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FREE

Columbus captures first WIAA state title

Dons enjoy record-setting championship run

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MADISON – A dream come true. That's how members of the Columbus Dons boys' basketball team are describing their WIAA Div. 5 state championship. The Dons defeated the Challengers of Madison Abundant Life Christian, 81-75, on March 16 at the Kohl Center in Madison, to secure the school's first basketball championship as members of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.

"I'm very happy for our players, in particular the seniors who lost the sectional final two years ago, last year ran into (Wausau) Newman and lost a tough one, and then this year to be back here and to get a gold ball – dream come true," Head Coach Joe Konieczny said following the game.

Konieczny and his coaching staff guided nine seniors, a junior, three sophomores and three freshmen to a 29-2 record, including winning streaks of eight, fourteen and seven games, two non-conference losses

and a perfect first-place Eastern Cloverbelt mark of 14-0.

With sideline t-shirts that read “Family,” the irony for Coach K. was that he had his two sons along for the ride – senior starter Emmitt and sophomore sixth-man Mac.

"It's not something I ever dreamed would happen," an emotional Konieczny added. "I love the school I work at. I love high school basketball. I played for some coaches in high school, a guy named Andy Banasik and a guy named Kevin Orr, that made it so much fun. They just loved being in the gym and I really wanted to do that for the next generation. We are a state tournament family," Coach Konieczny added. "We're here every year just because we love high school basketball, and for the year that we finally break through to have a senior and a sophomore, and with what our family's been through with the car accident, um...I told the boys after the game I can't explain it. We're down seven in the sectional semis with seven minutes left. It's a tie game,



Head Coach Joe Konieczny (right) rallies his team as they come off the floor, after falling behind early in their WIAA Div. 5 championship game March 16 at the Kohl Center in Madison. The Dons endured a dozen lead changes to win the game, 81-75. **Kris Leonhardt photo**

See **TITLE** *page* 10

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A colorful banner for a 'Spring Fling' event at Schalow's Nursery Inc. The banner has a light green background with a black border. On the left, the Schalow's Nursery Inc. logo is in a white oval, with the phone number 715-591-3478 and website www.schalows.com below it. The address 8461 Heritage Drive, Marshfield, WI 54449 is at the bottom left. The central text 'Spring Fling' is in large, stylized letters. Below it, a pink box lists the event times: Saturday, April 6 (8:00 - 4:00) and Sunday, April 7 (9:00 - 3:00). Decorative elements include orange flowers with white centers containing 'Door Prizes', 'Wine Tastings', and 'FREE GIFT'. There are also black tulips, a small green bird, and a dashed line indicating a limit of 100 purchasers for the free gift.



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Remaining School Board candidates respond to questions

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

Part II of II
*Our intention was to run all six candidate responses together, but with breaking news, other timely articles and ads, we quickly ran out of space in last week's edition, and decided to divide them into two groups of three. All six candidates were given the same deadline and we received responses from all six prior to that deadline, and none of the remaining three candidates were given an opportunity to change or add to their responses in the past week.

MARSHFIELD – Seven individuals initially filed candidacy papers for three seats which are up for election this spring on the Marshfield School Board. 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 Frances Bohon and S.A.M. Steiner. Also running are challengers Nicole Forst, Steven Kizer, Richard Kranz and Karen Ott.

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

Karen Ott

Why have you chosen to run in this election?

As a lifelong Marshfield resident, I feel a sense of responsibility, one that I do not take lightly. I love this city. Marshfield has generously shaped my life. From having grown up here, attending superior schools here, raising my family here with my husband, and teaching in the classroom here for over 32 years, I have gained valuable insights that will

Ott

help me make informed decisions to support our district. Working with students and parents throughout my professional life has taught me to value collaboration and all that it can bring about. I am level-headed, compassionate, and willing to do the job this district needs me to do. My gratitude toward this community compels me to do what I can to assure our children and grandchildren can experience the same outstanding opportunities offered to all students over the years. Being a Marshfield native has primed me for the role of school board member. It's time for me to give back.

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

During my campaign, there have been three common topics:

Budget

I have heard residents speak about facility improvements and the budget quite a lot. How district leaders will move forward is weighing on community members' minds. I believe when determining needs regarding building safety, maintenance, and upgrades, the board should seek input from people who regularly spend time in the buildings: community members, building administrators,

maintenance and custodial personnel, teachers and building staff, parents, and students. To be fiscally responsible, the budget should reflect priorities—needs versus wants. The district should identify future needs and save for long-term projects, just as homeowners do. That said, when the district's needs are greater than what can be addressed within the budget, a sensible referendum must be considered to ensure safety and long-term viability of the buildings.

