

Ava Gardner: In a league of her own

BY MIKE WARREN EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – It's been said that to be the best, vou've got to beat the best. But to anyone who was watching the 100-pound Div. 1 championship match Feb. 24 near the end of the three-day WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison, it was clear very early on who the better wrestler was.

Marshfield High School junior Ava Gardner didn't just beat two-time defending state champion Brooke Corrigan of De Pere. She dominated the match from start to finish. winning 17-4.

"So it was probably like the last 10 seconds of the match and I was just on top just holding her down on her stomach, and as soon as the whistle blew, time just kind of froze and I got up and I just kind of looked in the stands and I looked around and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I just won state.' And it's still hard to comprehend," Gardner told Hub City Times, during our March 6 visit to the Marshfield High School wrestling room. "It means a lot to me, knowing that I just made history. My name's going to be up on the wall forever and that's insane, looking back at all the guys up there, and you don't think about it until you actually do it. It's really hard to comprehend, but it's such a great feeling knowing I've been up here every day working hard for it."

In becoming Marshfield's first-ever girls' wrestling champion, Gardner, 17, defeated the person who two years earlier had become Wisconsin's inaugural female champion. Corrigan defeated Karina Torres of Kenosha Indian Trail 7-5 to secure the first championship to kick off the 2022 tournament.

And on her way to a second straight state title in 2023, Corrigan won her first two matches with first-period pins to set up a showdown in the semifinals against Gardner. Corrigan pulled off a 7-5 decision, in what turned out to be her tightest match of the tournament.

And just like Corrigan before her, Gardner's toughest test in this year's state tournament also came in the semifinal round, where she held off Iszy Sonnentag of Cadot. 9-7.

Both Gardner and Corrigan had scored quick pinfalls in their opening-round matches. Ava then notched a technical fall win in the quarterfinals, beating Aini Anderson of Holmen, 15-0. After another quick pinfall in her round two match, Corrigan defeated Kylie Klum of Westby, 6-0



in their semifinal showdown, setting up a rematch with Gardner, this time with a state championship on the line.

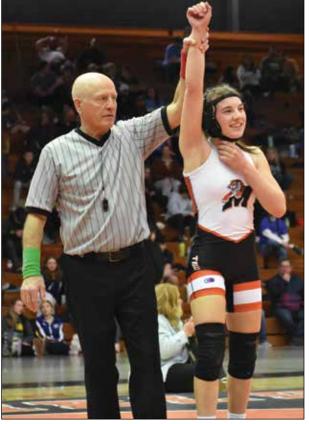
"This year, I took a lot of steps towards getting my technique down [and] how I wrestle," Ava told us. "Knowing that I lost to her last year, I especially tried to look at everything that I could've done better and what I needed to work on, so I think most of it was me trying to figure out my technique and my style, trying to figure out how I would wrestle and how I can beat them," she added. "And as soon as I figured that out, then I worked on my strength and I worked on just getting my conditioning up, and I think that definitely helped getting to the finals and beating her (Corrigan) by quite a bit."

Gardner said part of her championship run came from the confidence in knowing she had defeated several of the common opponents she and Corrigan had throughout the year, matchups which the defending state champ had lost.

Soon, Ava Gardner will find her name on the board that hangs above the mats in the Tiger wrestling room, which currently bears the names of the ten other Marshfield wrestlers who have won individual state championships. She is the school's first state wrestling champion in five years. Next year, Ava's goal is to successfully defend her title, and in the process become Marshfield's first back-toback champion since Brad Dolezal accomplished the feat in 2011.

Ava started wrestling in tournaments when she was in the fourth grade. She got serious about the sport during her freshman year.

See **GARDNER** page 2



Ava Gardner smiles as she gets her hand raised in victory, following her sectional championship win Feb. 17 at Marshfield High School. Scott Schlei photo





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DNR, Conservation Congress to host spring hearings

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MADISON -- The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invite the public to attend open houses on April 8 at 6 p.m. to learn about resource management through the annual Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearing process. Additionally, an online opportunity for public input will be available from noon on Wednesday, April 10 through noon on Saturday, April 13 (https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/ about/wcc/springhearing).

Wisconsin Conservation Congress and Wisconsin DNR Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings will take place April 8, 6-9 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

6-6:30 p.m. – Arrival/sign in; 6:30-7 p.m. – DNR staff presentations; 7 p.m. – Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegate elections; 7:30 p.m. – Review Spring Hearing questions and any introduced citizen resolutions

Area hearings include:

Wood County: Pittsville High School, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2, Pittsville Auditorium

Marathon County: D.C. Everest Junior High School, 9302 Schofield Ave, Schofield Auditorium

DNR staff and WCC delegates will be on hand at these open houses to discuss local issues of importance, answer questions from the public and open a dialogue between the public, the DNR and the WCC about areas of interest and concern.

The WCC will also hold their delegates' elections at each meeting. Two of the five WCC seats will be up for election in each county.

Finally, the public is invited to provide feedback on a variety of fish, wildlife and other natural resourcesrelated topics as part of the spring hearing process. The public is encouraged to provide input online from noon on April 10 through noon on April 13. For those who prefer to do so in person, a number of paper ballots will be available at each in-person meeting.

More information is available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing webpage.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is the only statutory body in the state where the public elects delegates to advise the Natural Resources Board and the DNR on responsibly managing natural resources for present and future generations. The Congress accomplishes this through open, impartial, broadranged actions. Learn more about the WCC and how to become involved in resource management decisions on the Wisconsin Conservation webpage (https://dnr. wisconsin.gov/about/wcc).



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Solar Eclipse viewing opportunity

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

CENTRAL WISCONSIN – Wisconsinites and many others will be treated to a partial or total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. On that day, the moon will cover much of the sun. The eclipse will begin at 12:52 p.m., reach its maximum at 2:05 p.m., and end at 3:19 p.m.

The solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. All 50 U.S. states (excluding most of Alaska) will have a chance to see at least a partial solar eclipse. In a narrow track across Mexico, the U.S. from Texas to Maine, and Canada from Ontario to Newfoundland, the Moon will completely cover the Sun's bright face, producing a spectacular total solar eclipse.

"The total eclipse will occur in the southeastern and eastern U.S.," says News 9 WAOW Chief Meteorologist Justin Loew. "In Wisconsin it will be about 50 percent, so a partial eclipse. The sky will get dimmer, but not as dark as Indianapolis, where it will be a total eclipse."

Visit https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/ for more information.

Instructions for the safe use of solar filters and viewers

Always inspect your solar filter before use; if scratched, punctured, torn, or otherwise damaged, discard it. Read and follow any instructions printed on or packaged with the filter. Always supervise children using solar filters.

If you normally wear eyeglasses, keep them on. Put your eclipse glasses on over them or hold your handheld viewer in front of them. Stand still and cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking at the bright Sun. After looking at the Sun, turn away and remove your filter – do not remove it while looking at the Sun.

Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially-eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device. Do not do so even while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer in front of your eyes – the concentrated solar rays could damage the filter and enter your eyes, causing serious injury.

"The sun gives off UV radiation that can damage the eye



On Monday, April 8, a partial solar eclipse will pass over central Wisconsin. A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely or partially blocking the face of the Sun. **Stock photo**

in many ways, the macula included," says Dr. Katie Bluhm, O.D., Joey's Optical, Marshfield. "This is the area in the back of the eye giving us our central vision, allowing us to see clear detail and specific colors. Normally when we look towards something that is uncomfortably bright, like the sun, our protective instinct is to quickly look away. The problem with looking directly at a solar eclipse is that some of the sun's light is blocked, so we don't get the same impulse, making it seem as if it's not a threat to our eyes. However, the longer you look at the sun no matter how much of the light is blocked, the more damage that can occur in the macula, leading to permanent changes to your vision like blurred vision and distortion."

Bluhm recommends using eye protection/glasses with the ISO 12312-2 standard.

Solar filters must be securely attached to the front of any telescope, binoculars, or camera lens. Seek expert advice from an astronomer before using a solar filter with a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device. Avoid homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses when viewing the eclipse. They won't provide adequate protection. Invest in certified eclipse glasses from reputable sources to enjoy the spectacle safely. Your eyes deserve the best care.

Marshfield firefighters respond to heavy smoke in apartment building

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- The Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department is using a recent incident as a reminder to never store anything on a stove, in an oven or in a broiler/ warming drawer.

Crews were summoned on the evening of March 15 to an oven fire in one of the units inside Laurel Gardens Apartments, 617

W. Laurel Ct.

Marshfield Fire and Rescue initially responded with nine personnel to a report of an oven fire with heavy black smoke filling the apartment. Upon arrival, the residents of the apartment complex were found standing outside. Crews were informed a fire extinguisher was used on the stove.

An interior attack crew made entry and found heavy smoke conditions in the first-floor hallway and in the apartment of origin. No active fire was found. Ventilation efforts were used to remove smoke and toxic gasses from the apartment complex. Once the atmosphere was clear all residents were allowed back in to their apartments. А total of eleven firefighters responded, with assistance from Police the Marshfield Department. MFRD was on scene for approximately 45 minutes. The origin of the fire was in the broiler drawer of a natural gas stove/oven unit. The cause of the fire was improperly stored plasticware in the

broiler drawer overheating. stove/oven The had significant damage and walls around the appliance were blackened. There was also heavy smoke damage in the apartment of origin and hallways. Fire safety officials are reminding us to always remain in the kitchen when cooking, and never leave cooking food or active cooking appliances unsupervised. More cooking safety tips can be found at https://www. nfpa.org/education-andresearch/home-fire-safety/ cooking.

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The Events Calendar will run **Wednesday, May 1st** and include the events for May 1st thru May 31st. **Deadline for May Events is Friday, April 26th at 10:00 am**



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GARDNER from page 1

"I was so nervous going out for the team because I was going to be the only girl up there, and it was just such a big thing. You're in high school now, so it's such a big deal. You're the only girl up there in an entire room of guys," Gardner recalled. "But then I got used to it and it was definitely one of my best decisions I've made. I was really on the fence about going out freshman year, but it's really turned into a great opportunity for me."

During her freshman year, Ava wrestled mostly boys, and was on the team when they went to Regionals, where she suffered an injury in her first match.

The following season, Gardner participated in more girls' tournaments as a sophomore.

"Still wrestled a lot with the boys, and I give them a lot of credit because if I didn't wrestle the guys up here, I definitely would not be nearly as good as I am now," said Gardner. Beyond high school, Gardner is not sure where the sport might take her.

"College for girls is freestyle and I'm much better at folkstyle, but I'm hoping to get better at freestyle throughout the summer, get to a couple tournaments, get better at it, so then maybe I have a chance at going to college, get a scholarship, go to college and wrestle."

In the meantime, Ava is hoping she can use her success to grow the sport of girls' wrestling at the middle and high school levels.

"They just have to take that chance, take that leap of faith almost, and just try it, even if they try it and they don't like it. Freshman year, my dad told me, 'If you don't take this, this is going to be your biggest regret ever.' So I think, even if you don't think you want to do it or you're too scared, you've got to just take that leap of faith and just be like, 'I'm just going to try it. I'm going to start going to practices. I'm just going to see how I feel about it.' Whether that is something that you end up sticking with or not, it's still a great experience for you to have at least tried."



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|OBITUARIES|



TERESA M. LANNING Teresa M. Lanning, age 60, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2024, at the Marshfield Medical Center.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Marshfield. The Rev. Dan Thelen will officiate Visitation will be at the church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of Mass. Music will be provided by organist Cindy Penker and

the St. John the Baptist Choir. Burial will be at a later date at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Auburndale. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home is as sisting the family.

Teresa was born on Aug. 28, 1963, in Benton Harbor Michigan, to Donald and Mary (Seubert) Lanning. She graduated from Kalamazoo, Michigan, public school system. She enjoyed many TV programs and also loved reading her

books of history, movie entertainment, Norman Rockwell calendars and collectables - and also her cat, Jessie.

Teresa is survived by her mom of Marshfield; and sister, Laurie of Tennessee; two half-sisters, Marie and Donna of California. She was predeceased by her father, Donald; and grandparents.

The family would like to thank all the doctors and nurses at Family Health Services and Marshfield Medical Center for all their special care.

ADAM ZINTHEFER

Adam Zinthefer, 38, of Marshfield, passed away on March 26, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center assisted the family.

BETTY PETERSEN

Betty Petersen, 92, of Marshfield, passed away on March 23, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.

JAMES R. KIEFFER

James R. Kieffer, 81, of Marshfield, passed away on March 22, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family

JAMIE (Palmquist) PICHLA

Jamie (Palmquist) Pichla, 38, of Marshfield, passed away on March 22, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.



DAWN L. WEISTER Dawn L. Weister 1955-2024, age 68, of Marshfield, passed away on Thursday, March 21, 2024 with her husband by her side at Marshfield Medical Center. Funeral Services will be held

at 11 AM on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Life Tributes Funeral Home in Spencer She will be laid to rest in Ab-botsford Public Cemetery near her mother. Family and friends are invited to gather on Wednesday at the funeral home

from 10 AM until time of services. Rev. Mark Krueger will officiate.

Dawn was born on May 26, 1955, in Marshfield; the daugh-ter of Cyril R. and Lucille "Marie" (Vail) Gabel. She at-tended Marshfield Schools and later attended Mid-State Technical College in Marshfield to receive a technical diploma for medical transcription. Over the years, she worked at Figi's in Marshfield as a key punch operator, then running Dawn's Rendezvous Club Bar before being employed by Wisco Co-Op in Marshfield for 18 years.

