marshfield Clinic Health System. “We employ thousands of community residents, support area business and community organizations and build and support educational programs, and as a major economic driver for the region, we continually look for ways to further make Marshfield a premier health care destination in Wisconsin. We thank the City for its cooperation in arriving at a mutually-beneficial resolution.”

According to the new five-year agreement, each side acknowledges that a portion of the property may qualify for tax-exempt status and also that the Clinic “receives valuable government services and benefits from the city.” The agreement expires Dec. 31, 2028.

According to the agreement, “the discussions culminated in the filing of lawsuits entitled *Marshfield Clinic, Inc. v. City of Marshfield*, which describe the property tax exemption dispute for tax years 2020-2022 and which have



Marshfield Clinic Health System's main building dates back to 1974, while its East Wing (foreground) was built in 2002. The assessed value of the two parcels is \$112 million, or 7.5 percent of the City of Marshfield's annual tax revenue.

Marshfield Clinic photo

given rise to negotiations and an agreement addressing and resolving the property no longer qualifies for partial property tax exemption due to a material change in the law or a material change in the property's use or ownership.”

“The premise is that, without any reduction, the 2024 real estate taxes on these two parcels (for payment in 2025) would be approximately \$1.8 million (barring any changes to the current mill rates assessed by each of the four taxing jurisdictions). Under the agreement, [Marshfield Clinic] will be obligated to make their full payment, and the City will subsequently provide a refund check, so that their ultimate tax bill will have been \$1,272,214.78,” Barg told Hub City Times in a March 13 email. “Should the mill rate increase in future years, that will be reflected in the equation, and any increase will result in a greater

refund. After making its annual refund payment to the Clinic, the City will do a ‘charge-back’ to each of the taxing jurisdictions to recoup their portions of the refund.”

Under the five-year agreement, the Clinic will pay a total of just over \$6.36 million (\$1,272,214.78/year).

“Neither side really wanted to go to court, for two reasons,” Barg added. “One, the optics, and two, it’s rolling the dice. You may get everything. You may get nothing.”

Had Marshfield Clinic won a legal court battle, the City of Marshfield stood to lose 4.7 percent of its general fund revenue, had the clinic’s 50-year-old main building and adjacent 20-year-old East Wing be declared tax-exempt. That equates to \$1.1 million. All told, the city, the School District of Marshfield, Wood County and Mid-State Technical College would have lost a combined \$2.8 million.

# Summit: Solutions to affordable housing crisis

BY MIKE WARREN  
EDITOR

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

– Creating sustainable solutions to housing challenges in Wood County has become an all-hands-

on-deck effort. Professionals, community members and others representing local

and state governments, non-profit organizations, health and financial systems, landlords, property managers and more all got together March 7 for a day-long summit at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids.

The event was organized by officials from the Wood County Health and Extension departments.

Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator with Extension Wood County, said the day’s goals were aimed at identifying solutions to the area’s affordable housing crisis, beginning a county-wide discussion and creating a plan for action moving forward.

“First-of-its-kind event,” Rombalski told us at the conclusion of the day’s activities.

She said the event was born out of a legislative breakfast last fall, where area lawmakers identified key issues they were facing, and lots of questions quickly arose about housing.

“My role with Extension is economic development, so I am working on the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) and it encompasses a couple of key focus areas, one of which being housing,” said Rombalski. “The others are childcare, entrepreneurship, broadband and digital equity. Much like childcare, housing is an issue that affects a wide variety of socio-economic statuses. It affects a wide variety of people and it’s an issue at any level.”

When it comes to meeting housing challenges, Wood County officials are not trying to reinvent the wheel. They are learning from other communities that have implemented successful housing changes.

“The mayor of Sheboygan Falls (Randy Meyer) was here,” Rombalski told us. “He was very good, and he presented on some of their initiatives that they’ve put forth. They have a subdivision with fifty-four homes being built called Founder’s Point, and it is contributed to by their local business community, in addition to their county,” Rombalski added. “So it’s a public-private partnership, but essentially it was born out of the fact that their employers were saying, ‘We have people that want to move here and they can’t find housing. How can we

come to the table?’ That’s a similar story to what we’re hearing in Wood County, especially in northern Wood County.

“Another key takeaway that I found really interesting is Washington County has a housing program that involves a volunteer component, so there’s sweat equity being put into the home,” Rombalski continued. “I’ve never heard of that model outside of Habitat For Humanity, but for them they’re looking at it as a way to incentivize young families to become connected to their community. They’re figuring, ‘Okay, you’re moving to Washington County. Maybe you’re not familiar with this neighborhood or with this community. You moved here for a job. How do we get you to stay here, so that when your job is done or when you decide that you don’t like that job and you want to move somewhere else or move onto a different career, you still stay in this area.’ It was a big day.”

Sam Wessel is a senior planner with the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission based in Wausau, and he’s writing a housing study for Wood County, documenting what types of housing are in demand, and at what price points.