Communication

Another priority centers around communication and transparency. To begin, communication and transparency are two very different topics.

When people bring up problems with communication, the issues they are having are unique to their situation. How do I volunteer? When are parent/teacher conferences? What is the protocol for concerns? What is going on in the district? To improve communication, the district needs to regularly evaluate the tools used to distribute information to a diverse audience. When the community desires communication or information about any topic, they should be able to connect relatively quickly. Another component of communication is celebrating our successes. There is so much going on in our district of which to be proud, and yet people don't always know about the good. I have been in Marshfield schools and have witnessed the level of care and attention district employees and parents give. Whether a custodian, principal, student aide, teacher, or parent volunteer, there is a sense of pride in caring for and educating our kids. Consider all the volunteering that occurs. From parents working concessions, to teachers chaperoning events, to parents helping with solo and ensemble, or grandparents assisting in the classroom, this is a community that cares. I wish all residents could witness or hear about this positivity and feel proud seeing firsthand what is actually happening when good people come together

See CANDIDATES
page 11

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- Air Force
- Retired Marshfield Monument Employee
- Life member of American Legion Post 54
- Chairman of the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- Life member of VFW
- Member of the Community Development Board
- President of the Marshfield Area Community Center
- Chairman of the Aging Committee
- Chairman Board of Public Works



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Ham Cubed Mini Fully Cooked - Frozen 8 oz.....ONLY 69¢	Cheddar Cheese Sharp - Sliced 1.5 lbs.....ONLY \$2.99	Cheerio's Cereal Honey Vanilla 18.1 oz.....ONLY \$1.29
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School Board



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- Considers issues rationally and with common sense on behalf of ALL children/families.
- Will prioritize retaining and hiring the best teachers and staff.
- Poised, Respectful, Approachable community member.
- Dedicated life in education.
- Values fiscal responsibility to best manage YOUR tax dollars.
- Will collaborate with staff, parents and board members to arrive at the best decisions for ALL.
- Parent of three children who attended Stratford Public schools 4K - graduation.
- Inspired to serve the community with no hidden agenda.

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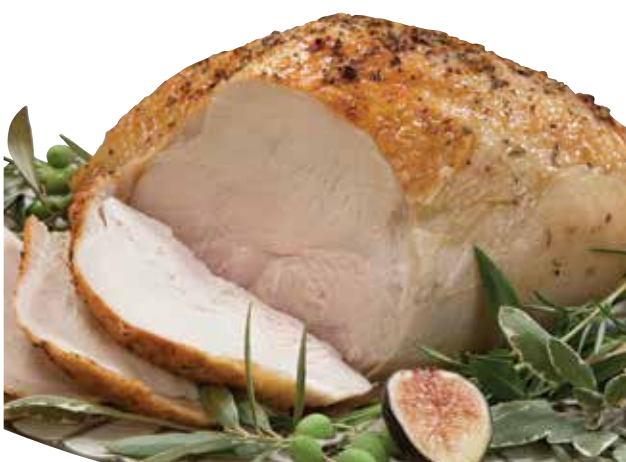
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DMV offers information on obtaining ID for voting

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MADISON -- Ahead of the Wisconsin Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote on Tuesday, April 2, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds voters how to obtain identification, free of charge, that is valid for voting.



Valid identification for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification card, military or student ID card, etc. There is no separate "voter ID." A federally-compliant REAL ID card is not required for voting purposes. Anyone unsure if their identification meets the requirements should visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission website to check.

To obtain identification to show at the polls, begin online. A list of the required documents to bring to a DMV Customer Service Center is available at wisconsindmv.gov. If the required documents needed for an ID are not readily available, DMV has a process to obtain the necessary information. This process, available free of charge, may be used to quickly obtain a receipt valid to take to the polls for voting while the remaining documents or verifications are obtained.

Anyone with questions related to obtaining an ID that can be used to vote should call DMV's toll-free hotline at (844) 588-1069. Questions regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, voter registration information or other election information can be directed to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov.

Start the application now at wisconsindmv.gov or at a local DMV Customer Service Center. To find a DMV, check hours, services and wait times, visit wisconsindmv.gov/centers.

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from page 4

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MARCH/APRIL

Events and special promotions happening locally this month!

To promote your May events on this page, contact Peggy Sue at 715-305-4345 or email marshfield@mmlocal.com

April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

OBSERVANCES

31st - Easter

1st - April Fool's Day

15th - Tax Day

22nd - Earth Day

24th - Administrative Professionals' Day

Featured Events

Marshfield PET EXPO

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

11:00am-3:00pm

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Spencer High School Gym 300 N. School St. Spencer, WI 54479

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March 30th, 2024

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- March 29, Good Friday service 5:30 pm.
- March 31, Easter Sunday service/ communion 7:00 am and 9:00 am.