On July 5, 1978, she married the love of her life, Henry G Weister, in Loveland, Colorado. They were together for 4' wonderful years.

Dawn was a down to earth, carefree person who loved to ride her motorcycle, going on long rides and camping. She was on the Marshfield Women's Pool League where she earned many trophies for her skill and precision in the game of billiards. She also enjoyed many trips to try her luck at the casino. With skillful hands, she enjoyed knitting and crocheting wonderful pieces.

Those who will lovingly cherish her memory include her husband, Henry Weister; her son, Brandy King; her grand-daughters, Hannah (her significant other, Richie) and Rachel; her great-grandchildren: Norah, Nolan, Nash and Raya "Sonny"; her father, Cyril Gabel of Marshfield; and her siblings, Rick Wicks of Loveland, CO, Dennis (Ann) Gabel of Marshfield, Debra (Bud) Mathews of Chiefland, FL and Mike (Pricilla) Gabel of Chiefland, FL. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives, many dear friends and her faithful canine companions, Buddy and Tuffy.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Marie King; her stepfather, Larry King; a brother, Randy Wicks and a sister Sandra Statz.

The family extends their appreciation and special thanks to Roger and Lenise Johnston, the nurses and staff and Marsh-field Medical Center ICU Department and members of the Marshfield Fire Department and all those who cared for Dawn.

Dawn's arrangements are under the care of Life Tributes Fu-neral Home-Spencer. To share a memory or offer condo-lences, please visit www.lifetributesfuneralhome.com.

AGNES ANDERSON

Buyers' Guide

Marketplace Connection for Marshfield

Agnes Anderson, 94, of Marshfield, passed away on March 17, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center assisted the family locally.

Tiffany announces April Telephone Town Hall

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) has announced he will be hosting a telephone town hall on Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. to discuss solutions to the border and fentanyl crisis.

'Telephone town halls provide an excellent chance to pose any questions you may have conveniently from your own home," said Congressman Tiffany. "Last May, House Republicans passed the strongest border security bill in our nation's history, and I look forward to hearing

from you as we discuss solutions to help curb the flow of illegal immigration and illicit drugs pouring over our borders." Constituents

in Wisconsin's Seventh

PUBLISHER'S LETTER The Bygone

Dear Reader,

As I stroll down memory lane, I am enveloped in a wistful

nostalgia for the bygone days. Those were the days when our hearts brimmed with youthful exuberance, and our friendships were pure, untouched by the transactional nature of today's world. We were united not by wealth or status, but by the simple joy of being together. In those days, we were all



just scraping by, but our spirits were rich with hope and optimism. We didn't need material possessions to define our worth; our worth was measured by the depth of our connections and the richness of our relationships.

Looking back now, with the wisdom of hindsight, there are few regrets. We realize that those fleeting moments of laughter and camaraderie were the true treasures of our youth. We yearn for the days when time seemed to stand still, when the future stretched out before us like an endless road, full of promise and possibility.

But alas, nothing lasts forever. Life moves on, carrying us along with it, and the innocence of youth slips away, leaving behind only memories and echoes of the past. Yet, amidst the bittersweet longing for what once was, there remains a glimmer – a hope that we can still find gladness and possibly elation in the moments that lie ahead.

So let us savor each day as it comes, holding onto the memories of the past while embracing the beauties of the future. For in the end, it is not the wealth we amass or the possessions we acquire that truly matter, but the love we share and the memories we create along the way.

PATRICK J. WOOD -Publisher

now

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



Rozar participates in bill signings

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MADISON -- Governor Tony Evers on March 22 signed multiple bills into law authored, co-authored,

and co-sponsored by Rep. Donna Rozar (R-Marshfield).

Senate Bill (SB) 261/Assembly Bill (AB) 241, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 190, increases protections for 16- and 17-yearolds utilizing tanning facilities and was authored by Rep. Rozar and Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Neenah). The Governor also signed into law AB 954/SB 900 as 2023 Wisconsin Act 214 and SB 447/AB 450 as 2023 Wisconsin Act 193. Both bills were co-authored by Rozar.

"First, I want to thank my legislative colleagues and the Wisconsin Dermatological Society for their support of Act 190," said Rozar. "This law provides parents another



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Marshfield 150 for 150: Michael Joseph Feirer

NOMINATED BY HIS SONS, SHAWN AND SHANE FEIRER, AND SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL D. MEYERS

Volunteers contribute greatly to services, programs, organizations and facilities in our community, and we tend to take them for granted. We are very fortunate in the Marshfield area to have several of these giving persons in our midst.

One such person is Michael J. Feirer, a lifelong resident, a veteran, and a public servant, born with a giving spirit and instrumental in making things happen in the many organizations to which he belongs.

Michael was born in Marshfield on March 28, 1949 to James and Marie Feirer. He attended St. John's Catholic Church and school. He graduated from Columbus High School in 1968. In anticipation of being drafted into the military during the Vietnam War era, Mike enlisted in the United States Air Force in April, 1969, and reported for training at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Mike Feirer and Kathy Carlson were married in Marshfield Oct. 4, 1969, and moved to George AFB, California. In May 1971, Mike was deployed to southeast Asia for one year, stationed in Udorn, Thialand, at the rank of Staff Sergeant, serving as a weapons technician, loading munitions on aircraft destined for massive U.S. bombing strikes in North Vietnam. Mike was later stationed at Ellsworth AFB at Rapids City, South Dakota for the balance of his military commitment.

Mike was employed much of his life at Marshfield Monument, performing many tasks, including utilizing his talent as a skilled freehand artist.

In 1975, at age 26, Mike began a lifelong dedication of his time and talents serving area military service veterans: Lesselyong-Sadowska-Kesler-Martin-Altmann Marshfield American Legion Post 54; and Mueller-Hintz Post 1866 Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Mike was elected Post 54 Commander in 1978, the first Vietnam veteran to hold the post; and Wood County Commander, which he held for three years. In 1985, Mike was elected 8th District Commander of the Wisconsin American Legion, again the first Vietnam veteran to do so.

Mike attended the annual Legion State Convention in July 1987 and, in a race with four others interested in the post, was elected to serve as the esteemed State Vice-Commander.

Feirer was a candidate for the post of state commander of the Wisconsin American Legion at the state convention in Eau Claire in July 1988. Despite the statewide support he garnered, however, his bid was unsuccessful. Mike was again elected Post 54 Commander in 1990.

Michael J. Feirer was honored by his friends and comrades as the Marshfield "Veteran of the Year" at a banquet held at the Post 54 clubrooms Nov. 11, 1994.

"Peace and serenity – I think that's what we were looking for here," Feirer reflected, prior to the dedication ceremony which took place on Memorial Day, May 28, 1995. Mike had been a key figure in the development of the new Veterans Field of Honor. The first phase established the new dedicated military cemetery consisting of 400 burial sites. As the cemetery took shape, Mike drew the plans for the memorial project, constructed of native Wisconsin Ruby Red granite.