“We all know the housing market is no fun right now,” Wessel told us. “There’s a lot out of our control, with inflation, interest rates, material prices, labor prices, that sort of thing. A lot of companies folded during the Great Recession in 2008, so we’ve been [in] kind of this deficit where a

See SUMMIT  
page 13



(L-R): Marshfield’s Assistant City Administrator/Community Development Director Carrie Edmondson, Main Street Marshfield Executive Director Kaelie Gomez, Alderman Natasha Tompkins and City Administrator Steve Barg finalize their talking points for creating a shared vision for next steps, near the end of a day-long Wood County Housing Summit, held March 7 at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids.

Mike Warren photo

## Central WI Produce Auction

### SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

### Wed., March 27, 2024 • 9:00 am

**Taking consignments for:**

- Tractors
- Farm Equipment
- Shop Equipment
- Lawn & Garden
- Skidloaders
- Construction Equip.
- Furniture
- New Items

**Early consignments:**  
**Equip:** 2004 Mahindra 2615 compact tractor, 230 hrs. MFWD, hydro, loader, snowblower, open station; 2007 CIH Maxium 125 Tractor, MFWD, Cab, 12,000 hrs, Good Rubber [TMR Tractor]; JD 4020 Tractor, Synchro Shift, 9800 hrs., Straight & runs good; Duetz 5506 Tractor, 2-wd, 11,000 hrs, well used; IH 966 Tractor, 2-wd, dual remotes, dual Pto, fair condition; 1990 IH Truck, 16' grain box convertible to flat bed, 6-speed manual trans, 166,579 miles w/title; Parker 450 Grain Cart; JD 8300 12ft Grain Drill, w/DbL Disk & Grass Seed, field ready; Miller Pro Crop Sprayer, 500 Gal., 80 ft Booms w/foamers, Field Ready; Blumhardt 500gal. field sprayer, 60' boom, Hyd. drive, foamer; Miller Pro 6R 30" cultivator, nitrogen tank w/fill & applicator system, row guards; JD 1248 2-row corn planter, modified; Meyer 225 Manure Spreader; H+S 270 Manure Spreader, fair cond; NH 352 Grinder Mixer, 5-screen, working cond.; Winco 35KW Generator, 540 pto, trailer, works good; Loader off of JD 950;

**Hay/Forage Equipment:** NH FP230 Chopper, w/Metal Alert III, Horning double-cut Processor, w/27P Hayhead, Serviced & ready; NH FP240 Chopper w/NH Processor & 29P 9' Hayhead, Serviced & ready; NH 824 Corn head, w/FP mounts; NH 3PN 3-row cornhead; JD 3950 forage chopper w/hayhead, fair cond; IH 830 Forage Chopper w/2-row corn head, 5 ft hay head; 2014 NH 5430 12' Merger, 1-owner, nice; NH 166 Merger w/ Extension; Newlida 5212 12' Discbine, side pull, high acreage, running cond.; JD 566 Round Baler, wide pickup, net wrap & twine, approx. 11000 bales; Gehl 1600 Round Baler 5x5 bale, Twine only; JD 14T Small Square Baler w/chute; NH 269 Small Square Baler w/chute; Gehl 980 14' chopper box, excellent condition; 2 – H+S 7-4 16' forage box, RH unload, extensions, on H+S 12ton tandem gear, nice; 1 - H+S 7-4 16' forage box, RH unload, on Knowles single gear, nice; 2 – Meyers TSS 4516 16' forage box, RH unload, extension, on Meyers HD 1250 single gear, w/16.5-16.1 tire, nice; H+S 16' Rear-unload Hyd. drive forage box on a single gear w/16.5x16.1 tires; 2-H+S 7-4 16' forage box, fair; H+S 16' Chopperbox, LH unload, on Kory Tandem; NH 28 Forage blower; Miller Pro 1100 Hay rake, rotary; NH 55 Side Rake; Pecque 9ft Tedder, good cond; Pecque 7 Ft Bar Tedder; H+S kicker bale wagon, self unloading, Knowles single gear; 8.5 ft x 18 ft flat wagon, 12 ton gear, new bed: 9 ft x 18 ft, kicker wagon; 2-kicker bale wagons; 60 ft hay elevator; Meyer 16ft Feeder Wagon; 20 Ft Feeder Wagon; Kory 10ton Wagon Gear; New Idea corn picker; Triolet 1000L TMR mixer, new knives, working cond.;

**Trailers:** 2023 Load Trail, 20 ft. 14000lb, Skidloader Trailer, ramps, tandem axial, w/title; Wells Cargo 20ft. Black Enclosed Trailer, ramp door, tandem axial, no title; H+S 8' x 20' flatbed deckover bumper pull trailer, 10,000lb cap., no title;

**Tillage:** IH 720 18" 5-bottom Plow; 2 - JD 2-bottom trailer plow; Oliver 6342 3-bottom Rollover Plow; JD 220 Disk, good cond; JD 215 Disk; Ford 242 22ft Rockflex Disk, Field ready; Rome 7ft HD Offset Disk, good cond; Krause 7 shank disk chisel; JD 14ft Cultimulcher w/transport, field ready; 13 ft culti-packer w/transport; 12 ft culti-packer w/2-8ft pups; Unverferth 13' culti-planter rolling basket at. for grain drill or planter, good cond; IH 12 ft Spring Tolt Drag;

