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Marshfield Clinic Health System announces job cuts

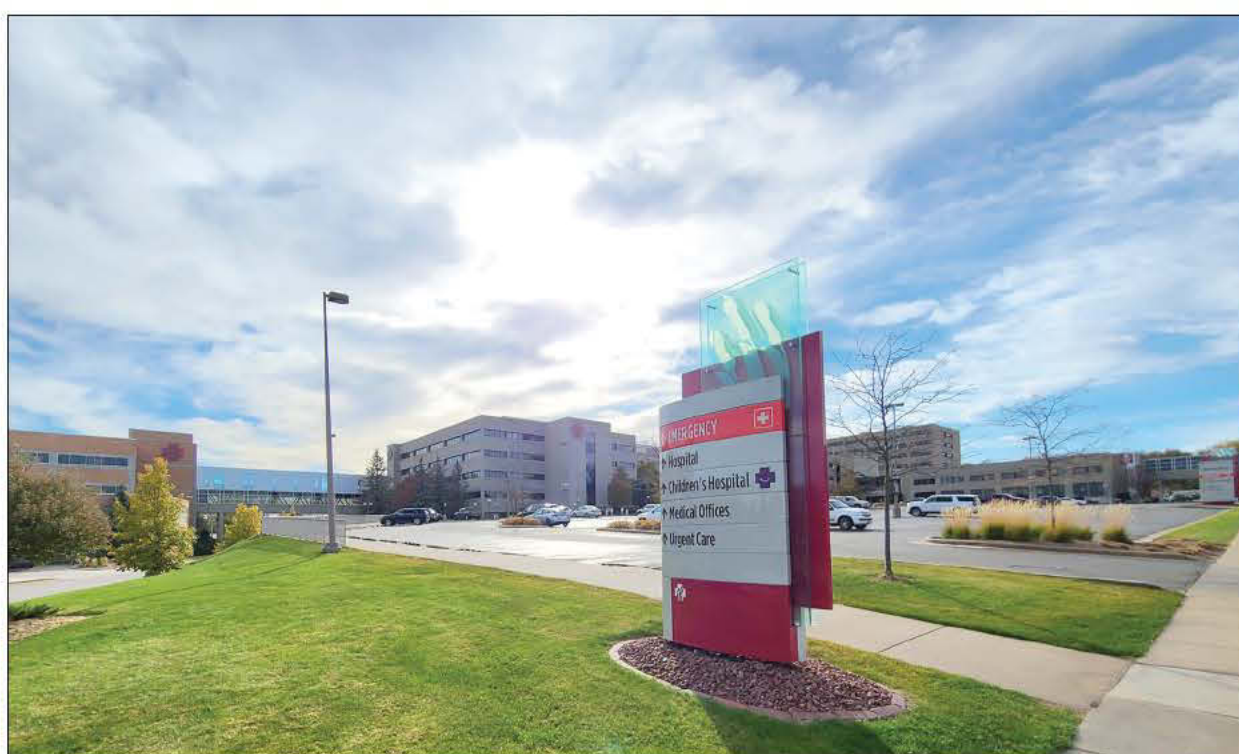
FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Marshfield Clinic Health System March 1 announced a reduction in staff that will impact 346 employees among the organization's more than 12,000 employee workforce in Wisconsin. The decision comes against the backdrop of a health care industry challenged by skyrocketing labor costs, higher supply expenses and reduction in reimbursements, according to a press release.

"We are not immune to the immense pressure and unprecedented challenges gripping the health care industry in recent years, which has required us to identify ways to be more efficient and more resourceful," said Dr. Susan Turney, CEO Marshfield Clinic Health System. "Reducing staff is always painful. This is ultimately about preserving the long-term efficiency and sustainability of our organization," Turney added. "We are committed to supporting all affected employees with resources and services to aide them in their transition, including assistance searching for other roles within the Health System."

The total number of employees affected represents less than three percent of the Health System's employee base. Additionally the Health System eliminated more than 500 positions that have been unfilled and no longer recruited, which has allowed the Health System to lessen the impact on employees, the press release also stated.

See CUTS page 7



A view of the Marshfield Clinic Health System campus in Marshfield, as seen in October 2022.

Thom Gerretsen photo

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School referendum: Beyond the price tag

Parts of MHS would see first-ever upgrades

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

Part III of V
MARSHFIELD – As our series on the Marshfield School District's proposed \$99.5 million referendum and facilities improvement plan continues, we take a closer look in this edition at the athletic and operational building system improvements planned for Marshfield High School.

The proposed improvements were identified by the district's Community-Based Facility Planning Committee, a group of school officials and residents who have been working since May

2022 to create a new, long-range facility plan for the district.

The fieldhouse wing of the MHS campus would see significant changes under the proposed plan.

"When you look at our current footprint – the 1968 footprint – we had a single-gender sport, and we didn't have all the offerings that we do now, even in that single-gender sport," said Athletic Director Nathan Delaney, during a recent program Hub City Times produced, in conjunction with Marshfield Broadcasting. "So, fast forward to the 70s and Title IX and the addition of some

of the other sports that are indoors, particularly gymnastics and swimming, it kind of puts stress on a facility that was built 55 years ago."

The proposal includes an expanded swimming deck space along the east side of the pool. "To watch a swim meet right now you have to watch it from the fieldhouse," Delaney points out. "That creates its own set of safety and logistical issues. Not necessarily a great viewing environment for our spectators."

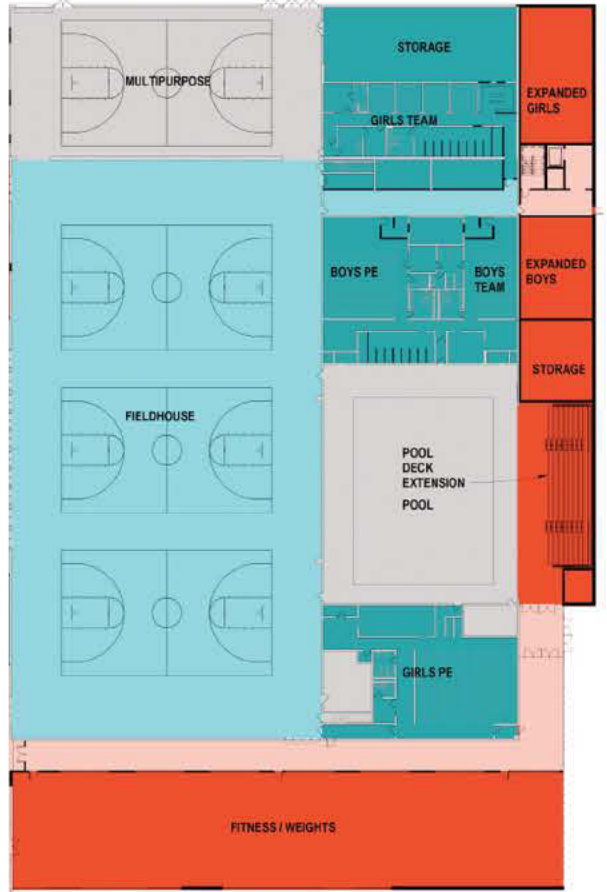
There's also a plan to add a new fitness and weight room facility onto the south side of the fieldhouse,

expanded and renovated boys' and girls' locker rooms along the east side and new bleachers, which would replace the original, wooden ones installed 55 years ago.