In 1996, Mike and his wife Kathy introduced the 1st annual Christmas Friendship Dinner at the Legion clubhouse. This annual event consistently attracted 300-plus people. The tradition continued until 2022 when Mike, favoring a chance to gather with his own family, offered his services to another tradition instead, an annual Thanksgiving dinner.

The annual Children's Easter Party has been held each year since the 1980s. Peter Cottontail joins kids aged 2nd grade or younger for games and activities, especially the popular Easter egg hunt. About 150 people participate, and the kid's menu includes hot dogs, chips and desserts.

Each year, Mike Feirer coordinates the placement of American flags at the graves of Veterans in Hillside Cemetery for Memorial Day. Volunteers place a flag at each of the 2,000 graves. Mike also commissioned a computer map identifying each veteran grave, making it easy to locate them.

Each year, the Wisconsin American Legion plays host to Badger Boys State, open to 940 high school juniors, ages 16 to 18 from throughout the state. Each individual participates in a week-long exercise of practical citizenship training. Over 100 volunteers are needed to support the program, and Mike Feirer has been specifically recognized many times for his volunteer contributions each year.

Mike Feirer first ran for 1st District alderman on the city council in 2000. He defeated 12-year veteran Ernest Raschke by five votes. Mike has served on the council continuously since then, and has contributed greatly to a number of very important projects.

In 2006, Mike was elected to the Wood

County Board of Supervisors as well. He served in many capacities dealing with social services, traffic and safety, and programs for aging residents. As a member of the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center), the group formed a multi-county cooperative agreement involving several surrounding counties. Mike served a total of 16 years on the Wood County Board.

In 2001, Mike Feirer asked his fellow city officials to consider naming the newlyconstructed boulevard. Various titles were suggested, but Mike's suggestion of Veterans Parkway prevailed.

Shirley Mook asked Mike to help develop a history museum to support local veterans. In 2010, Mike began painting scenery backdrops for various displays; carved and molded hands on the mannequins to hold rifles depicting war scenes; and even carved the military rifles themselves to replicate those depicted in the displays. Mike Feirer and other volunteers eventually moved the collection into the lower level of the 2nd Street Community Center in late 2014. The original displays were expanded and many more added. No longer strictly a military museum, visitors are now exposed to numerous historical stories from Marshfield's past.

In 2012, construction on the Fallen Warriors Memorial located along East First Street recognizes those from Marshfield who have fought and died as a member of the military service. Highlights include paving bricks; utilizing murals and flags to recognize each branch of the military and MIA/POW; and the area is lighted at night. The memorial features six granite slabs with 139 names of local soldiers who have died, from the Spanish-American War to Afghanistan: a 16-inch naval battleship and 50-mm shell; a replica six-to-eight-foot ship anchor; and a combat medic memorial. Organizers are attempting to locate a military howitzer for the memorial.

See **FEIRER** page 11







A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

WWW Tractor Club



to this event, and the business names are printed on the back of the tractor day shirt each year. Design Monkey creates the t-shirt design and sells the shirts through their online store.

Besides having businesses donate to this event, we also run a brat fry each year. We have been very fortunate to partner with Smith Brothers, who provide the meat and

BY STEVE VAN WYHE

The Auburndale School District is proud of their local farms. It is not uncommon to see tractors driving on the local roads. With many students living on farms, or employed at local farms, it is not surprising to see that students are proud to show off their tractors. This pride started the "Drive Your Tractor to School Day" sixteen years ago. The event has grown from year to year.

While many people may look at the event as a neat way to show off community pride, the event is much bigger than that. This event has been a community fundraiser that raises money for a family in need in the community. This event has raised up to \$20,000 for families in the past due to a supportive community and a dedicated "Tractor Club."

The "Tractor Club" is composed of volunteer high school students who want to see this event continue, and to make a difference in the lives of others. As the advisor, I have the opportunity to see these students make phone calls, create fliers, conduct a brat fry, and coordinate the parade each year. It is neat to

see high school students pass off the responsibilities from one group of students to the next. This year we are graduating two seniors, Regynn Lau and Abby Becker, who have been instrumental in running this event over the past four years.

We have been planning since December, and our first goal was to identify a family we

could support. There were many families to consider, but the "Tractor Club" selected Cooper Resech and family for this year's proceeds. Please visit the Auburndale School District Facebook page to find out more about the family. If you would like to donate to the event, please send a donation to the Auburndale School District attn: Tractor Day. We will be handing a check to the family on Tractor Day on April 19th.



The Resech Family with the Tractor Club and other volunteers at the Brat Fry on March 28, 2024.

grills. Their delicious brats and generosity go in hand-in-hand and are so appreciated!. We held this year's brat fry on March 28th and sold around 1,000 brats!

Our next event is the Tractor Day Parade on Friday, April 19th. If you are interested in seeing the tractors make a "Loop for Coop" be sure to visit Auburndale that morning. Thank you to all those who have supported Tractor Day!

We have had many businesses donate

Bringing Together Community Members and Students

To build relationships between students and community members, the Community Connections Coffee Clutch continues to serve as a beacon of unity and camaraderie. Hosted on the first and third Wednesday of every month (when school is in session), this event has become a staple for locals eager to engage with students and stay updated on district affairs.

Initiated by the Leadership Class in December 2018, the Coffee Clutch has since blossomed into a cherished tradition, offering a platform for fruitful interaction and mutual understanding. With its humble beginnings, the gathering has grown exponentially, now boasting a regular attendance of over 30 individuals who enjoy the opportunity to connect and converse. At each session, attendees are treated to informative talks by school-affiliated speakers or groups, shedding light on various aspects of school life, upcoming events, and district achievements. This exchange of knowledge not only informs but also enriches the bond

between students and community members.

As Auburndale High School continues to uphold its commitment to community engagement, the Community Connections Coffee Clutch stands as a shining example of collaboration and unity. With every cup of coffee shared and every conversation exchanged, bonds are strengthened, and horizons expanded.

Join us at Auburndale High School in Tim Anderson Lobby on the first and third Wednesday of the month, from 8:00 to 9:15 am, and be a part of this remarkable journey of connection and community.