**Attachments:** 70" Skidloader Bucket; 72" Lo-Pro skidloader bucket; 60" Quik-Attach Skidloader Bucket; Ware 400G 24" 3pt Backhoe Bucket; Land Pride 72" 3-pt. finish mower, fair condition; 72" Finish Mower; 8 ft Telehandler Platform Basket; Howse 500 60" Rotary Mower, 3-pt; Howard 60" Rotor Tiller, 3-pt;

**Misc:** 20- JD tractor front weights; 8' x 15' service truck flat bed w/hyd. boom hoist; IH Rissler 190 Stationary Mixer, New slides & chain in 2020; 96-Wood Fence Post; 3-Loyal Calf Hutchies; 3-CalfTel calf hutchies, 1-year old; Tractor/wagon Quik-hitch, Ohio made; 4 - 21.5x16.1 tire on 8-bolt rim; SS flat top bulk tank used for water tank; 600 gal. bulk tank – water storage; New & Used Free-stalls; 2" SS Pipeline out of 54 stall barn; Boumatic Vacuum Pump, 5-hp motor; SURGE Milking System – Panel, Receiver Jar, Transfer Pump, Claws, Vacuum Pump; 2-Bale Rings; Approx. 80ft CW Barncleaner Chain; 5 – Portable Flower Racks; Greenhouse Table Tops; 120 ft. of dog kennel panels & ass.; 14' trampoline; 4- 20lb Propane Tanks-filled; Truck bed Fuel Tank; Ladder Tree Stand; Hoyt "Clash" compound bow; Diamondback mens bike;

**Steel Wheels:** 2- New 18" x 68" C-cleat belting wheels w/32" center; 2 sets of -16" x 52" belting wheels; set – 15" x 42" belting wheel; set – 12" x 30" belting wheel; set – 18" x 48" belting wheel; 4 – 12" x 32" skidloader wheels, rebuilt; set – 10" x 33" x 32" skidloader wheels, rebuilt; set – 10" x 9" x 20" steel lawn mower wheels, 4-bolt; Set-18" skidloader tracks, 450x86x56, good tread; Used Track Chains & Sprockets off Case 850K dozer; Good Selection of Steel Wheels;

**Buggies:** New Flex Collar Buggy Harness w/white trimmings; Wagon Load of New Tack; New 2-seat Carriage; Spring Wagon – Wooden Bed w/Natural Finish, 2-Seat, 4-yr old, Nice; 2-seat Carriage, good condition; 2-seat Carriage, fair; Single Seat Buggy, fair cond.; small covered wagon; 4-wheeled pony cart w/bed;

**Sale Schedule:**  
9:00 am Household  
9:00 am Tools  
9:30 am Lawn & Garden  
9:30 am Wagon Misc.  
10:30 am Equipment  
12:00 Furniture

**Lawnmowers/Garden Equip:** 2008 JD Z445 Zero-turn mower, 54" deck, 593 hrs, nice; Dixon 48" Zero-Turn mower, 390 hrs, runs & ready, nice; Dixon ZTR 7025 Commercial Zero-turn Mower, Kohler Engine, 600 hrs; 2017 JD Z930M Zero-Turn Mower, 60" deck, 1443 hrs; Dixon "RamMag" Zero-turn mower, 50" deck, Hrs N/A, working condition; JD L130 Lawnmower, hydro, 620 hrs; Simplicity "Prestige" 50" deck, Kohler CU235, 1358 Hrs; Cub Cadet "Tank" 60" deck, Kawa FX850V, 31 Hp, Hrs N/A; Power Pro 43" Cut, Briggs&Stratton 14.5 Hp; Yard Machine 46" deck, Briggs &Stratton 18 Hp; Murray 46" deck, Briggs &Stratton 14 Hp, 6-speed; Toro "Timecutter" 42" deck, Briggs&Stratton 25 Hp. Z-Turn; Simplicity "Citation" Zero Turn Lawn Mower; Troybilt "Horse" Tiller, Honda-runs; Lawn Sweeper; Honda push mower; Honda 11 Hp. Engine, horz. shaft; Nice Lawn & Garden Equipment

**Furniture:** Oak – Armoire Cupboard; Used bedroom set; Used Dining Table w/Chairs; Used Dining Table Chairs; Hutch w/setback top & glass panes; GE Washer, electric; 4 – Maytag Ringer Washers; Rebuilt Maytag Ringer Washer; 15' U-shaped Portable Washline; A lot of small household related items;

**Shop Equip:** OEM NewHolland Service Manuals – 1995 to 2000; Fish Reader [parts manuel] w/cards; New Construction Tools; 2-New 1-bag Dust Collector; Wagon Load New Tools; Big Brute Commercial Steam Cleaner, works; Portable Air Compressor w/Gas engine; Grizzly G1201 Heavy-Duty Drill Press; Thermal Dynamics "Packmaster 100XL" Plasma Cutter, 220 volt, works; Miller 250 welder, w/gun, good cond.; Power Cement Trowel; Blacksmiths Anvil, med. size; Ridgid pipe threader w/1/2" & 3/4" dies; 2-Parts Washers; Misc. Mechanic Tools; 3/4" drive SAE socket set; 3-ton Floor Jack; Harrison Torch head w/regulators & hoses; Milwaukee 28pc. 3/8" drive Ratchet set; Milwaukee M18 Brushless Cordless Combo Kit; Rockwell 10" Tablesaw; 70 lb. Electric Concrete Breaker Hammer; Ridgid 10" Metersaw; Tap & Die Set; Lots of used tools;