Terry Frankland, a member of the Facility Planning Committee which identified the district's needs, said the improvement plan should be looked at as more than just new or better facilities for students, parents and the Marshfield community.

"Being a former businessman in Marshfield, we have to be aware it's a marketing tool," Frankland said. "Families moving to this community, with Highway 10 being four-lane to Stevens Point, and basically four-lane now to Wausau, people say, 'Well, I'm going to work for a facility in Marshfield, but...this high school has more to offer than our high school, and they're more updated.' We need to be aware of that," he adds. "It's a big marketing tool to have state-of-the-art equipment."

Superintendent Dr. Ryan Christianson is quick to point out the proposed improvements in the athletic spaces at MHS are not geared toward just sports programs.



This image shows the proposed additions and improvements to the athletic and P.E. spaces at MHS. Areas highlighted in red and pink indicate new construction. Dark green spaces show areas that would receive major renovation, while the lighter green indicates some minor upgrades. Bray Architects image

"It does include our regular physical education curriculum as well," he says. "I think it's important to note that the variety of P.E. courses and the diversity of curricula within those P.E. courses that we have today is so

See REFERENDUM page 5

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Mike Gillette winds up a fairway shot, as he plays a round of simulated indoor golf with two others March 5 at The Clubhaus, 1213 S. Central Ave, Marshfield. Mike Warren photo

Outside in: Clubhaus brings indoor golf to Marshfield

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – Marshfield golf enthusiasts now have a place they can enjoy their sport – and work on their game – year-round.

The Clubhaus opened recently at 1213 S. Central Ave, complete with four golf simulators, a full bar, refreshments, and a few small dining tables. The owners are Richard Reis, his two brothers Michael Stiemke-Reis and Johnny Tomke, and their friend Cale Bauer.

"We're all golfers," says Richard Reis. "I've been golfing the longest among the group. I've been playing my whole life. I love it. I'm an everyday player," he adds. "Those other guys used to play a lot of softball. When COVID hit it ended softball, and so they had to pick up a new sport. They all bought new clubs and started going to the course on a regular basis," Reis recalls. "And we started driving up to Wausau to play at 4 Seasons in the winter. And we said, 'Marshfield could really use this.' We kind of felt also like Marshfield could use a little bit more activities, more options for folks, something to do that's not going to the

movies or the roller-skating rink," Reis added. "So we drove up to Wausau a few times and played up there and loved it, and we knew that we could bring it here. We knew a lot of other friends and golfers that drove up to Wausau or over to Appleton to play. And so we kind of felt like we could build something that would be good for the young adult population, good for older guys who've been playing golf their whole life, and good for families."

Reis says the simulators are set up for regular rounds of golf, driving and practice ranges, mini golf and putt-putt games for the kids.

See GOLF page 11

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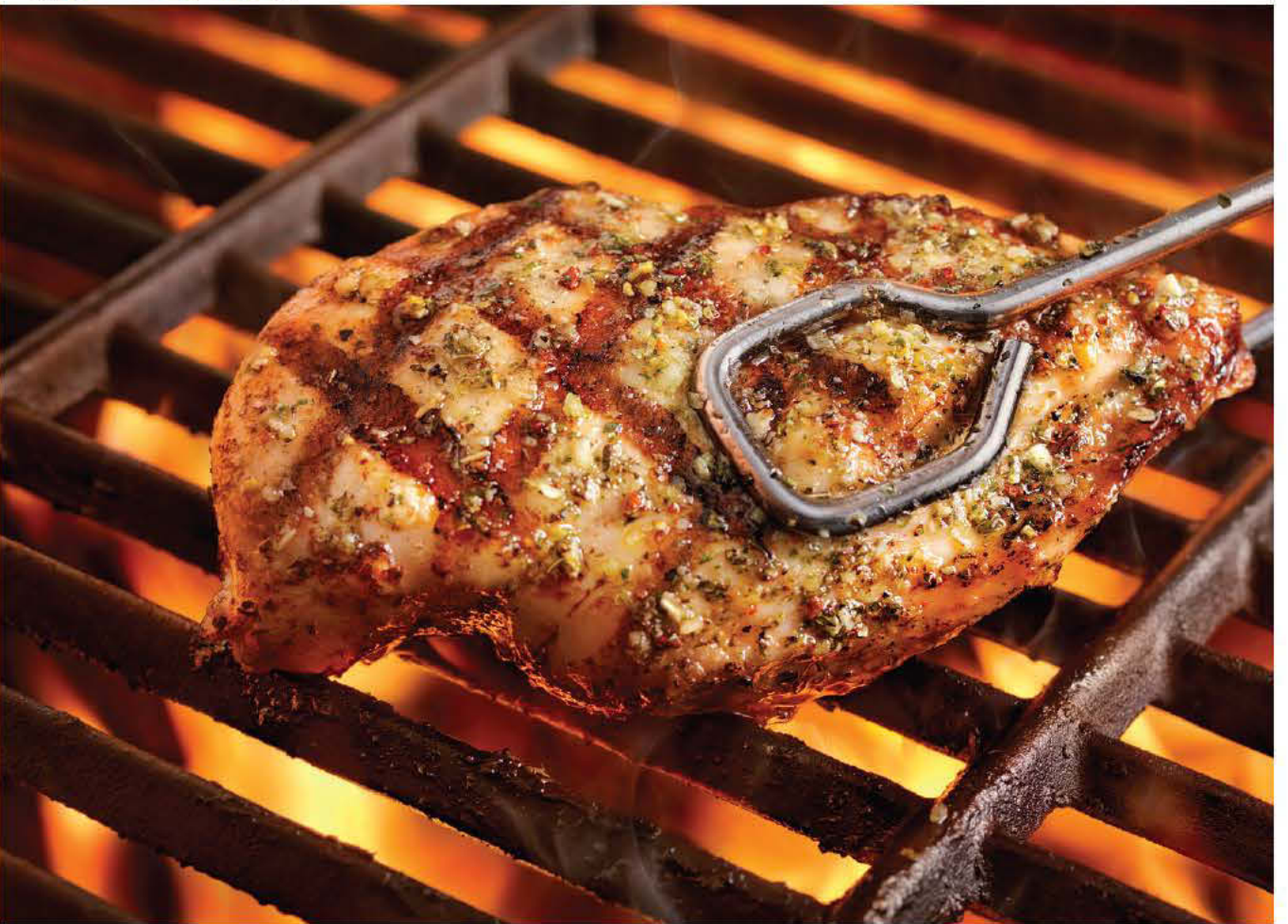