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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

PITTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL NEWS



Winter Sports Wrap-Up

BY MARK DENNISTON Athletic Director

The 2023-24 winter sports season was a successful one for PHS. The girls basketball team finished with a record of 24-5, tying the school record for most wins in a season by a girls basketball team. They also advanced to the sectional final, the first time a PHS girls basketball team has made it to sectionals since 2010. The boys basketball team finished with a record of 14-11 and showed great resilience throughout the season. The wrestling team was able to advance several wrestlers to sectional competition, despite having to overcome numerous injuries during the season. Overall, it was a fine season for PHS athletics,



Annual Greenhouse Sale

Light Up the Pit



BY LINDSAY MEISSNER

Photo courtesy of Lindsay Meissner

It's that time of year again! Spring time means the PHS Greenhouse students are preparing for the annual spring plant sale. They learned about horticulture and greenhouse management and are now growing and caring for a wide variety of beautiful plants. Hours of operation are from 8:00-3:30 pm, Monday-Friday starting April 29th. Please email Ms. Meissner at meisslin@pittsville.k12.wi.us if these times do not work for you. The sale will run until May 24th. The class thanks you in advance for your support! Plant list: Mixed Annual Baskets, Coleus, Spikes, Rubrum Grass, Begonias, Impatiens, Petunias, Bacons, Calibrachoa, Bidens, Verbena, Geraniums, Sweet Potato Vines, Mixed Annuals.



BY JUSTIN RAYBURN

Baseball has always been a big part of the Pittsville community. Recently, the field that Pittsville baseball calls home has a new and improved look. Through generous donations, a driven committee, and many helping hands, Riverside Park's newly named Michael Jankowski Field has many upgrades. Some of the biggest improvements include a 126 seat stadium-style viewing area, lights, new dugouts, and a new backstop. What makes all of this even more impressive is the number of current and former Pittsville students that played a role in the whole project. During the construction process, the majority of volunteers were people who played or currently play on this very field. Whether they built the structures, created signs, dug holes, formed concrete, or helped in any way, these current and former Panthers will be able to forever say "I built that."

Pittsville Students Headed to Guatemala & Belize

BY ALIX MADDEN Spanish Teacher

On June, 27 Pittsville students will be boarding a plane to Guatemala. Here are the Top 5 reasons they are going to have an awesome experience! Volunteering. It might surprise you to know, past students have often cited the day we spent volunteering with local children as the best day of the trip. Why?! It's magical realizing kids are just kids, no matter where they are in the world. Homestays. Students will be spending four nights with a family in Antigua, Guatemala. They will learn so much about Guatemalan culture from their host families. Roasting marshmallows over lava. We'll be hiking up an active volcano, and roasting marshmallows under the hot rocks from cooling lava flows. Mayan Ruins. We'll be spending the day exploring Tikal, an ancient Mayan city abandoned in the 10th century. Tikal is one of the most notable Mayan archaeological sites in the world. It boasts around 4,000 structures, of which only 10% have been excavated so far. It's truly an amazing



Quiz Bowl

BY TRACY DINKMEYER

The Pittsville Quiz Bowl had an extremely successful sophomore season, after its recent reboot. The A team won a number of games both at home, and on the road. The B team came in second place in the Southern Division. The Quiz Bowl team has a number of members that will be returning next year, and we will be aiming to claim the title-if you are a Pittsville student, and love trivia, consider joining us!

Educators Rising - A New Opportunity!

BY TRACY DINKMEYER

Pittsville started an Educators Rising club this school year using a generous startup grant from the Harju Center for

Equity in Education at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Students have met with advisers and teachers in the content area/grade levels they plan to go into to explore career path options. A number of students also attended a recent conference at the college, where they were able to participate in sessions related to their future calling as educators. In a time when the number of students entering the field of education is at historic lows, Pittsville is very proud of its half dozen students that plan to go into the profession!



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site, set in the jungles of Guatemala. Canoeing through a cave system. After leaving Tikal, we'll take a bus ride into Belize for the last days of the trip. We'll be canoeing through a cave system, where we'll get to see colorful formations, ancient skeletal remains, and other cultural artifacts left behind by the Maya.



SPORTS



Loyal's Stephen Buchanan, competing at the NCAA Div. I Nationals March 21-23 in Kansas **Courtesy of OU Athletics** Citv. MO.

Loyal's Buchanan finishes strong at Nationals

Check us out online! www.hubcitytimes.com

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Stephen Buchanan of Loyal, wrestling for Oklahoma University, earned third place in the nation at 197 pounds March 21-23, during the NCAA Division I Championships at Kansas City. Stephen won his first two matches March 21, then lost his quarterfinal match March 22 to top seed Aaron Brooks of Penn State, by pin at 2:45.

In his first consolation round match, Stephen used two key escapes to beat John Poznanski of Rutgers in a tie-breaker, 2-1. With his victory, Buchanan secured All-America honors for the third time in his career as one of the final eight wrestlers left in his weight class. He also becomes the 278th wrestler in OU history to achieve the feat, and first since Jake Woodley accomplished it in 2021.

The Wyoming transfer added another win on the night, knocking off Lehigh's No. 4 Michael Beard in a 12-1 major decision. Buchanan used three takedowns, a pair of escapes and riding time to secure the win in dominant fashion.

In the consolation semi-finals March 23,

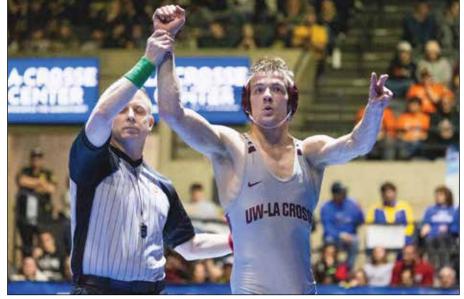
Buchanan began the early session in the consolation semifinals, where he knocked off this season's Big 12 Champion, Tanner Sloan of South Dakota State, by decision, 6-2. In the third-place bout, Buchanan cruised to a 9-4 win over Cornell's No. 5 Jason Cardenas to solidify a high spot on the podium. Additionally, Buchanan became OU's highest NCAA finisher since Cody Brewer, who also took third place in 2016

"It's been a journey this year battling through injuries," Buchanan said. "And then coming back this morning (March 23) on a quick turnaround knowing you have two hard matches, it's gutsy but it builds you. Just being able to win those matches meant the world to me."

Stephen ends his senior season 30-3.

Buchanan was a two-time state high school champion in 2018 and 2019, wrestling for Neillsville/Greenwood/ Loyal. He posted a high school record of 184-16 in four seasons and was named allconference all four years. Born in Owen, he is the son of Stephen and Kerline Buchanan.





Marshfield's Nolan Hertel, after winning his second NCAA collegiate wrestling title. Hertel is 123-13 in his UWL career. He also improved to 12-2 in the NCAA III Championships.

BY GENE DELISIO CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARSHFIELD Two former Marshfield High School wrestlers are NCAA champions.

The NCAA Division III wrestling championships were held March 15-16 in La Crosse, and both Bentley Schwanebeck-Osterman and Nolan Hertel won national titles.