**Lumber/Building:** Bundles of rough cut Boards- varies sizes; 120 BF of Rough cut Oak; 3-Bundles of 1.5 x3.5 x8' rough cut Pine; 6 ft x 12 ft chicken coop; 10ft x 12ft storage shed, vinyl siding; 4 – Chicken Coops, various sizes; 5 – 11 ft pole jacks; 18' x 14' overhead door, used; 14' x 9' overhead door, used; 8' x 6.5' garage door w/ windows, used; Insulated 9' x 7' overhead door, used;

**Many More Items – to many to list.**

Equipment & Lawnmowers will be offered online on Equipment Facts

•Consignment receiving schedule: **March. 16, 18 – 23, & 25,** 9am-5pm, Or call for an appointment  
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**Upcoming Sales Pending: April 6th & 7th, 2024, Marshfield, WI**

**For information about scheduling your Sale - Call 715-652-3963**  
**A-Z Household & Estate Sales Specialists.**

## CANDIDATES

from page 2

### Hostile behaviors

Hostile Behaviors are behaviors with intent to do physical and/or emotional harm for revenge and retaliation. In order to address hostile behaviors, the district does put a decent effort into prevention. When I'm volunteering, I see a very positive school climate. I know that my elementary children feel respected and safe. Similarly, at the middle school I see many posters promoting positive behaviors. Training for all staff should be provided to identify any early warning signs of bullying and hostility. Encouraging and promoting parental involvement would also go a long way. Additionally, the student handbook has a thorough explanation of how to report bullying, but this is not well known to students and parents. In my opinion, social media is also very concerning for our youth, it's an issue that my generation didn't have to worry about. Continued and updated training, especially including social media, should reduce bullying and could be a metric in our district.

### Declining test scores

If you look at our test scores, the trend is declining. The incoming seventh grade class will now have two periods a day focused on math, instead of one. This decision was based on historical data because the students are falling behind. While I appreciate this change, I also feel the community would also like to know what the school is doing to get back to a place of academic excellence and prepare our kids for college or the workforce.

### Spending

I wish we had access to unlimited dollars for our school, but we don't. After last year's referendum, many residents became interested in the district's budget and wanted to know where money was needed. I currently sit as a supervisor on the McMillan Town Board, so I understand budgets and constraints and how to get the most out of our dollars. The community should acknowledge that we have to invest in our future, but it cannot happen at the expense of our citizens' livelihood.

### Teacher shortages

While teacher shortages aren't specific to our district, we need to be strategic in order to keep the best educators in Marshfield. There are only so many dollars in our budget for salaries, but it is still key that we prioritize competitive wages and benefits. A few other strategies that I would like to pursue are virtual meetings for inservice days, proper coverage, attracting subs so other teachers don't have to cover, non-working lunch breaks, discussions with administration & staff to discuss the accomplishments and recognition programs.

### Steven Kizer

*Why have you chosen to run in this election?*

I'm running in this election for the student who is passionate about art, but is frustrated that the district never seems to have funding for the arts and music programs.

I'm running for the parents with special-needs children who are praying for the tiniest victories every day, hoping today will be the day their child has a breakthrough academically, or possibly just hoping that their child simply makes it through the day without receiving a phone call from the school with bad news. I've experienced this and know exactly how this feels.

I'm running for the teacher who would prefer funding for upgraded materials and resources for teaching instead of a functional building being torn down so a new one can be built.

I'm running because when I heard that students at Grant Elementary had to move their desks away from a certain window every time it rains because so much water comes into the classroom, I thought that was unacceptable. That

isn't a complicated issue and should be fixed immediately by local professionals rather than hiring an outside consultant to examine our infrastructure.

I'm running because it's important for young people to learn to celebrate each other's successes and valedictorian is certainly something worth celebrating. A lot of hard work

and stress and dedication go into this achievement, and it deserves the recognition, just like top athletes deserve recognition for their outstanding achievements.

I'm running because, while some might think that Marshfield's culture needs change, I believe it needs to be maintained and recognized and even celebrated.

Marshfield is a beautifully-diverse city full of farmers, health care professionals, teachers, retail workers, hair stylists, carpenters, welders, electricians, dairy plant workers and so many others who work hard every day to maintain and build up our community.

I'm lucky enough to work in our medical facility where I work with countless traveling health care professionals who take jobs everywhere in the United States. The most common thing I hear from these people once they've experienced being out in our community is that they can't believe how nice and warm people are in Marshfield and how refreshing that is. Our culture does not need change. Marshfield is a perfectly beautiful place to raise a family and have your children educated in our beautiful school district. I think the only problem with our culture is that we need enough people to stand up for it and fight to maintain it, because our culture and the warm, welcoming nature of our small city is something to be extremely proud of.