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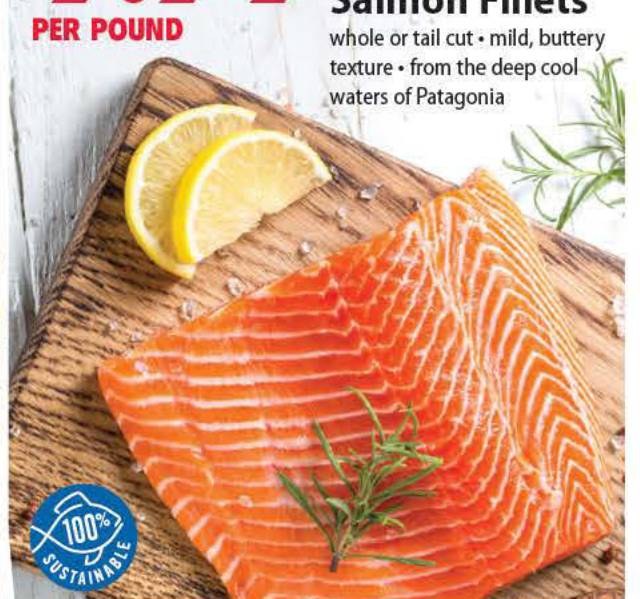
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• excludes simply crafted premium ice cream



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Snack Cheese

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AD COUPON

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AD COUPON

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OBITUARIES



BERNADINE FRANCES WEBER

Bernadine F. Weber of Marshfield, WI died at age 93 on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at Wells Nature View on South Apple Av., Marshfield, WI surrounded and comforted by her family.

Bernadine was born on March 31, 1929, in Spokeville/Loyal, WI to Oscar G. and Laura (Litka) Bauer. She attended school in the Spencer/Loyal area and began her working career as a nanny in Marshfield. She was united in marriage to Joseph M. Weber on June 16, 1948, at Christ the King Church in Spencer, WI. She spent the rest of her working career at Weber's Farm Store west of Marshfield, raising a family and developing the business, along with her husband. For most of those years, Bernadine was the store manager. Currently, the Weber/Heiman Holstein farms thrive with the 6th generation already involved with the operations. Weber's Farm Store was purchased by Ken (Joellen), Kim (Cheryl) and Kelvin (Marilyn) Heiman and their wives in 1995.

Bernadine was often called "Birdie" or "Berdean" by many close friends. She, along with her husband, Joseph, enjoyed an active social life throughout their marriage of 67 years. She loved playing cards, dancing in her earlier years, gardening, cooking, fishing, bowling, traveling, camping, and especially enjoyed doing things with the grand kids. Bernadine was very devoted to her family! She was the matriarch of the family and planned many, many gatherings to keep the family close and connected. Bernadine loved to laugh and joke around and extended that energy while waiting on countless customers at Weber's Farm Store over the years as well as to her family and friends.

Bernadine, along with her husband, Joseph, was financially supportive of many Marshfield community advancements over the years. They were especially proud of the establishment of the Joseph and Bernadine Weber Nature Park at 2901 West 5th St. They purchased wooded acreage at the west side of Marshfield and collaborated with the city of Marshfield to give back to the community an additional park area for everyone to enjoy nature. Both were active church members at Our Lady of Peace and active in the community throughout their entire married life. She was a member of Parish Catholic Women (PCCW) and Lady Knights. During the span of her working career, Bernadine received many awards and honors related to farming, especially with her efforts as a businesswoman at Weber's Farm Store.

Bernadine was very proud of her family and is survived by her children, Carol J. Tomke, Patricia A. Binder, Joellen J. (Ken) Heiman, and David P. (Denise) Weber; grandchildren, Tara L. (Matt) Maertens, Tanya L. (Nate) Brown, Allison L. (Jesse) Richard, Michelle L. (Josh) Heiman, Ryan P. (Amanda) Heiman, Josh K. (Heather) Heiman, Sarah E. (Nick) Slipka, Renee M. (Brad) Wojciechowski, Scott J. (Jordann) Weber, Cody D. (Kasondra) Weber, Brad R. (Alisha) Weber, Eric J. (Calli) Weber, Laura S. (Cody) Weber; step-grandchildren, Evan J. and Eric J. Salisbury, Elizabeth J. (Damian) Wilatoski; great-grandchildren, Jacob A. Maertens, Christopher M. Maertens, Megan A. Maertens, Bradley J. Maertens, Olivia G. Brown, Reese J. Richard, Jaedyn J. Kmiec, Brooklyn J. Kmiec, Tyler R. Heiman, Samuel J. Heiman, Eileigh E. Heiman, Harper M. Heiman, Madelyn J. Heiman, Jaxon K. Heiman, Graysen H. Slipka, Hannah M. Slipka, Emerson J. Wojciechowski, Campbell M. Wojciechowski, Oscar D. Weber; step-great-grandchildren, James A. Scheel, Julia A. Wilatoski, Entley J. Salisbury; brother, Allan E. (Carol) Bauer; sisters-in-law, Eileen M. (Peter) Weber, Iris J. (Voelker) Bauer.

Bernadine was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph M. Weber; son, Joel R. Weber; daughter-in-law, Marlene M. (Spindler) Weber; son-in-law James C. Binder; ex-son-in-law Michael R. Tomke; parents, Oscar G. and Laura (Litka) Bauer; father-and mother-in-law, John P. and Margaret (Feess) Weber; siblings, Dorothy B. (Ralph) Fischer, Jerome R. Bauer; brother-in-law, Ralph J. Fischer; granddaughter, Jessica L. Binder.