Bentley, who wrestles for Augsburg of Minnesota, won the championship at 184, defeating Ryan DeVivio of Johnson & Wales College of Rhode Island, 18-5. Schwanebeck-Osterman ends the season 33-1

Meanwhile, Marshfield's Nolan Hertel won the Division III championship at 157 for the second straight year, beating Peter

Submitted photo Kane of Williams College in the final, 4-2. Hertel is the only 157-pound champion in UW-La Crosse history. Hertel won by major decision (11-3) over fifth-seeded Blake Jagodzinske of Augsburg (Minn.) in the semifinals. He opened with a major

decision (9-0) over Nate Camiscioli of Castleton University (Vt.) in the first round on March 15, followed by a technical fall (17-1, 4:48) against eighth-seeded Xavier Howard of McDaniel College in the second round. Nolan finishes the season 29-0.

Augsburg won the Division III team championship, with 95 points. Wartburg of Iowa was second at 87.5, and La Crosse was third at 82.5. UW-Eau Claire finished fifth in the final standings with 69 points, and UW-Whitewater - coached by Matt Zwaschka of Marshfield - finished 22nd with 16 points.



Augsburg's Bentley Schwanebeck-Ostermann, Marshfield, won the NCAA D-III men's wrestling national title at 184 pounds with a technical fall win over Ryan



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|SPORTS| Softball teams open season

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD - The Marshfield Tigers were among several area softball teams which opened their seasons March 21-22, at the Danny Mac Classic inside the Hodag Dome in Rhinelander.

Marshfield kicked off its season March 21, by losing to Lakeland, 4-0. Shylah Brogan doubled twice for the Tigers.

On March 22, Marshfield lost to Rice Lake, 8-6. Brogan had three singles and Lillian Griesbach added two singles, a home run and two runs batted in for the Tigers.

Marshfield built on that success later in the day, with a 20-7 win over Kingsford (Michigan). Katelyn

Sternweis picked up the win for the Tigers. She also led the Marshfield offense, with two home runs and four runs batted in. Madilyn Cole chipped in three base hits while driving in five runs.

indoors up north

The Tigers were scheduled to play at Merrill on Tuesday, April 2, followed by a three-game homestand Thursday, April 4 against Wausau West, Tuesday, April 9 versus Rhinelander and Thursday, April 11 against Wisconsin Rapids. All home games are scheduled for the Madison Elementary diamond across from Marshfield High School.

Stratford and Auburndale were also part of the recent action in Rhinelander.

The Tigers blanked Waupaca 2-0

in round one. The winning pitcher for Stratford was Laney Pankratz, who threw a complete-game shutout while recording a dozen strikeouts. The Tigers also beat Shawano, 12-10, before shutting out Wautoma, 8-0.

Stratford is scheduled to host Neillsville/Granton on Thursday, April 4, then travel to Athens the following day.

Meanwhile, Auburndale won two of three games up north.

The Eagles held off Rice Lake, 9-6, in the early round, then shutout Lakeland 1-0 in round two. In the final round, Auburndale lost to New London, 13-1.

Auburndale is slated to host Spencer Thursday, April 4.



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FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD All six key contributors of the Columbus Dons boys' basketball team that won the WIAA Div. 5 state championship last month are members of the Eastern Cloverbelt All-Conference squad for 2023-24.

First-team selections include Emmitt Konieczny, Blake Jakobi, and Charlie Moore of Marshfield Columbus. Other members include Joseph Streveler of Colby, Bryce Erickson of Neillsville and Quinn Hatlestad from the Owen-Withee team that made it all the way to the Sectional Finals, before losing to the same Solon Springs team which lost to Columbus in the Div. 5 state semifinals on March 15.

Second-team A11-Conference selections include Cy Becker of Marshfield Columbus, Sam Bezlyk of Spencer, Loyal's Bryce Deegan, Adrian Lopez of Colby, Cam Kennedy of Neillsville and Owen-Withee's Vince Henke.

Honorable Mention selections are Lucas Kreklau and Mac Konieczny Colby's of Columbus, Jackson Polivka, Jacob Schill and Reed Stieglitz of Loyal and Andrew Hoeser of Neillsville.

Emmitt Konieczny, Blake Jakobi, and Charlie



Blake Jakobi looks for a Columbus teammate, during the Dons' WIAA Div. 5 championship game March 16 vs. Madison-Abundant Life. Jakobi is one of six members of Marshfield Columbus named to the Eastern Cloverbelt All-Conference boys basketball team for 2023-24, including one of three first-team selections. Kris Leonhardt photo





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SAMSUNG APRIL SPECIALS!

Moore of Columbus share the Eastern Cloverbelt Conference Player of the Year Award.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Cloverbelt All-Conference girls' basketball team has also been revealed.

First-team selections include Tysen Lindner of Greenwood, Paris Opelt, Sydney Subke and Madi Davel of Neillsville and Owen-Withee's Kendall Weiler.

Second-team honorees include Courtney Sommer of Marshfield Columbus, Tellock Sheila and Zvolena from Autumn Loval. Greenwood's Avry Wuetrich, and Reina Arndt and Geneva Capetillo of Owen-Withee.

Sheila Tellock (No. 13) and Autumn Zvolena from Loyal try to stop Courtney Sommer of Columbus, during their game Dec. 19 in Marshfield. All three players are Eastern Cloverbelt second-team allconference selections for the 2023-24 season.

The Eastern Cloverbelt

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Wilczek Gracie of Columbus, Spencer's Autumn Davis, Alexis Vanderhoof of Colby. Loyal's Addysen Wolf, Tatym Travis of Greenwood and Jess Kuhn of Neillsville were Honorable Mention

ROZAR

from page 4

workforce shortage issue we face across our state. I was pleased to express my support for this crucial bill on the Assembly floor last

Rozar represents the 69th Assembly District, which includes municipalities in portions of Wood, Clark, Marathon and Jackson counties.

month."



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Spiros launches reelection bid in redrawn district

Rozar awaits in mid-August Primary

BY MIKE WARREN FDITOR

MARSHFIELD – Central Wisconsin voters will have a key legislative race to decide much earlier than the major elections in November. A Primary looms in midnow August between a pair of Marshfield Republicans, after the incumbent said recently he would be running for reelection.

Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield) issued a statement March 19 after announcing his reelection

campaign for the 86th Assembly District, which he has represented since 2012.

"Serving the 86th Assembly District for the last 12 years has been an honor that compares to little else," said Rep. Spiros. "While the legislative maps have changed, my dedication to representing our communities in Madison for the last 12 years has not."

Rep. Spiros has been part of the Marshfield community for over 20 years, working for Roehl Transport and serving as an alderman on the Common Council for eight years prior to his election to the State Assembly. He is a U.S. Air Force Veteran and began his career in law enforcement after that. Spiros is the current Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety.

"Lowering taxes has been a top priority during my entire time in office and I am proud that Wisconsin's tax burden is at its lowest level in history," Rep. Spiros said. "Low taxes, strong public safety, opportunities for workers, and a strong community are key components of making central Wisconsin a great place to raise a family and grow old."

During his time representing the 86th Assembly District, Rep. Spiros says he is especially proud of his work to require CPR training in schools, and recently, his work to increase the child care tax credit and the historic increase in shared revenue to local governments.