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In the puzzle, find and circle the 21 words or phrases listed in the black boxes at the top of each participating merchants advertisement or artwork. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years or older to win. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2024.

Submit this entire word search to:

Word Search Marshfield Hub City Times 104 East 2nd Street Marshfield, WI 54449

Note: There will be a drop box outside our office door, or you can mail your entry.

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

COLBY HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWS



The Colby High School Social Studies Department offers ten classes between two teachers. The Colby High School Social Studies Department comprises Mike Sazama and Ben Bartelt. Mike has been a teacher with Colby for 9 years and has also been an advisor for Student Council and a coach for middle school football, high school football, and basketball. Ben has been a teacher with Colby for 8 years and has also been an advisor for Forensics and Educators Rising and a high school golf coach. Both of these teachers have been known to be the loudest in the hallways and some of the most interactive.



Students get to select a wide array of classes from the social studies department throughout their high school careers including the required classes of Civics, World History, and US History, but students can also take electives that include Current Events, Street Law, and Economics. If students want to get some college credits while in high school they may select AP US History, AP Psychology, Sociology DC, and Intro to Education. The social studies team tries to incorporate a lot of hands-on learning, performance-based learning, and higher-level thinking. Some of the reasons students take so many social studies classes are the projects and simulations they can look forward to.

Freshmen are required to take Civics while at Colby. In our Civics class, we strive to make learning about government engaging and interactive. Through a variety of hands-on projects and simulations, we bring the workings of government to life, allowing students to experience democracy in action. One exciting element of our class is when we invite a police officer to come in and share their insights with the students. This not only provides a real-world perspective on law enforcement but also gives students the opportunity to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the role police have in our society.

Sophomores are required to take World History while at Colby. Most students admit upon entering the class that history does not interest them much, so the material needs to be made exciting. Students can expect to design castles during their Middle Ages unit and then fight each other with their castles to see which castle is the strongest. They can also expect to be greeted randomly by their teacher dressed as a plague doctor or maybe even a knight to grab their attention. Students will also try to survive the Inquisition while in World History and survive the French Revolution as peasants as well. Students get to select how they want to showcase their learning at times through a choice of their own project so that they can best express how they effectively learned the material.

Juniors have a choice of either US History or AP US History. In these classes, we believe in making history come alive through engaging simulations and activities. Students participate in simulations like "speed dating" as historical figures, where they embody different personas and engage in lively discussions to understand perspectives from the past. Another popular activity is the interactive "moving west" simulation, where students experience the challenges and decisions faced by pioneers as they migrated across the country. Additionally, our WWI simulation allows students to step into the shoes of key figures during the Great War, gaining insight into the complexities of international conflict. Through role-playing exercises, students not only learn about history but also develop critical thinking and empathy skills as they immerse themselves in the events of the past.

Upper-class students get to select which elective social studies classes they want to take. If they want more hands-on learning they can take Street Law or Current Events. Street Law teaches students about laws they can encounter in everyday life. They will learn about how laws are made, the different kinds of criminal law, all the sides of civil law,



the laws dealing with housing and consumer law, and family law. Students can expect the unexpected in Street Law because at the end of the criminal law unit, students will be hit with an unexpected crime that has happened somewhere in the school and they must solve this case and then the mock trial begins! Students can also expect to showcase which sides are at fault during a tort trial and what marriage is really like from the law's perspective.

The other hands-on learning elective class is Current Events and this is strictly a projects-based class. The students get to decide what units they want to cover because the class is geared toward them and their lives. Students have in the past chosen topics such as conspiracy theories and how to decipher effective sources, doomsday and possible ways the world will change in the future, genocide and the stages to identifying a genocide, and cults and how people can be persuaded. This class changes every year because the world is constantly changing and students begin realizing how much is going on in the world around them.

Students can decide to take economics and learn about how our economy operates. There are many interactive simulations in the class where students get a chance to practice what they learn. Students need to create demand for an item and create an exciting infomercial for investors. Students will also get to see how someone suing a very large corporation can affect the economy while doing a dramatic re-enactment of what caused the lawsuit. One of the biggest things students can look forward to is the stock market game every Friday where students get to invest Bart bucks into certain companies based on scenarios. The class concludes with a life-size game of Monopoly.