Rembs Funeral Home, 300 S. Oak Ave. Marshfield, WI, 54449, is serving the family. Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Rembs Funeral Home. A celebration of life and Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Our Lady of Peace, 1414 W. 5th St., Marshfield, WI 54449, at 11:00 am on Friday, March 17, 2023, where visitation will be from 9:00 am until service time. Rev. Douglas Robertson will officiate. The service will be streamed online at www.facebook.com/rembsfuneralhomes. Friends and family may offer online condolences at www.rembsfh.com.

The Bernadine Weber family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the many health care professionals for their compassionate care given to Bernadine at Wells Nature View on South Apple Av. with the support of St. Croix Hospice throughout her journey. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends. In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in Bernadine's memory to continue future beautification of Joseph & Bernadine Nature Park, Marshfield, WI. If you wish to contribute to this memorial, send your gift to Joellen Heiman, 10487 Lincoln Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449 or to the Joseph and Bernadine Weber Park Fund established at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation, 211 East Second St., Suite 2, Marshfield, WI 54449.



WALLACE F. REEK

Wallace F. Reek, age 90, of Marshfield, Wisconsin, passed away at the House of the Dove on March 7, 2023, just a week before his 91st birthday. A Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Immanuel Lutheran Church (604 S. Chestnut Ave) in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:00 AM until the service. A luncheon will be served at the church following the funeral service and veteran's memorial.

Wally was born March 14, 1932, the son of Fred and Catherine (Hintz) Reek in Nasonville, Wisconsin. He graduated from Marshfield High School in 1950, where he played baseball, football, and hockey. He was united in marriage with the love of his life, Shirley E. Nelson, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Marshfield on September 19, 1953. Wally and Shirley have been active members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and volunteers with many organizations in Marshfield.

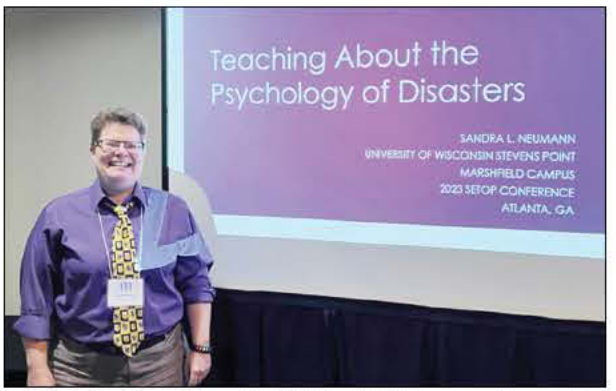
Wally survived by his Wife of 69 years, Shirley; Children, Randal (Laurie) Reek of Marshfield, and Laura (David) Rice of Naples, Florida. "Papa" will be missed by his Grandchildren, Aaron Reek, Adam (Lauren) Reek, Eric Rice and Michelle (Matthew) Wallace; and Great-Grandchildren, Caroline and Victoria Rice, and Charlotte and Theodore Reek.

Wally enjoyed spending four seasons at their cottage, snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing - including many trips to Canada. It was always "A beautiful day in Wisconsin!" He was a lifetime member of the Marshfield Elks Club, and active member of the local Rotary Club where he was the committee chair that installed the fishing pier on the upper pond at Wildwood Park.

Wallace served in the Army from 1953 to 1955, including a tour in Korea. He was discharged as a Sergeant in the motor pool. He was involved in the auto business for the rest of his working career, including selling auto parts, the owner of a service station and used car lot, partner in a local new car dealership, sales manager, and owner of the Chrysler/Jeep dealership in Marshfield.

Online condolences may be made at www.hansenschillingfuneralhome.com for your convenience.

Marshfield professor presents symposium on the 'Psychology of Disasters'



Dr. Sandra Neumann, UWSP-Marshfield, presenting at the 2023 SETOP Conference in Atlanta, GA. Submitted photo

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD - UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield Professor Sandy Neumann continues to exhibit a passion for collaboration and pedagogy at professional conferences. Recently she presented at the 2023 Southeastern Psychological Teaching of Psychology Conference in Atlanta, GA, about the "Psychology of Disasters."

Professor Neumann's study of the human behavior and the relation to how people are impacted by environmental challenges is conceptual in theory, but significant to the overall field of psychology. In her presentation, she challenged her colleagues to begin discussions with students on disaster preparedness and to begin to analyze the emotional states and mental perspectives of individuals in relation to climate change.

"I enjoy presenting at these professional conferences," Dr. Neumann stated. "Whenever I have the opportunity to share scholarship in the professional development setting, I'm invigorated by the dialogue and look forward to sharing conceptual ideas with my colleagues."

Learn about public safety referendum at community forums

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD - Marshfield residents wanting more information about the city's upcoming public safety referendum can get it at two upcoming forums.

On April 4, voters in the city of Marshfield will consider increased property tax funding to support hiring and retaining nine full-time firefighters/paramedics, one full-time police officer, one full-time Police Department records specialist, and one full-time administrative assistant to be split between the Police and Fire departments.

Residents will be asked whether they support an increase in the city's tax levy by a total of 7.124 percent, which would result in an overall tax levy of \$16,992,899, and - on an ongoing basis - would include the increase of \$1,130,000 for each fiscal year going forward.

According to city officials, current public safety funding and staffing

levels are insufficient to meet the community's current and projected future needs. In 2022, the Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department could not fill three open firefighter/paramedic positions due to budget constraints, despite it being the busiest year on record. Over the past decade, Marshfield Fire and Rescue's staffing levels have remained stagnant - even though calls for service have increased by 55 percent. In 2022, crews responded to a record 4,074 calls for service. Current staffing levels have made it difficult for the department to respond to calls for service, as 25 percent of calls come concurrently, according to a city press release.

"We are at a critical juncture to determine the level of fire and EMS services we want in our community," said City of Marshfield Fire Chief Pete Fletty.

At the Police Department, recent budget cuts have prevented them from finding replacements for recently-vacated positions,

resulting in a strain on the department to maintain the same level of service, a press release states. With fewer officers available, the department has a decreased capacity to carry out non-emergency department duties, such as proactive patrolling and participation in community engagement events.

These challenges are not unique to Marshfield, but reflect a broader trend across the state, as police and fire/EMS departments struggle to meet the growing needs of communities.

"While our departments have risen to meet the needs of our community by working smarter, creating efficiencies, collaborating with stakeholders, and prioritizing what types of service we can provide, it has become increasingly difficult to provide services as expected," said City Administrator Steve Barg.