*As you've campaigned, what are district residents telling you are their top priorities they would like you to champion if they elect you?*

I've had an enormous outpouring of support from people in the district who are very happy to see someone running with firsthand experience of having had a child go through our district's special education programs. My wife and I sat in meeting after meeting with teachers and principals and vice principals all in an effort of finding one thing – hope. Hope that our child, with autism, could somehow feel more comfortable in school and hope that at the next meeting we can talk about progress and success. It is undeniable how hard these special education teachers work, and they have an enormous amount of heart that is on display in their efforts each day. It is also undeniable that workloads for these teachers can become unreasonable and they need additional resources and staffing. If elected, I will be addressing this and bringing as much help and understanding as I possibly can.

It's also well known that our community is asking for transparency and better communication from the school district. The pandemic turned everyone's lives upside down, and as an unfortunate result, the communication between parents and teachers suffered some damage. This is of no fault to the teachers or parents. It's simply something that hasn't been addressed with the appropriate amount of drive required to remedy the situation. I feel very strongly about this. One idea I have is for schools to ask parents to volunteer more often and in some cases do so when volunteers aren't all that necessary. This will help parents feel welcomed into our schools. Another idea I have which relates more to transparency is to ask Marshfield's Police and Fire Departments to occasionally speak at public board meetings to update the community in person on how we're keeping their students safe in our schools. I am determined to bring parents and our school district back together, having a solid relationship and rebuilding a foundation of trust and appreciation and effective communication.



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## CRASH

from page 5

leading to a wooded area. The trailer, which was about a quarter full of milk, spun clockwise and came to rest on its side behind the cab of the semi. Liddicoat was pronounced dead at the scene by Clark County Coroner Clarissa Rochester.

After being struck by the semi, the van tipped onto its side, skidded east on the highway and started on fire with two occupants still inside. The only survivor, a 2-year-old child, was transported to the Marshfield Medical Center and was released to family members March 11, three days after the crash.

There were a total of nine people in the van at the time of the crash, seven of whom were ejected, including the lone survivor, Micah Schrock. The eight remaining

occupants were pronounced dead at the scene. They were identified as McCoy, the driver; Linda Byler, 44; Lydia Byler, 24; Orlah Schrock, 24; Ellen Schrock, 23; Delilah Schrock, 21; Suzanna Hertzler, 18; Judy Rose Schrock, 6 months old.

The Merrilan First Responders and Fire Department, Black River Falls Ambulance, Hatfield Fire Department and First Responders, Neillsville Area Ambulance and Fire Department, and Marshfield Fire Department Ambulance Service all responded to the scene, along with the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, Clark County Emergency Management and the Clark County Coroner's Office.

The crash scene was cleared approximately 12 hours after the collision occurred. This was the first accident with fatalities in Clark County in 2024.

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| CLASSIFIEDS |

Announcements7005

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Saturday 23rd 10-3  
Sunday 24th 10-1  
So many great treasures. Vintage dishes, glassware, brass décor, brass fire screen, vintage toys, trucks, vintage clothing, lots of vintage car items, hood ornaments, miniature cars, vintage cars, many lola memorabilia, vintage political pins, old belt buckles, mid century furniture, bar ware, filing cabinets, many books, albums, beautiful desk, antique clocks, hundreds of vintage car magazines, aquarium, snowblower, train set, bedroom sets lots of unique items and much more!  
See us on Facebook  
**EZ Estate Sales and Services**

Estate Sales7208

**JR's Estate Services**  
March 23 9:00-4:00  
March 24 10:00-2:00  
3640 Cleveland Ave., Plover, WI  
This sale located a few blocks from St. Bron's church offers a variety of pristine high quality items. Contemporary decor items including furniture, wall art and much more are found throughout the house and garage. Items include: Rattan furniture set, side tables, end tables, coffee tables, sideboards, drop leaf mahogany table, queen bed set, area rugs, table & floor lamps. Quality kitchen items including Pampered Chef and Oxo, cast iron cookware, unique glassware, various small appliances inc. Ninja Blender. Variety of quilting and craft items including quilts, rulers, cutting mats, fabric, thread, quilting books, batting remnants, unfinished projects, quilt racks. Sony under cabinet CD/radio, Brother Laser printer, Bissell Power Glide vacuum, Concealed carry purse, hand gun case with lock, Board games including Lord of the Rings versions and puzzles by quality brands like White Mountain. Outdoor benches and patio furniture pieces, women's Schwinn bike, silk floral decor for all seasons, other holiday items. Jewelry includes a Black Hills Gold ring as well as costume jewelry, sterling silver and cz. Clothing includes Land's End, North Face and Columbia, women's shoes size 9 and Air Force fatigues. Werner Multi-positional ladder, Weather Radio, Many hand tools, Milwaukee Impact Driver kit, storage totes, yard decor, planters, gardening items and so much more! We look forward to seeing you!  
**Special Notes:** Numbers will be handed out starting 30 minutes prior to the sale on Saturday only. For updates and photos follow our Facebook and Instagram page - JR's Estate Services.