The last three classes the department teaches are all college-level classes, just like AP US History, and students can receive college credit for taking them which include Sociology DC, AP Psychology, and Intro to Education. Sociology features competitions to reflect conflict theory and punishments that the teacher and various students face representing symbolic interactionism. Students also get to interact with what norms society faces and try and actively break a norm while being deviant and students try different foods from different cultures. Some of the fun AP Psychology events are deciding who would survive in certain situations while looking at moral stages, a dessert competition to look at hunger motivation, and pictures of ourselves throughout our lives to look at development. Students also get to choose a project at the end of the year to showcase what they learned from the rest of the year. In Intro to Education, students get to see what life would be like as a future educator and get to try and create lessons and fun activities of their very own.

Students have a lot of opportunities to take classes with the social studies department throughout their time at Colby High School. There is a wide variety of classes and each is different and unique in their way. There are many fun activities and hands-on learning that take place in these classrooms and what was mentioned was only a taste. There is a reason people try to make the "wall of fame" by taking all of the social studies classes offered and we hope it continues in the future.





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Color Tips to Make Your Home Exterior Pop

(StatePoint) Home exteriors make a first impression, setting the tone for neighbors, guests, and if a property is on the market --prospective home buyers. So how do you boost your curb appeal and make your exterior pop? According to those in the know, a lot of it has to do with color.

“Choosing deep, bold colors for your door or siding can provide eye-catching focal points and dramatically increase curb appeal,” says Jon Lapp, vinyl siding product manager at ProVia.

To help you make selections that work best for your home and vision, ProVia is offering the following insights:

Siding

Color and texture play significant roles in the overall look and style of a home, so consider pairing your vinyl siding with other materials, such as manufactured stone, decorative shake, or board and batten. Whether you go for soft earth tones or deep hues of primary colors, color retention technologies will maintain the look through the years. To that end, here are a few qualities to look for in your siding:

- UV protection: Think of it as sunscreen for your house. This layer of protection helps shield your siding from the destructive effects of the sun’s UV rays.
- Weather barrier shield: Anti-weathering materials on the siding’s surface can help ensure long-lasting color fidelity and low-maintenance freedom for your home’s exterior.
- Heat resistance: Heat-resistant inorganic pigments ensure exacting deep colors, reflect heat



from exterior walls, and deflect solar rays to reduce solar heat build-up and unsightly weathering.

- Anti-fade protection: A strong molecular chain, found in super polymer vinyl siding, is engineered for superior color retention.

“At first, it might be difficult to tell the difference between a good vinyl siding panel and an outstanding one. But over time, the true strength and quality of each panel will be revealed,” says Lapp.

It’s for this reason that ProVia’s entire lineup of super polymer vinyl siding is formulated with Tri-Pigment Reflective Technology, Color Keeper Anti-Fade Protection, Weather Barrier Shield and SPX-2000 UV Blocker. These components work together to combat fade and increase weather resistance.

The Entry Door

The entry door is an amazing place to make a color statement. However, if you buy an exterior replacement door and try to finish it yourself, achieving the flawless finish you’re hoping for is easier said than done. Then there’s the trim, and possibly sidelights and a transom that also need to be painted to match or coordinate with the door color.

From classic hues, such as rustic bronze or forest green, to trending colors like avocado or burnt orange, you can ensure a consistent, beautiful and lasting finish by having your manufacturer paint the door before it leaves the factory floor. Bonus: the color will also be under warranty. Look for a manufacturer that crafts custom doors, allowing you to choose different interior and exterior colors and other specifications tailored to your taste.

To get inspired for your home exterior project, visit provia.com. In addition to photo galleries of finished projects, the site’s home designer tools allow you to visualize how various elements will look on your home.

By selecting professional-quality exterior products, you can ensure long-lasting durability and a big boost in curb appeal.

Bring vitality to gardens in the shade with impatiens: Your new burst of living color!



(BPT) - Ready to fill your garden with striking colors this spring? Look to Beacon® Impatiens from PanAmerican Seed®, the gardener’s favorite versatile plant for partial to deep shade gardens.

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new colors - Lipstick and Pearl Island Mix - these exciting additions to the Beacon® Impatiens lineup promise to invigorate your garden with even more charm. Beacon® Impatiens is a fantastic option for any outdoor space, offering advantages for both beginner and seasoned gardeners.

Read on to learn how Beacon®

See COLOR page 8



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So, you want to build a retaining wall: 6 things to know before you start

(BPT) - When you want to enhance your outdoor living space, consider building with retaining wall units. Segmental retaining wall (SRW) units are the basic building blocks of landscaping, and you will save on design and labor costs when you do it yourself. Whether you want to level a slope, build a sitting wall or add a raised patio, it's essential to get informed before starting your project.