If the referendum is approved, the city's annual property tax would

See FORUMS page 6

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Fruit & Produce Specials

Gala Apples	\$1.69 lb.
Cabbage	\$.89 lb.
Red Potatoes (3 lb. bag)	\$2.49

While supply lasts. Specials good thru March 20, 2023

Toys for Tots chapter reports successful campaign



While home for the holidays, volunteer Lisa Brost of Cordova, AL helps Jesse Barron of Marshfield "shop" for his three kids - a son and two daughters - during the local Toys for Tots chapter's toy distribution Dec. 12, 2022, in the youth building at the fairgrounds.

Mike Warren photo

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD - North Wood County Toys for Tots Coordinator Margie Schmidt says her chapter collected over 3,600 toys from 38 locations in Marshfield and three collection points in Clark County, as part of the 2022 campaign.

"We served 902 children, which was up from last year," Schmidt told us Feb. 2. She expected that number to go up once final figures came in. The Toys for Tots website is now reporting 921 children were supported through the 2022 campaign. The organization serves children from birth to age 18.

"Besides the toys that we collected, we also received donations from different fundraisers and different organizations in town, and we were able to shop with their money and buy toys with that money as well," said Schmidt.

The local toy collection effort ran from Nov. 1 through Dec. 6 of last year. The annual toy distribution event was held Dec. 8-13 in the youth building at Marshfield Fairgrounds Park.

"The parents come there to walk through and pick



The North Wood County chapter of Toys for Tots collected over 3,600 toys during the 2022 campaign, which served over 900 children. All but 200 toys were distributed Dec. 8-13, 2022.

Submitted photo

out toys for their child," said Schmidt. "How many toys they get is always based on how many toys we receive, and we kind of base it on that every year," she added. "So, this year they were able to get three toys per child, plus we do a family game and we do... they get a craft item. As long as we have enough craft items, we give them each a craft item. And they get stocking stuffers as well for each child."

Schmidt says when parents or guardians get to the toy distribution site they have to fill out an application before they are allowed to go through the room. They are accompanied by volunteers as they "shop" for their kids. There is no prerequisite to qualify for the program.

"We take their word for it if they feel they need help,"

Margie says. "We do not make them prove income. Some of them are referred to us by different programs in town or different schools in town, so some of them do get referred to us. We don't turn anybody away basically. If they feel they need help we give them help."

Schmidt said she had less than 200 toys left at the end of the campaign. "We serviced north Wood County and parts of Clark County."

Last year was Margie's tenth year serving as the local Toys for Tots coordinator.

"The reward of doing it," Schmidt said, when asked what keeps her going.

"My sister (Julie Mancl) helped with the Toys for Tots program in Wisconsin Rapids at the

See TOYS page 11

REFERENDUM from page 2

much more expansive than it was years ago. And, with a growing emphasis on fitness-based, life-long physical activity, learning and development, we're doing some very innovative things already with our P.E. curriculum, and we could do even more with a fitness center like we're proposing to build," Christianson adds. "We have a lot of kids who are not in any of our athletic programs that are very heavily focused on physical fitness and improving the body and mind collectively."

The portion of the base plan covering Marshfield High School also calls for replacement of the fieldhouse flooring, scoreboards and lighting.

Plans also call for major upgrades to the operational parts of the building within the walls and floors of the facility.

"We have approximately 27,000 square feet of mechanical room space at Marshfield High School, much of which is in the lower-level basement area of the building," Christianson says.

"That is a significant component of the work that is planned for the high school with this facility referendum, is to replace heating, ventilation, air-conditioning systems that are coming up on 55 years of age," he adds. "A cooling tower for the air-conditioning system alone that is under constant repair, and really is past its life expectancy and needs to be replaced."

"It's actually a miracle that this equipment

is still running," says current School Board Vice-President Dan Neve, who spent nearly four decades working in the construction and building trades industries. "We have to realize that the high school, or all of our schools, are not a home. They're a commercial space, industrial space, that runs on big systems," Neve adds. "And these systems have been there for 55-plus years. And it's actually amazing to me that we still have been able to keep them running. If we don't address the inner workings, we're going to have problems."

Regardless of whether the referendum passes, Neve says many of the operational aspects of MHS will need replacing sooner than later, and those are parts you simply cannot get shipped overnight, next week or even next month.

"MCCs (mechanical control centers) have a nine-month to a year waiting list right now," Neve says. "So, if we had a failure with one of these the school could be shut down for a year's time waiting for equipment. We've been lucky that we haven't had a failure."

Christianson says it would be at least that long before any work would start at the high school, should the referendum be successful.

"Given the size of the work that needs to be done at the high school, we're talking about a minimum 15-month construction schedule period," Christianson says. "We'd also like the public to understand that, if this referendum is passed in April, it'll be a full year

before we're breaking ground and starting the construction work itself because we need to go through the fine-detailed design of the work, a construction schedule needs to be put in place, we need to go to bid and order the type of equipment and material that Dan is referring to," Christianson points out. "So, that's another component to planning. This is going to take a while."

Christianson says other planned improvements at the high school fall under the category of energy efficiency, by replacing ceiling fixtures and aging windows and upgrading lighting to energy-efficient LEDs.

District officials will hold a community informational meeting on the proposed improvements on Monday, March 20 at 6 p.m. in the Marshfield High School library, with an optional building tour to follow. The district also has information related to the referendum on its website at www.marshfieldschools.org/referendum.

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BE OUR GUEST

Local business warns against latest scam

MARSHFIELD -- A local company is warning you to be on the lookout for "Toner Pirates."

This scam has targeted organizations that have used copiers and printers for years, but Bauernfeind Business Technologies (BBT) has recently learned the scammers are now targeting those using postage meters, as well.

There are several variations of this scheme. Sometimes, the crooks will call an unsuspecting office person claiming to be the victim's print services provider -- and they might even know the name of the legitimate provider and the type of copier/printer or postage machine they're using. They try to get permission to send toner or ink to the customer. Those supplies will be sent with payment expected upon delivery. Sometimes, they won't even call; they'll just brazenly send out the toner or ink and demand payment. Their invoices look legitimate and sometimes offer special pricing for quick, electronic payment.

If you are a customer of BBT or other reputable office technology providers, do not fall for this scheme. If your devices are under an all-inclusive service contract, you should not have to pay for supplies. Bauernfeind will never call demanding you purchase ink or toner. If you receive an invoice from an unknown company for toner or ink, assume it is a scam and do not pay. If you receive a cash-on-delivery (COD) shipment of supplies, simply refuse the shipment.