"Our state is at a turning point, and having strong, experienced leaders in Madison is crucial to ensuring that Wisconsin does not become the next Minnesota," said Rep. Spiros. "This is the district I am honored to represent, and I look forward to continuing my work as a strong voice in Madison for the people of the 86th Assembly District."

The newly re-drawn 86th Assembly District now

Spiros

includes portions of Wood, Marathon and Portage counties

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

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

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

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

Since 2013, the city of

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

Under the new maps, Rozar and Spiros will now have to face each other in a Republican Primary Aug. 13. Rozar announced her candidacy in February.

Immanuel holds annual fundraiser

Immanuel Lutheran School is coming off a successful School Carnival. The annual fundraiser was held March 9, as part of Lutheran Schools Week. The community event featured children's games, a cakewalk, a silent auction, and more.

School Carnival is Immanuel's primary fundraising event of the year, generating more than \$14,000. All proceeds are used within the school to provide students and staff with upgrades for their education and safety.



Immanuel Lutheran students make a special art project each year that families can bid Submitted photo on, which generates lots of excitement during the annual event.

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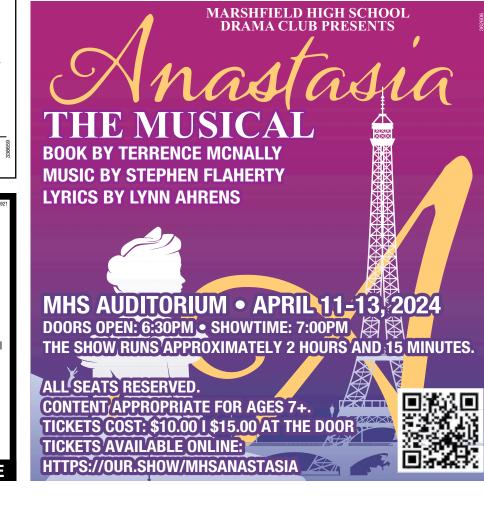
ST CHERT ROOF





CROPS from page 13

spring is the emergence of a wide variety of blooms from Wisconsin's cut flower farmers. A cut flower is the stem, flower, and buds of a flower plant that is often used in bouquets, table arrangements, and other decorations. Some common flowers to use are peonies, tulips, daffodils, sunflowers, dahlias, and snapdragons. of these Some are perennials, which usually bloom just once each season, but will regrow year after year. Other cut flowers are annuals, meaning they will continue to flower after being cut, but will need to be replanted each year. Thankfully, many of these plants can be started from seed, keeping starting costs



down. Be ready to start them indoors here in Wisconsin, though, to get a head start on planting season. If you've been toying with the idea of starting a cut flower garden, now's the time. It doesn't matter if you're growing for the big event in town or just to have a supply of fresh blooms in your home, a cut flower garden can be a wonderful opportunity. As a member of the lily

family, asparagus is a hardy plant that can produce for 40-plus years after the crop is well established. In a 2017 report. Karen Delahaut, the Fresh Market Vegetable Coordinator Program for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, shared that it typically takes about three years before the plant can be harvested. However, each year after that, you can enjoy about an eight-week harvest here in Wisconsin, ending in June. An asparagus crop is usually started by planting "crowns" that are about one year old. Crowns are the roots and rhizomes of the plant and allow the grower a shorter plant-toharvest wait. The spears of asparagus emerge from the soil in the spring and should be cut or snapped when they are about eight to 10 inches tall. You'll know to stop harvesting for the year when the emerging spears are about the diameter of a pencil, allowing plenty of time for the plant to rejuvenate before the next crop. In late spring and early summer, keep an eye out at your local farmers markets or neighborhood stands for freshly harvested asparagus.

If you would like to learn more, I've been doing a monthly deep dive into a different specialty crop through my blog, Adventures in Agriculture. You can find them all at aliceindairyland.com.

Kohl Foundation announces scholarship, award recipients



Johnson

MILWAUKEE — The Herb Kohl

Educational Foundation on March 19

announced 304 Wisconsin students,

teachers, and administrators are the

recipients of the organization's 2024 Student Excellence and Initiative, Teacher

Fellowship and Principal Leadership

Student Excellence and Initiative

Scholarships of \$10,000 will be awarded to

187 graduating high school students who

have demonstrated academic excellence

and initiative and have displayed a broad

range of activity and leadership in their

community. Teacher Fellowship awards

of \$6,000 will be presented to 100 teachers

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

awards.



Page





Thomas Tripathi We hope this year's awards help this impressive group of recipients in their individual pursuits today so that they pay it

Award recipients are selected by a statewide committee composed of civic leaders and representatives of educationrelated associations and the program's co-sponsors: The Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, regional **Cooperative Educational Service Agencies** (CESA), the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators, and the Wisconsin Homeschooling Parents Association.

The Kohl Foundation award program



Winder

was established by Herb Kohl, former U.S. senator, philanthropist, and businessman who died December 27, 2023. Since 1990, the foundation has awarded nearly \$38 million to Wisconsin educators, principals, students, and schools.

2024 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Student Excellence Scholars include:

Seth Roewe, Marshfield Columbus Catholic High School, Marshfield; Olivia Page, Aran Tripathi, Carolyn Winder, Marshfield High School.

2024 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Student Initiative Scholars include:

Austyn Johnson, Marshfield, Stratford High School; Faustina Thomas, Granton High School, Granton.

2025 NFL Draft: Doing this for Mark

BY KRIS LEONHARDT SENIOR EDITOR

DE PERE -- Gabrielle president Dow. vice of marketing and fan engagement for the Green Bay Packers, was the featured speaker for St. Norbert's fourth installment of the 25th season of the CEO Breakfast Series, held Feb. 28 in the F. K. Bemis Conference Center.

Dow has 29 vears experience of across professional sports and entertainment — the last decade with the Packers as vice president of marketing and fan engagement. She joined the Packers from the Baltimore Ravens and now oversees the organization's retail operations, digital and broadcast marketing, brand engagement, business research and analytics, and game presentation.

Since 2019, Dow has been working with the NFL to host the NFL Draft in Green Bay. After four bid submissions, the city of Green Bay and the Green Bay Packers were awarded the 2025 NFL Draft, which



Gabrielle Dow, vice president of marketing and fan engagement for the Green Bay Packers, speaks to a crowd at St. Norbert College Feb. 28, about how and why the team went about applying to host the NFL Draft next year.

morning presentation. "There's no one who's a greater supporter of this community and all it could do. So, congratulations to you and your team for what you've done."

"As Roger Goodell stated, the idea of the Draft in the state of Wisconsin really started with Mark Murphy, and Mark - like the NFL knows that unfortunately, we will not be able to ever host the Super Bowl for lack of hotels," she said. "Now, let me just clarify: this is not about winning the Super Bowl, this is about

Kris Leonhardt photo move the event around.