Miscellaneous Sales7212

**DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL?**  
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Antiques and Collectibles7214

**Antique Show**  
Mar. 23-24, DC Everest HS  
2305 Jelinek, Weston (Wausau) (corner of Alderson & Jelinek)  
Sat 9-5; Sun 10-3; 50 Booths + Victrola Repair • 715-355-5144  
[antiqueshowsinwis.com](http://antiqueshowsinwis.com)

Antique Show7214

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Bargender named  
Abbotsford Lions Club  
Student of the Quarter

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**  
**ABBOTSFORD** --  
Abbotsford High School  
senior Blake Bargender  
has been named the  
Abbotsford Lions Club  
Student of the Quarter for  
the third quarter of the  
2023-24 school year.

Bargender carries  
a rigorous class  
schedule that includes  
World Literature and  
Composition, Psychology,  
Calculus, Food Science,  
Fish, Forestry and Wildlife,  
and Teacher Assistant. His  
co-curricular activities  
include National Honor  
Society, Mathletes, and  
Safe School Ambassadors.  
He is also a member of the  
football, basketball, and  
baseball teams.

Technology Education  
Instructor, Randall  
Pempek, highly  
recommended him for the  
Student of the Quarter  
award.

“Blake has taken a  
leadership role in Tech  
Ed; it is my pleasure to  
have him as my Teacher  
Assistant,” Pempek  
stated. “He excels with  
honors in all his classes,  
is the first to provide  
guidance to students, and  
is well respected by his  
peers. He has outstanding  
problem-solving skills  
and a terrific work ethic,  
taking on difficult projects  
to completion. He has a  
great mechanical aptitude  
and the ability to research  
and figure out complex  
software issues with Fab  
Lab software.”

Bargender's volunteer-  
ism attests to his belief  
in community service.  
He has been actively  
involved by helping with  
the Abbotsford Christmas  
Parade, Future Falcon  
Basketball Youth Camps,  
Abby Heat Baseball/  
Softball Youth Camps, and  
church-related events.



Bargender

When asked to identify  
an outstanding feature  
of the community, Blake  
stated, “I commend the  
Abbotsford community for  
the many caring people  
who are willing to give  
back to the community in  
any way they can. With  
previous advancements  
at the school and on the  
athletic fields, multiple  
donors have stepped up

to pay for those projects.  
Community members and  
groups also offer many  
local scholarships to help  
the next generation get  
good educations. Whenever  
there is a fundraiser  
or a charity event, this  
community gets involved.”

When asked to define  
a major world problem,  
Bargender responded,  
“The problem I would  
confront is world peace.  
War brings about many  
unnecessary deaths, holds  
the human race back  
from its full potential, and  
separates the world. Along  
with deaths, it causes losses  
of housing, food supply,  
and separation of families,

See **BARGENDER**  
page 13

I BUSINESS  
DIRECTORY I

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# Crews respond to Masonite fire

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**  
MARSHFIELD – The Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department was dispatched March 13 when a large mechanical press caught fire in the particle board press plant at Masonite Architectural, 1401 E. Fourth St.

Marshfield Fire and Rescue initially responded just before 10 a.m. with nine personnel to a report of a fire in the company's particle board plant. Investigation found a large particle board press was on fire. Additional manpower was requested. The fire sprinkler system was activated, containing the fire to the area of origin. Interior attack teams made entry and were able to extinguish the press fire. Fire extension



was found in the ductwork above the press and in the attic space the ductwork goes through. Due to the difficult access of these areas, a ladder truck was used to access the roof of the building. Fire suppression efforts were conducted through access hatches and making access holes in the roof. These

fires were extinguished with the use of hand lines and an integrated fire suppression system within the ductwork. Additional fire extension was found in a large enclosed piece of machinery directly adjacent to the press. This piece of machinery had large quantities of particle boards located within it. Three of the boards had to be cut and removed in order to fully extinguish that area.

A total of 17 fire personnel (14 MFRD members, 3 from Vesper Fire) responded throughout the duration of the incident. Crews were on the scene for 6.5 hours. The origin and cause of the fire is still under investigation.

One Masonite employee was treated and released on scene for smoke inhalation. No fire service personnel were injured.

The large press has significant fire damage. The roof of the building was damaged in order to gain access to the fire in the attic space. Minor damage was found on the adjacent piece of machinery. Large amounts of water from the sprinkler system and attack lines were still in the building upon completion of fire suppression efforts.

Investigators said the location of the multiple fires made it difficult to locate and extinguish them. Additionally, another fire response and two ambulance calls in the city – occurring at the same time – caused a shortage of manpower for the duration of the incident.

# Soup-er Bowl success

MARSHFIELD -- The Kansas City Chiefs might've won the Super Bowl, but the Marshfield community was the real winner.

In the week before the Super Bowl, over 2,000 canned goods were collected between Marshfield High School, Marshfield Middle School, and Lincoln and Madison elementary schools and donated to Soup or Socks Food Pantry. Top donors were the elementary schools, with Lincoln collecting 981 canned goods and Madison close behind with 898 collected.