- Here are some good tips to help identify a scam:
- The company name is not familiar.
 - The offer seems too good to be true.
 - The caller cannot identify your machine's make, model or BBT-issued tag number.
 - The company refuses to provide contact information.
 - The caller seems pushy, warning that you have to act fast for the best deal.
 - The caller seems evasive when asked simple questions.
 - The caller refuses to provide references or an official quote.

If you ever have questions concerning a shipment of ink or toner, don't hesitate to call 800-288-2712. We'd be happy to work with you to verify you are not the victim of the Toner Pirates.

*Bauernfeind Business Technologies
Marshfield*



CHRISTENSEN SALES

ON-SITE REAL ESTATE AUCTION!!!
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH, AT 12:00 NOON
LOCATED AT 123134 CTY RD N, EDGAR WI. 54426
38 AC +/- FARMETTE WITH BLDGS
(Personal property auction starts at 10:00 am)

Directions from Edgar, go south on Cty Rd H 1/2 mile to Cty Rd N, then 3 miles west on Cty Rd N to sale site, or from Fenwood, go North on Cty Rd M, 3 miles to sale site.

37.76 acre farm with an estimated 35 acres of tillable farm land, balance is primarily bldg., site. 3 or 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 story home with 24x24ft. attached garage. 24/24ft. steel pole building for machinery storage & horse stall. 13/13ft. frame storage shed. 24x48ft. wood frame machine shed. 20x24 ft. garage/workshop concrete floor and insulated. 7x14ft. greenhouse.

TERMS OF SALE: Successful bidder will be required to deposit 10% earnest money (non-refundable), on sale date, and sign appropriate offer to purchase forms, indicating a cash sale. **NO BUYERS FEE!!** Closing to be within 45 days of auction date. All information set forth is believed to be accurate, however property is being offered "as is", with no implied warranties or guarantees by seller or sellers agents. All announcements on auction day, will take precedence over previously advertised information.

For more information, contact Christensen Sales Corp.
Abbotsford, WI 715-223-6345
www.christensensales.com
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AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023 • 10:00 A.M.
LUNCH BY B.J.'S BARBECUE

Located from Edgar, WI: 2 mile South on CTH H to CTH N, then 3 miles West on CTH N

Tractor & Implements: Kubota L2501 4WD diesel utility tractor w/Kubota LA525 hyd. loader, quick hitch, 3 pt. & counter weight (6 years old, only 225 hrs., exc. cond., Ser. #58297); CID quick attach pallet fork; Land Pride quick attach STB1072 snowplow; King Kutter 4' 3 pt. rotary mower (like new); King Kutter 6' 3 pt. back blade; King Kutter 3 pt. slusher; **Vehicle:** 2009 Ford Ranger 2WD ext. cab pickup truck w/168,000 mi., 4 cyl., & auto trans. **Outdoor Items:** Teske 8'x5' steel utility trailer; 5' driveway drag; 5'x8' chicken house on skids; 12' flat hay rack w/gear; 10' flat hay rack w/gear & side racks; Yardman 173cc big wheel push mower; Earthquake rear tire roto-tiller; Swisher big wheel gas string trimmer, lawn chipper/shredder w/elec. motor; lawn roller; Fimco trailer type lawn sprayer w/30 gal. tank; alum. canoe; JD 180 riding lawn mower (not running); Homelite chainsaw; 10'x12' wire dog kennel; (2) 10' steel gates; 3 ext. ladders (fiberglass & alum.); misc. jacks, Schumacher batt. charger, Hi-Lift jack; asst. of hitches; lots of wash tubs; lawn & garden tools (shovels, axes, forks, picks, etc.). **Firearms:** New England Arms 20 gau. single shot shotgun, Ithaca M-49 22 cal. rifle, Rossi 410 shotgun, New England Arms 20 gau. single shot shotgun, some misc. ammunition

Shop Tools: Craftsman wood miter saw, Craftsman tool cabinet; Craftsman 10" table saw; Craftsman router & table; Sears router; Craftsman 2 h.p. planer; Central 13" counter top drill press; Makita scroll saw; Sears drill press w/pedestal stand; Powermate 20 gal. air comp.; Lincoln arc welder; AMT scroll saw; Delta Shopmaster jointer; CM belt/disc sander; Delta chisel mortiser; Craftsman 12" band saw; Craftsman 12" wood lathe; Craftsman work bench; B&D elec. planer; elec. belt sander; mitre saw; metal tool boxes; lg. asst. of name brand hand tools, socket sets, pipe wrenches; misc. power tools, lg. asst. of misc. hardware; **Antiques & Collectibles:** Mission Orange Soda tin sign, misc. seed signs & thermometers; white Hoosier cabinet; RW 6 gal. crock, 10 gal. crock, lg. asst. of milk bottles, Minneapolis treadle sewing machine, church pew, ruby dishes, old print, vintage costume jewelry.

Household: 2 pine wardrobes, (4) lawyer's style bookshelves, several glass fronted display shelves, sets of dishes, games, baking items, quilts, quilting & sewing supplies, fans, asst. glasses (some Loony Toons & Disney); several cookie jars & canisters, metal tins, small asst. of children's & 1960's records & tapes; youth books, lots of other misc.

Real Estate (Sells at 12:00 Noon): 37.76 acre farm w/approx. 35 acres of tillable land, balance is primarily building site. 3 or 4 bedroom 2 1/2 story home w/24'x24' steel pole building for machinery storage & horse stall, 13'x13' frame storage shed, 24'x48' wood frame machine shed, 20'x24' insulated garage/workshop w/concrete floor, 7'x14' greenhouse.

TERMS OF SALE: Successful bidder will be required to deposit 10% earnest money (non-refundable), on sale date, and sign appropriate offer to purchase forms, indicating a cash sale. **NO BUYERS FEE!!** Closing to be within 45 days of the auction date. All announcements on auction day, will take precedence over previously advertised information. Contact Christensen Sales Corp., Abbotsford, WI for more information.

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

"Nothing Gold..."

Dear Reader,
Recently I read Robert Frost's poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay." This eight-line composition reflects on the beauty and impermanence of life. Frost describes how all things dwindle with time, and how beauty fades to nothingness. The sunset you saw last night lives only in your mind; the christening of your child is only a memory; the wealth you accumulated over the years becomes value-less, since shrouds have no pockets.