"So once Chicago was in place in 2015, Mark asked (Packers Director of Public Affairs) Aaron Popkey and myself to take a closer look at the Draft and what that bidding process was. Back then, it was just a piece of paper and a signature, and then as things evolved, in 2018, we bid for 2020 and 2022," Dow stated. "Vegas was awarded 2020 and then obviously COVID, so then Vegas moved to 2022. So, we go back to the drawing board, and we bid for 2024. This went to

Detroit. The last bid was

for 2025 and 2027, and [NFL

Executive Vice President

Peter O'Reilly] called and

said, 'You know, Gabrielle,

we're really leaning on

2027.' I was like, 'Hey, do

you know Mark's retiring

in July 2025?' and the phone

went silent. And then he called back and said, 'Okay,

we're doing this for Mark. Can vou keep it a secret

for Mark?' So, the NFL is

Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy will retire next year, shortly after Green Bay concludes its duties as host of the 2025 NFL Draft. Green Bay Packers photo

honoring Mark for 2025 and here we are," said Dow.

"So, typically, when a bid is submitted for a Draft, it's usually by a CVB or Sports Authority, and so thanks to Mark's leadership, the Packers are the only NFL team to ever manage the bid – donating time, money and resources to host a Draft," Dow added.

Dow said that while they prepped for the bid, they wanted to lean on what past host cities did. "What is interesting is that no city or CVB could give us an actual cost and the monies needed to fundraise and host because the dollar figures are kind

of all over the board here," said Dow. "So we're like, 'Where did we land? How do we do this? How can we model what we're going to raise and what we need to do?" she said. "So. in 2018. we kind of got serious, right? We're going to write this big bid. So we started visiting these other cities. And after attending [the] four drafts, we'll really be

great the city hosted their

guests and visitors. And the travel industry really showed up and we kind of know this already because our LSU game, when they played here, I still get feedback from people that visited that made it a trip, made it a weekend, went to Door County after, the Dells. Really, our city and our state turned out and

Roewe who were nominated for their leadership and service in and outside the classroom, their ability to inspire a love of learning and to motivate their students. Principal

Leadership awards of \$6,000 will be given to 17 principals for setting high standards for instruction, achievement and character, and creating a climate to best serve students, families, staff and community.

"Herb Kohl believed that education is the key to the future of Wisconsin and our nation," JoAnne Anton, President & CEO of Herb Kohl Philanthropies said. "That's why he invested in and prioritized awards that recognize students, teachers, and principals who demonstrate incredible hard work, achievements, and service.

forward in the future. We call that the Herb Kohl Way."

Dow said has much to do with the man at the top - Packers CEO Mark Murphy.

"I wanted to say one quick thing about [Mark Murphy]. He was one of the first to say, 'We want to have the Draft here in Green Bay,' as soon as we talked about moving around," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a video statement to lead off Dow's hosting the Super Bowl. We hope to win the Super Bowl many more times, but due to the size of our city and the hotel quantity of about over 20,000 rooms, unfortunately, this is not part of our future."

For about 50 years, the NFL had hosted the draft in New York, and due to a scheduling conflict one year, the NFL had to look at other options, deciding to

FEIRER from page 5

As a result of efforts by Mike Feirer and others, a new Cabin 12 at Camp American Legion near Tomahawk was dedicated May 13, 2023. The previous cabin was replaced with an entirely new and modern

building, completely furnished, in beautiful, peaceful surroundings. Communities need people like Mike Feirer. He has proven to be honest, dependable, concerned and willing to put himself in a position to do good

ambassador,

to the community he has always called home. Mike has the ability to lead others to get projects done. And like others of a similar personality, he is reluctant to take any recognition for it. Let this nomination serve as a well-deserved recognition.



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modeling our Draft after Nashville. Nashville's Draft was a success because the city and state were ready and fully involved and fully engaged. They were energized from the airport to the hotels," Dow said. "I can go on and on about how

embraced everybody and we're still hearing about the success."

So, get ready Wisconsin. NFL Nation's off-season Super Bowl invades the Badger State a year from now.





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On the Road with Alice: Specialty crops make Wisconsin agriculture special

BY ASHLEY HAGENOW 76TH ALICE IN DAIRYLAND

MADISON -- Agriculture in Wisconsin contributes \$104.8 billion annually to our state's economy and provides jobs for nearly 12 percent of the state's workforce. As America's Dairyland, it makes sense that a large portion of that economic impact comes from dairy, but the diversity of our agricultural production is what makes it so impactful and special. We are the top-producing state in the nation for snap beans, cranberries, and ginseng. There's a multitude of other products that we also rank in the top five for, such as potatoes, cherries, carrots, green peas, and Christmas trees. In addition to these all helping bolster agriculture's economic impact, they are all "specialty considered crops" by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The USDA states, "Specialty crops are defined in law as 'fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture." There are more than 350 crops considered to be specialty crops by the USDA, and that list is not exhaustive. Even with Wisconsin being a top producer of several of these crops, there's

plenty of room for others to be produced here as well. Things like mushrooms, celery, apples, grapes, and herbs are produced all



Cranberries are one of Wisconsin's leading specialty crops and Wood County leads the way. Submitted photo



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over Wisconsin by farms of all sizes. To celebrate the upcoming spring, we will explore a few seasonal specialty crops here.

Few things bring hints of spring to Wisconsin like maple syrup season. As soon as the daytime temperatures are above freezing with nighttime lows still dipping down below freezing, the sap begins flowing. There are a wide variety of tapping set-ups, from the one-tree tapper all the way up to commercial producers, but the concept is the same. A hole is drilled through the bark of a maple tree, some sort of implement is inserted into the hole to direct the flow, and the sap drips into a container. After the sap has been collected, it must be boiled down to produce syrup. The boiling process reduces the water content, increasing the thickness and sweet taste of the resulting maple syrup. Many communities throughout the state have events celebrating this process each year. Look for one in your area to grow a better appreciation for the work that goes into topping your morning pancakes. Another sure sign of

See CROPS page 10



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- Diagnose and repair mechanical issues of our motorcoach/school bus fleets
- Perform routine maintenance that includes thorough inspections
- Stay up to date on advancements in technology and repair techniques

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 5 years experience as a technician (preferred)
- ASE certification or equivalent (preferred)
- Valid drivers license and clean driving record



Send resumes to: jburnett@progressivetravel.org or contact Joe Burnett at 715-659-4391 www.progressivetravel.org

BASED ON EXPERIENCE \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus

- Additional Bonuses throughout the year
- Tool and Shoe Allowances
- Flexible Work Schedule

BENEFITS

(but not limited to)

- Medical & Dental
- Retirement plan with company match
- Paid Time Off/Holiday Pay



127877



Customer Appreciation Day • April 6, 2024 • 9am-3pm 8868 Heritage Dr. • Marshfield, WI 54449 www.LangEquipmentLLC.com