This project was a joint effort between MHS FCCLA and Student Council and was initiated by Audrey Luedtke, Gage Schaefer, and Paige Schlagenhaft as part of their FCCLA Chapter Service Project. Due to their success, these members earned a silver award and will be competing at the state leadership conference in April.



# Forrest honored with Dean Strauss Leadership Award

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**  
WISCONSIN DELLS -- Brian Forrest, owner and manager of Maple Ridge Dairy, Stratford, was honored as the fourth recipient of the Dean Strauss Leadership Award on March 14, at the Professional Dairy Producers® (PDP) Business Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

Forrest's primary focuses at Maple Ridge are sustaining the farm, making each employee's life better and establishing an effective succession plan. Together with his team, staying true to these main objectives has earned the dairy recognition on state and national levels, including Focus on Energy's 2022 Energy Efficiency Excellence Award and platinum-level recognition in 2020 from the National Mastitis Council for the dairy's consistently-low Somatic Cell Count. Forrest was also named a 2021 Wisconsin Agriculturist Master Agriculturist.

Forrest serves as Board Chair of Dairy's Foundation, the only public-held national foundation that supports dairy education and initiatives across the entire dairy-industry food chain. He served on



Brian Forrest, Stratford, is the 2024 Dean Strauss Leadership Award recipient. The award recognizes those who exemplify visionary thinking and servant leadership in the dairy community and beyond.

Submitted photo

the Professional Dairy Producers® board of directors for six years, acting as treasurer for three years. He's an FFA alumnus and regularly supports the FFA and also serves his community in a number of other roles. A former collegiate wrestler, Forrest has been an anchor in youth wrestling. He helps on the sidelines and has been known to spend entire Saturdays at wrestling meets, assisting coaches and encouraging wrestlers. For their local

Chamber of Commerce, he and his wife Elaine decorate a Stratford park for the city's annual Christmas in the Park, a one-day event that includes Christmas lights, sleigh rides and other holiday festivities.

Outside the typical attributes that identify Forrest as a selfless leader, he's found himself in several circumstances most people never do. In

See **FORREST** page 14

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### SUMMIT

from page 8

lot of houses weren't built and that adds up over time and now availability's really limited. It's making it hard for employers to attract new workers to the area and that sort of thing, and it's also hard for empty-nesters to downsize. It's hard for first-timers to find their first home, so what do we do with all that?"

There is also a public participation component to Wessler's housing study. Residents are asked to complete a survey, and answers should reflect your current residence or most recent experiences with housing. The survey, which can be found under the Wood County Comprehensive Plan and Housing Study 2024 link at [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org), is specific to the general public who are seeking housing to own or rent.

"It's tricky when we're doing something at the county level and there's a variety of towns, cities, villages that have different situations going on," said Wessler. "For example, some employers might want more rental units available, but you can't really do a big apartment complex in a rural township where there's no water and sewer. Well and septic can only support a certain level [of] density. Conversely, some people like to live out in more of a rural environment and maybe single-family homes are more appropriate on larger lot sizes out there. At the end of the day though, the entire county's workforce benefits if anyone is adding units because every new unit is

something that will help shuffle the deck. If people move into newer housing, it frees up existing housing because the more affordable the housing unit is the harder it is to build brand new without subsidies or programs involved, and that makes things more complicated and less feasible, so it's kind of like a domino effect," Wessler explained. "If you provide enough middle- to higher-income housing, people move around and stuff gets freed up. Additionally, we have to think of ways... the more affordable stuff might be aging and it's not affordable when you consider all the repairs, so what is available for us to make sure that these houses don't continue to deteriorate and they remain livable."

Wessler says the housing market gets even more congested and competitive as more and more empty nesters and seniors who are living longer start to downsize and also start competing with first-time homebuyers over the same product, and that raises prices for everyone.

"Other things to consider – there might be a lot of people who want to move to Wood County who can't because there isn't enough availability," Wessler added. "We've been hearing that from a lot of the employers where their employees are driving half an hour, forty-five minutes just to come to work. That's demand we don't even know about. I mean, we want to meet the demand of the people who already live here, but there's other potential outsiders. Think of wildfires, hurricanes, places running out of water. Other places

in the country have gotten much more expensive than this part of the country, so at some point maybe some people will start moving back here if they grew up here or if they're closer to family here after they've done the Florida thing or the Arizona thing, and it's great to be prepared for the future in case we do see a surge of people move here from elsewhere."

The day-long event also included a state legislative panel featuring Senator Patrick Testin and Representatives Scott Krug and Donna Rozar. Realtors from both ends of the county gave their input, and the group was also given regional and state perspectives from Melinda Osterberg, Regional Economic Development Director with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and Rebecca Roberts, Land Use Specialist with UW-Stevens Point.

The summit was facilitated by Wood County Planning & Zoning Director Jason Grueneberg, Centergy, Inc. President/CEO Angel Laidlaw - President & CEO, Centergy, Inc., Kayleigh Mengel, Wood County Public Health Policy & Communication Coordinator and Kristie Egge, Supervisor of Strategic Initiatives, Wood County Health Department.