The poet is saying that the green of spring's birth eventually evolves to the gold of full being in summer. But autumn winds blow through our lives, and the fleeting beauty of gold vanishes, much as the idyll of Eden gave way to the toil and pain of our current existence. Each cycle of life brings its own aesthetics, both new and familiar to the fore, as all things are limited and temporary.

Being transitions into non-being over time as the body crumbles to dust. The raging priorities driven by bodily and ego needs -- the hunger for food, the search for shelter, the quest for riches, power, and prestige -- these all wane to nothing. Infinity prevails throughout, and the trans-personal ideals -- love, compassion, and a desire for truth and beauty -- suffuse whatever reality one experiences in that future state.

Most Christians, through faith, believe in a permanent afterlife with God which supersedes an impermanent physical life on earth. The afterlife is contingent on how well one handles the body and gifts bestowed on earth. If we accumulate and amass treasure, then we must give and share to alleviate the plight of our fellow travelers. If we attain power and influence, then we must leverage these forces to better the world for all of us, not inordinately for a few. Subjugating the soul in favor of the body's cravings during life may determine the final outcome; complete and everlasting loneliness instead of perpetual ecstasy.

In essence, our bodily form is a temporary symbol of all that is beautiful and important, but we cannot stay in this form, for nothing here is changeless forever. That's why recognition of the non-being of the soul is critical to how well we fare in eternity.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"

Fireworks fund established

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

PITTSVILLE -- The Stars and Stripes Forever Fund was recently established at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation, with the eventual goal of fully supporting the Fourth of July fireworks in Pittsville.

Currently, funding for the fireworks is derived from donations from the general public each year and from some of the proceeds of the activities in the park. This fund was created to be a long term funding source for the fireworks in the event the Legion, Lions, or other groups are not able to sponsor the activities necessary to raise funds as a trade-off to annual fundraising.

Any donations to the Stars and Stripes Forever Fund received between March 6 and June 30 will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$1,000. Gifts can be made in memory of, or in honor of, a person or can be considered in estate planning. All gifts are tax deductible.

To make a contribution, you can send a check made payable to Marshfield Area Community Foundation, 211 E. Second St., Suite No. 2, Marshfield, WI, 54449. In the memo line write "Stars & Stripes Forever Fund." You can also go to the Foundation's website, www.marshfield.foundation, click on "Donate Now" and select this fund.

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Lot 4 will include 5 bedroom, 2 bath home, 400' pole shed, milking barn and other buildings on 5± acres.
Lot 5 will include 19.5± acres and 3 outbuilding plus well.
Lot 6 will include 15± acres, of which partially tillable.
Lot 7 will include 33± acres of which 20± acres are tillable farmland.
Lot 8 will include 26± acres of partially wooded land.
Bid on any one or combination of parcels.
Property Location: W7522 Larson Road, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Open House Friday, March 17th from 11:00am-1:00pm
Live & Online Auction on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 1:00pm
Auction Location: JS Supper Club, W9594 US-8, Ladysmith, WI 54848
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Stoney River seeks cooks, tasters for chili cook-off



Stoney River Chef Kent Laidlaw looks forward to hosting Marshfield's Chili Cook-Off, scheduled for March 23 at the assisted living community on West McMillan Street.

Submitted photo

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Bring your hunger, taste buds and water bottle to the Stoney River Chili Cook-off on Thursday, March 23 to sample and vote for prize-winning chili, entered by Marshfield area home cooks. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Stoney River Assisted Living, 1204 W. McMillan St., Marshfield.

Teams, businesses and individual home or restaurant chefs are welcome to enter the competition and will simply need to bring a slow cooker full of their best chili to Stoney River on event day.

To enter or for more information, contact Stoney River's Lifestyle Specialist Meranda Lelonek at 715-207-6423 or MLelonek@stoneyrivermarshfield.com.

The fun, foodie event co-sponsored by Stoney River Assisted Living, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MACCI) and ProMedica is free and open to the public. Participants will rate the chili and prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Tastiest, Best Presentation, and Most Unique.

Stoney River will supply cornbread and chili toppings, while a group of residents and one resident's son will be entering pots of chili as well.

Stoney River's Chef, Kent Laidlaw says, "We are looking forward to hosting this year's chili cook-off and seeing who is going to take home the prizes."

Chef Laidlaw is not the only one eager for friendly competition.

"We are excited to bring residents, businesses, and the community together for a little competitive fun in an inviting setting," says MACCI Administrative Assistant Jessica Roehl.

"I'm looking forward to yummy chili options and seeing many community members and friends attend," says KC Reichenbach, Account Liaison, ProMedica, "ProMedica Hospice is bringing serious competition, so come ready to be impressed."

Arlan and Priscilla Ferch Theater Scholarship Fund

Arlan and Priscilla Ferch created this scholarship for students attending UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield, with a preference for those studying theater. The scholarship is renewable for one year. For more information or to donate to this fund, visit: <https://www.marshfield.foundation>.



FORUMS

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increase by an estimated \$78.45 per year for every \$100,000 of property value, starting with the bills issued in December 2023. For example, the impact to a property valued at \$200,000 would be \$156.90 annually.

The city is holding two more public informational meetings for those interested in learning more about the public safety referendum. Those meetings are scheduled for the following dates and times:

Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Hotel Marshfield and Thursday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the UWSP-Marshfield Campus Connector hallway between the Science and Stem buildings.

For additional information, refer to ci.marshfield.wi.us/referendum.



Honoring Marshfield's 150th

Marshfield 150 for 150: Thom Gerretsen

NOMINATED BY
PAT STERNITZKY
AND MIKE WARREN

Thom Gerretsen is to Marshfield what Walter Cronkite was for the country – a longtime trusted voice that the public turned to when they wanted to hear about the news of the day and how it impacted them and their families personally.

For more than 21 years, central Wisconsin radio listeners would tune in to 1450 AM to get the latest news and information from the WDLB newsroom, in which Thom served as a reporter, then news director, from 1978 through 1999. He was also the producer of Marshfield's only local radio talk show, *Insight*, where he would interview guests and take calls from area residents about issues and topics they cared about.

Under Thom's direction, WDLB (along with its sister stations WLJY and WOSQ) was always the go-to source for everything from local election coverage to an interview with the student who just won the school district spelling bee. Thom and his reporters covered every city council meeting and other events in the area to make sure the audience was kept informed about all the happenings in local government, as well as area civic organizations and the local school board. State and national lawmakers couldn't pass through Marshfield without being noticed either. And if you were a criminal, Thom made sure his audience knew what mischief you had been up to as well. His professional mission was to provide more local news to the community than any other station in the surrounding markets.