1. Check local rules. "Call 8-1-1 before you dig" is essential. Do-it-yourselfers also should check with their municipalities and homeowner's associations for building codes, permits and/or property variance rules. Some municipalities require permits for walls up to four feet tall, although engineering might not be needed for that height with most SRW systems. A retaining wall taller than four feet might require geogrid for soil reinforcement and an approved design by a professional engineer. A landscaping supply store will know local permitting and can identify plans that might require an engineer.

2. Consider where you will buy supplies. A landscaping supply store is a great place to get educated, purchase landscaping products and rent tools such as a compactor. A dedicated landscaping store can help you choose which wall system is best suited to your project, calculate the materials you will need and offer advice before, during and after installation.

"Do-it-yourself customers are the foundation of who we serve at Patio Town stores," said David Johnson, who manages one of Patio Town's three locations in St. Paul/Minneapolis. "We have a team that will listen to what customers are thinking of doing, and then offer solutions and options. Should customers decide a project is more than they want to do, we can refer them to our design-build division, Villa Landscapes."

3. Learn about retaining wall systems. Some systems are easier to install, and some require specialty pieces for corners, curves and steps. The VERSA-LOK Standard retaining wall system is easy to install, and no special pieces are needed to build features. VERSA-LOK Standard is a solid unit that is renowned for ease of installation as there are no voids in the unit to fill. Splitting the unit allows you to create curves, corners, columns, multi-angled corners, freestanding walls and steps.

4. Mark off, measure and photograph the project area. In addition to giving details about your project to your landscaping supplier, you might need advice to determine soil conditions or stormwater requirements. For example, clay soil retains water so it may need amendment, or the wall might require drainage pipes based on soil and other factors. You can discuss the content of your soil with landscaping store staff, who can offer ideas on remediation if needed.

5. It is all about the base. The base is the most important course. Retaining wall manufacturers and landscape suppliers can offer product-specific

details on how to excavate and prep the base. After excavating a trench for the base, the subsoil should be compacted before a few inches of gravel is added and compacted. Make sure the area is level before starting the base course, which should be embedded half of the block's height at a minimum. With solid units such as VERSA-LOK, there is no need for concrete footings as the base course serves as the foundation.

6. Finishing touches to consider. After each unit is placed and leveled, fill and compact the gravel placed behind the wall. Finish off your wall with capstone units that can be secured with adhesive; be sure your adhesive has elastic properties as modular walls are flexible so they can withstand freeze-thaw cycles.

Another important point to consider is the weather! Bad weather can hinder your installation. With a little planning, know-how and a trusted landscaping store that shares advice throughout your project, you can build successfully with retaining wall units.



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TITLE
from page 1

sectional final. We got down yesterday (state semifinal). We got down today 13-to-4. I really believe there's something bigger going on."

That "something bigger" led the Dons through arguably the toughest sectional in the state, which included seven of the top ten teams in Div. 5.

After holding on for three-point wins in each of their sectional contests against Royall and Cashton, Columbus faced a Solon Springs team in the state semifinal which had an identical 27-2 record to that point and an undefeated conference championship.

After the Dons built an early 12-5 lead against the Eagles, Solon Springs used a 12-3 run to grab a two-point lead midway through the first half.

The hot shooting hand of Cy Becker – with 17 first-half points – kept Columbus in the game, and Solon Springs led 36-32 at halftime.

A 9-2 run to start the second half vaulted the Dons back in front. Charlie Moore led the offensive surge with four early foul shots and the first of three three-pointers, followed by a reverse layup by Lucas Kreklau via an assist from Blake Jakobi.

A quick 5-0 Eagles run put Solon Springs back in front. An 11-4 Columbus run then put the Dons back in the lead, 52-47, with 10:39 remaining. That was followed by an 8-0 run by



Brothers in Arms -- Lucas Kreklau embraces Blake Jakobi (13) after the Columbus Dons clinched the WIAA Div. 5 state title March 16 at the Kohl Center in Madison. **Kris Leonhardt photo**

Solon Springs, which put the Eagles back in front, 55-52, with 7:33 left in regulation.

From that point, however, Columbus would use a 26-10 run to end the game.

After the Eagles grabbed a 58-54 lead, consecutive threes by Charlie Moore, Mac Konieczny and Emmitt Konieczny gave Columbus the lead for good.

That's when the Dons went into a stall and ran nearly two minutes off the clock before the Eagles started fouling. Ten straight free throws by Jakobi, Moore and Nate

Nemitz iced the game for Columbus.

The 78-65 victory for the Dons turned out to be the 400th win in the coaching career of Joe Konieczny.