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### BARGENDER

from page 11

even affecting worldwide economy. Without war, countries could focus on research, medicine, lowering pollution, and building better futures for their citizens. People have wanted world peace for centuries, but the desires of some countries to try to reach world domination rather than peace has led us off the path and countries

separated. World peace would make the world a better, safer place to live in."

Blake currently works as a groundskeeper at Borealis Chiropractic/Wellness Clinic, umpire for Abby Heat baseball games, and with his family's fire wood business. After graduation, he plans to attend a Wisconsin university pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering.

He is the son of Ryan and Brooke Bargender of rural Abbotsford.



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# Campus Community Players to stage ‘Sister Act’

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**  
MARSHFIELD -- The Campus Community Players are taking us to church in their spring production of *Sister Act*.  
“This show feels completely right for our community,” said Andrew Spencer, Director. “Who doesn’t love *Sister Act*? There is no better way to enjoy this time of year than with this show about the joy of music and coming together.”

Talent abounds in *Sister Act*. UWSP-Marshfield student Halana Versey takes the lead as Deloris Van Cartier – the role originated by Whoopi Goldberg in the 1992 film – along with twenty-one other cast members who become the famous nuns, gangsters, and the residents of 1970s Philadelphia. Cast members range in age



Tracy Olson, as Mother Superior (left), and Halana Versey, as Deloris Van Cartier, rehearse for the upcoming production of “Sister Act” April 4-7 at UWSP at Marshfield.

**Submitted photo**

from 14 on up and include many talented community members from around the area.

“You’ll see cast from Greenwood, Pittsville, Auburndale, Stratford, and more. We have veterans of the stage and first-timers as well,” said Spencer. “We’ve

even snagged a legendary local choir director. With such a strong mix of talented people, it’s been a wonderful experience.”

Set in 1970s Philadelphia, *Sister Act* tells the story of nightclub singer Deloris Van Cartier who witnesses a murder and

takes shelter in a convent, disguised as a nun. While there she cannot help but bring her flair to the choir and changes the convent forever.

*Sister Act* tickets are available online right now at [tickets.uwsp.edu](https://tickets.uwsp.edu) for \$20, or at the Box Office one hour before the show. Advanced purchases are encouraged as the show is likely to sell out.

*Sister Act* is performed at the Helen Connor Laird Theater, 2000 W. Fifth St, Marshfield. The show has three evening performances and one matinee performance:

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m.

*Sister Act* is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.

## | SPORTS |

# Malovrh receives recognition

**BY GENE DELISIO**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARSHFIELD -- Former Columbus Dons basketball standout Nick Malovrh is receiving all-conference recognition from the North Star Athletic Association.

Nick is a senior on the men’s basketball team at Viterbo University in La Crosse, and is all-conference honorable mention in the NSAA.

Malovrh averaged eleven points, four rebounds, four assists and one steal per game for the V-Hawks this season. He also shot 46 percent from



Malovrh

three-point range, and led the NSAA in that category.

The Viterbo men’s basketball team, which is coached by Marshfield native Wayne Wagner, finished 12-16 this season.



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## FORREST from page 12

July 2019, he served as a living liver donor for his cousin Richard Gillete; the procedure involved a complex surgery and a 12-week recuperation. Some time after that, he served as a living donor again by donating a kidney to an anonymous recipient. He also rescued a dog out of a burning barn that he just happened to drive past, and though he didn’t know the owners he spent the entire day assisting. He further displayed his true character by helping a little boy at a county park who was swept under by the waves. Upon learning the boy’s father couldn’t swim, Forrest went in after the boy to help him back to shore.

“Ask anyone who knows Brian and they’ll tell you he’d give you the shirt off his back without blinking, as his track record clearly

shows,” said Shelly Mayer, Executive Director of PDP. “I’ve had the opportunity to work directly with Brian for several years and I can say firsthand that he is one of the most thoughtful, compassionate people one could ever hope to work with.”

Forrest and his wife Elaine have five children. Daughter Kylie lives in Milwaukee and is engaged to be married to her fiancé Aidan. Their son Max attends UW-La Crosse, and sons Brooks and Lucas are sophomores in high school. Their six-year-old daughter Violet is in kindergarten. The special love of Forrest’s life is his mother Virginia (“Ginny”). Because she has Alzheimer’s, the Forrests have agreed the best place for Ginny to reside is with them, so they can all be together.

The Dean Strauss Leadership Award was established by the PDP Board of Directors in 2021

in honor of Dean Strauss, a Wisconsin dairy farmer and industry leader who unexpectedly passed away in 2019 at the age of 48. The owner of Majestic Meadows Dairy, LLC, near Sheboygan Falls, Strauss was active in a number of dairy organizations and leadership boards, including PDP’s board, on which he served as president.

The 2024 PDP Business Conference was held by Professional Dairy Producers® (PDP) and occurred March 13-14 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Dairy producers gathered for professional development and networking with fellow producers and other industry professionals. PDP is a dairy-producer-led organization that provides educational programs and services to dairy producers and other industry professionals.

 **Vote April 2nd**

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