"I thought our players handled the early game time (9:05 a.m.) really well," Coach K. told Hub City



Emmitt Konieczny (right) lines up one of the record-tying five three-pointers he knocked down against Madison-Abundant Life, in their WIAA Div. 5 title contest March 16 at the Kohl Center. Konieczny led the Dons in scoring with a game-high 31 points, which included a 10-for-10 performance from the free throw line. **Kris Leonhardt photo**

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Columbus outscored Solon Springs in the second half, 56-29.

"I thought we moved the ball better in the second half," Konieczny added.

The Dons broke a Div. 5 single-game record with 13 three-point field goals against the Eagles. In the process, Cy Becker of Columbus and Dylan Taggart of Solon Springs tied a single-game record with five 3's each, which they now shared with three other players.

Becker led the Dons with a season-high 24 points, including 17 in the first half.

"Phenomenal," Coach K. told us after the game. "He kept us in it. When they try to take certain guys away other guys have to step up, and he came to play. And honestly, as much as everybody is talking about his scoring, I thought his defense on (Isaiah) Kastern was the difference. The kid's a competitor, three-sport athlete and when you challenge him he's capable of really great things, and I'm very, very proud of Cy."

Charlie Moore added 15, all in the second half. Emmitt Konieczny scored 14 points and had four 3's. Jakobi and Kreklau each added eight, while Mac Konieczny scored seven.

As a team, Columbus went 17-for-19 from the free throw line, including 6-of-7 by Moore and 6-of-6 by Jakobi.

The Dons would continue that sharp shooting in the Div. 5 championship game the following day, versus Abundant Life Christian of Madison.

But after the Challengers jumped out to an early 13-4 lead, the Dons were going to need more than accurate free throw shooting if they were going to capture their first WIAA championship. Following a timeout with 12:41 remaining in the first half, Coach Konieczny made a key personnel move that may have saved the day. He took Lucas Kreklau out of the game and replaced him with Mac Konieczny.

"They started throwing in three-pointers from all over," Coach K. said after the game. "Mac is probably – him and Jakobi – are our best defenders when it comes to the perimeter, so I felt like we needed to get Mac on 2 (Jacob Koon) or 3 (Jonah Koon) so we could stay on shooters. 2 and 3 on film are so good at getting to the paint. Their three-point percentages weren't as high as 14 (Nolan Wallace) and 21 (Blayne Wall). Once

they made three or four, we went with Mac, went small, put Cy on 32 (Jimmitrius Davison) and really tried to get out on shooters," added Konieczny. "I thought we did a good job for the most part, but again, they were throwing in threes left and right in that first half and we were just trying to stay in the game."

Along with the personnel move, the Dons also switched from man-to-man defense to a 2-3 zone, which forced more outside shots by a team that was only averaging just over 30 percent from three-point range on the season.

Both changes sparked an 8-0 Columbus run. After Emmitt Konieczny was fouled on a three-point shot and made all three free throws, Cy Becker knocked down his sixth three-point of the tournament and Mac Konieczny scored on a picture-perfect fast-break layup off a touch pass from Blake Jakobi, who deflected a long pass from Emmitt Konieczny.

After a 3 by Wall, Columbus used a 9-0 run to grab a 21-16 lead with 8:10 left in the first half.

The game then became a three-point shooting contest for the next three minutes.

The Challengers hit three in a row before Charlie Moore knocked down his second from beyond the arc. Jonah Koon hit from downtown for Madison before Jakobi hit the first of his three for the Dons. Wallace then knocked down the last of his three first-half 3's to give ALC a four-point lead with 5:13 left.

Six lead changes over the final two minutes and 40 seconds of the first half would give Abundant Life Christian a 43-42 halftime lead.

The lead would change hands several more times in the opening minutes of the second half. The 12th – and final – lead change, however, came just two minutes and 14 seconds into the second half, just as Emmitt Konieczny was starting to put on a show, on high school basketball's biggest Wisconsin stage.

The Columbus senior scored the team's first 14 points of the second half, and gave the Dons the lead for good on a three-pointer with 15:46 left.

Moments later, after the Challengers fouled a three-point shooter for the fourth time in the game, Konieczny knocked down all three free throws. He then made a

See TITLE page 13

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CANDIDATES

from page 2

for the benefit of our kids. Our schools are a place of high expectations for learning, compassion for one another, and pride in a job well done, and that is what needs to be communicated.

When people discuss transparency, that word implies something is being dishonestly hidden. The fact is, confidentiality laws are in place to protect people, including students, and legally some information cannot be shared. The board is required to follow the law. Know that I will follow protocols and will view issues through the lens of someone who sincerely loves this community and who wants the best for our children and grandchildren.

Academic challenges
Finally, I understand there are a variety of perceptions surrounding academic performance in our district, and people wonder how I as a school board member will respond. Every school district relies heavily upon data to measure academic success. I would encourage administrators and staff to continue to carefully review our district's academic challenges to

determine our greatest priorities for academic improvement. Because a clear vision for district academic goals is crucial, I would promote and support the process for creating clear goals. Professional staff members use their expertise to consider how current practices may be improved, while administration provides targeted professional development and resources directly related to academic success. As a board member, my responsibility is to ensure there is time, attention, and collaborative effort dedicated to the process of continuing academic excellence.

Frances Bohon



Bohon

Why have you chosen to run in this election?
I have chosen to run in this election because I am committed to our students having the best education

possible to prepare them to be knowledgeable and productive citizens. I believe my extensive experience and background enable me to understand and model the values I want our students to have. To develop a strong knowledge base and study skills for lifelong learning, our students must be intellectually curious. They must be intellectually honest and have the integrity needed to be good citizens in their geographical communities and in the digital community. Good citizenship means treating others with respect, not

labeling or name calling, so that they can work well with others.
If it is important for me as a school board member to model these traits. I strive to listen to all with respect. I constantly learn by studying, gathering all information and "the rest of the story" so I can have accurate information. I lead by considering all the input and short- and long-term implications. I focus on the best interests of our students in my voting decisions so we continually improve what we can do to meet their needs.
I have five children and

seven grandchildren, with grandchildren currently at the high school, middle school and two of our elementary schools. I have also had foster children in our school district. I understand the wide range of student talents and needs. I understand the need to prepare students for an increasingly complex world in areas such as financial literacy, career-based learning, information technology, and with AP and dual credit courses.
I am a small business owner and have worked as an oncology nurse and civil litigation attorney.

With this background, I know patience and professionalism in working with others. I know that we accomplish more when we don't care who gets the credit. The best ideas usually come from our staff, with important input from students, families and our community. Our community members partner with us for learning opportunities and to provide facilities and equipment outside what we can do within revenue limits.

See CANDIDATES
page 14

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PAID POLITICAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Author supports Bohon, Ott, Steiner for school board

The upcoming school board election is very important. I'm asking for your vote to go to Frances Bohon, SAM Steiner, and Karen Ott. They are interested in education, not politics. If there is a concern about some school board members, please also give them credit for the good they have done. Our public schools have many wonderful programs going on. The present

school board may be thanked for those. Frances Bohon, SAM Steiner and Karen Ott will continue to solve issues that need to be solved and will keep our schools as the highly rated school district that it is.

Karen Stevens
Marshfield

TITLE from page 10

layup with 13:42 remaining.

"In the locker room, we were really just talking about our defense," Emmitt Konieczny said after the game. "They were making a lot of threes, so we just kind of changed up our defensive game plan and just talked about what was working for us down there and then what we had to do going forward to try to get that victory. We weren't really thinking about offense. We have a team that, if you move and you space, anybody can get hot at any time, and it just happened to be me that was open."

The game would then go scoreless for nearly three minutes, until Mac Konieczny made a layup with 10:52 left.

The teams then traded 4-0 runs before Charlie Moore and Emmitt Konieczny hit back-to-back 3's for Marshfield Columbus. Emmitt's would put him in the record books next to teammate Cy Becker and four others, with five in a Div. 5 game.

A 5-0 ALC run pulled the Challengers to within five with 2:44 remaining.

Moore then knocked down another big three-pointer for the Dons with 2:06 left in the game, giving Columbus an eight-point lead. A Cy Becker layup 30 seconds later pushed the lead to ten.

The Challengers kept coming. A Jacob Koon layup cut the Columbus lead back down to eight.

The two teams then traded a series of free throws before a Blayne Wall layup cut the Columbus lead to seven with 26 seconds left.

Moore knocked down a pair of free throws for the Dons before Jacob Koon scored a layup for Abundant Life Christian.

Emmitt Konieczny then took his turn knocking down a

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pair of foul shots.

A three-pointer by Jonah Koon of Madison ended the scoring. The Dons inbounded the ball and Emmitt Konieczny streaked down the floor with the ball as time expired.

"November 30th I was laying in a hospital bed in Neenah and I didn't know if I was going to play with my friends again," an emotional Emmitt Konieczny said after the win. "I didn't know if I was ever going to shoot a basketball again, and when you're a kid you dream of that stuff, and I just didn't know what was gonna go on and what the next steps were gonna be, but my family and my teammates were huge for me and this is just a dream come true to be able to hold a gold ball with them."

For the second time in 25 years, Columbus had defeated Madison Abundant Life Christian in a high school basketball championship. The Dons also beat the Challengers in 1999 to capture their third WISAA Div. 3 title, with a 38-35 victory. This year's championship also means Joe Konieczny has now won state titles as both a player and a head coach for Columbus. He was a member of the 1995-96 team that defeated Racine-Prairie, 69-58, for the school's first WISAA championship.

As for this year's tournament, Columbus Catholic set a new Div. 5 record for three-pointers over two games, with 27, shattering the previous record of 19 set by Racine Lutheran in 2012. The Dons made 27-of-57 from beyond the arc. They also set the single-game record twice – first by knocking down 13 threes against Solon Springs in the semifinal game, breaking the previous record of 10 set by Racine Lutheran in 2012 and tied by Wausau-Newman in 2023. The Dons went

out and broke their own record the very next day, connecting on 14-of-31 three pointers against Abundant Life Christian in the championship game.

The Dons also set a new benchmark for best free throw percentage, making 93 percent of their foul shots over two games, eclipsing the previous Div. 5 record of 83 percent established by McDonell Catholic in 2023. Columbus connected on 38-of-41 free throws in their two contests at the Kohl Center. Columbus and Abundant Life Christian also combined to establish a new Div. 5 record for best free throw percentage by two teams in a game, with 91 percent, surpassing the previous benchmark of 88 percent set by Barneveld and Shullsburg in 2017. The Dons fell one free throw shy of tying a tournament record for most foul shots made. That mark still belongs to Bangor, which knocked down 39 free throws over two games in 2018.

Columbus also established a new team record for most wins in a season, with 29. The previous record was 26, achieved with the state tournament team from 2018-19, when the Dons beat Bangor in the state semifinal before falling to Sheboygan-Lutheran in the title contest.

"From an athleticism and depth standpoint, I think it's maybe as good as any team we've had," Coach Konieczny said of this year's team back in early December, after they had played just a handful of games. "I don't know what the end result's going to be, but I'm hopeful that in twenty years they can look back and say this was a lot of fun and we did some pretty cool things," he added.

Indeed they did. Maybe there really is something bigger going on.

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CANDIDATES
from page 11

Lastly, I understand the value of the dollar. I'm the oldest of seven children, was a single parent after

running because I'm an independent thinker who can take a tough look at issues and make tough decisions. I care about all the students. I believe in family values, fiscal

what are district residents telling you are their top priorities they would like you to champion if they elect you?

Most residents want me to prioritize the focus on the students of Marshfield. They don't want decisions made on a political whim. This is something I find easy to champion in a nonpartisan board situation. Children and teens are in school to gain foundational knowledge, skills and character traits. Board members focused on that with good information and discussion will usually vote to accomplish that.

Our residents also want me to prioritize clear information. I certainly value our district website, Facebook page, community adult education opportunities, open houses, parent teacher conferences, newsletters, parent access to student grades on Skyward, PTO

and many other support and communication opportunities. Beyond that though, I am available for residents to contact me directly with questions or concerns. I may know the answer to a question or need to gather more information. Sometimes, they need to know the right person to speak to or the process for addressing the concern. In all situations, I will do my best to provide honest and straightforward information. Finally, I am always open to new avenues for effectively communicating clear information.

S.A.M. Steiner

Why have you chosen to run in this election?

I want every child in this world to be the best they can be, to discover their talents, and use their talents to make this world a better place. That happens when free, high-quality



Steiner

public education is given to every child. I love working at the district level to improve our schools so that every student in Marshfield can dream big and live their dream. Strong public schools are the foundation of strong communities. I have six years of experience on a school board. I have learned how to make positive changes in the district to benefit all of our students. Vote for experience on April 2.

As you've campaigned, what are district residents telling you are their top

priorities they would like you to champion if they elect you?

Academic performance, mental health, health education in our schools, improved facilities and better communication are the big issues on the minds of voters I talk to. Students' academic performance improves when many factors are in place. They need a sense of well-being and confidence; solid curricula; skilled and caring teachers; safe home/school environments. I work with the district team to improve all of those factors. Regarding student mental health, we have made counselling more accessible, offered parent education, and peer training. Our health curriculum is up for revision soon, with the advice from a citizens' advisory committee formed to study this topic. A reassessment of facilities needs is in progress now, with input from students, teachers and the community. Better communication is a priority. In years past, my suggestion for a Director of Communication did not make it out of committee. Now the time is right for making that change. Let's keep Marshfield Public School District strong. There is more work to do and I know how to do it.

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