A native of Fox Lake, IL, Thom attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he got involved in the campus radio station covering news events. He worked in local radio in Janesville and Portage before coming to Marshfield to join the Goetz Broadcasting Corporation and has remained part of the community ever since.



In addition to his local news department obligations, Thom was very active in the company's statewide radio networks. This included providing news copy and sound bites that were shared with scores of other Wisconsin radio stations to be used in their own newscasts. He also had a passion for sports and would cover Wisconsin Badgers, Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee Brewers and Green Bay Packers games for the network. This part of his job provided him with the rare honor of personally covering the Packers' Super Bowl appearances in 1997 and 1998.

This hall-of-fame broadcaster has interviewed many of the nation's top dignitaries while covering events around the state, including Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Al Gore, Hillary Clinton and Henry Kissinger, along with every governor and U.S. Senator from Wisconsin since the 1970s. While covering sports, he has interviewed Michael Jordan, Brett Favre, Reggie White, Leroy Butler,

Paul Molitor and Robin Yount, just to name a few of the biggies. And he had the opportunity to cover appearances from celebrities ranging from Paul Harvey to Alex Trebek.

After his long career working in radio, Thom tried his hand at print journalism. In May 1999, he accepted a position as regional reporter for the *Marshfield News-Herald*. His experience and contacts elevated him quickly to become managing editor of the daily publication in just over a year. This lasted until 2002, when he was recruited by his former broadcast colleagues to take on the role of chief editor of *Wheeler News Service*, which is the state's largest and most popular news wire service used by many radio stations across Wisconsin for statewide news and sports content.

Although Gerretsen retired from journalism in November 2017, someone with his passion and energy couldn't totally stay away from the public spotlight. He's made appearances on local radio and in newspaper columns over the years to bring perspective when local community leaders pass away or when a major issue of the past re-emerges in the headlines. He's also become active on social media and uses the platform to share his expertise and experiences within the community.

Thom continues to be involved with the community as a member of Kiwanis Club of Marshfield, Central Chamber Chorale, Leadership Marshfield Alumni, and Faith Lutheran Church. He is also a regular contributing writer for Hub City Times. And occasionally, you'll hear Thom's voice come out of retirement to provide color commentary on radio broadcasts of local high school football games.

In 2021, Gerretsen was inducted into the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association's Hall of Fame for his many years of service to the profession of news and sports journalism, all while doing his part to put Marshfield on the map.

CUTS

from page 1

The Health System is also engaging its community partners in regions with affected staff, including working with local groups and identifying employers with potential employment

opportunities.

The Health System will continually review its resources and specific patient care needs, and look for any additional opportunities to continue addressing the challenges facing the industry.

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Clark County HCE scholarship application now available

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

NEILLSVILLE – Four \$500 scholarships are being offered to college or technical school students, originally from Clark County or currently living in Clark County. The students applying for the scholarships must be in the process of completing, or must have completed, at least one year of higher education beyond high school, and must have 24 credits by June 1, along with a GPA of 3.0 or higher to qualify. The funds for these scholarships are made available through the HCE Dairy Bar sales at the Clark County Fair.

Applications are available from the Extension Clark County Office, 517 Court Street, Room 104, Neillsville, WI, 54456-1962, or by calling 715-743-5121. Applications are also available online at:

<https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/hce-scholarship/>.

Deadline for applications is June 23. Winners will be asked to volunteer for a shift in the HCE Dairy Bar at the Clark County Fair, Aug. 9 – 13.

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3/17-3/19/23
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- First come, first served. Deli style numbers will be given out starting at 11:00am on Friday.
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SPORTS

'It's like family': Bonsel continues legacy of curling

BY TERESA DERFUS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARSHFIELD - The party was over and time to think about what went well, what didn't and to reminisce.

Like a family reunion, it was getting your game on, creating memories, having fun and thinking about whether to do it all over again next year. But in this case, this "family" event is the Lobstein Bonsel.

For 19 years, Marshfield Curling Club has hosted this mixed curling tournament which has

brought hundreds of people to Marshfield over the years.

"Comments from returning teams have included that 'it feels like coming home to family,'" said Planning Committee member Pam Schmidt of Marshfield.

"There are a lot of memories here through this spiel," said Pam's spouse Steve Schmidt. The Schmidts have chaired the planning committee all 19 years, joined by their daughter, Andrea Schmidt Nelson, each of those years. This event is the club's

second-largest fundraiser and is, "well-known in mixed curling with a waiting list. It truly is a family affair for some," Steve Schmidt added. "We've had teams that included siblings, and parents curling with their adult children."

The Scottish sport of curling has had a following in Marshfield since two men from Canada living in Marshfield, Dr. David Bjarnason and Keith Reding, joined an active club in Medford in 1973. In 1975, 20 interested Marshfield people joined them in Medford and in 1976 a curling building was built on the Marshfield Fairgrounds with Ian Keith as the club's first president.

The club will observe its 50th anniversary in 2026 and Craig DeGrand serves as its current president.

"Lobstein" is a combination of the words "lobster" and "Holstein" since the event's special Saturday night dinner has featured lobster flown fresh from Boston, MA, and steak.

So, is it the meal bringing people back to Marshfield, the curling or hanging out with long-time friends who feel like family?

"Probably all of the



The Marshfield Curling Club hosted the Lobstein Spiel, March 4-5, at their facility at 1500 S. Vine Ave., at the fairgrounds in Marshfield. Teresa Derfus photo

above," Steve Schmidt said.

Teams of four members each have come from Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan and many cities in Wisconsin from big clubs - Milwaukee, Racine, Madison - to small-town clubs - Rice Lake, Stevens Point, Centerville. This year for example, Team Wild from Poynette won this year's Lobstein competition and Team Stolt from the St. Paul Curling Club will play in the National Mixed Championships in mid-

April in Denver, CO.

"We're really proud of this event and the club, and happy to welcome people to our community," Steve Schmidt said. "Bringing in 16 teams from out of town has a positive economic impact for our city and it's a good way to showcase Marshfield."

The planning committee, also including Tami Friedrichsen, Jim and Lisa Freund, Tom and Sharon Spindler, were already thinking about Lobstein

2024 the day after the tournament was done.

What made them particularly happy was knowing they weren't the only ones thinking about next year. Commitments are made already by a number of teams to come back to celebrate 20 years of Lobstein in '24.

To learn more about the Marshfield Curling Club, follow the Club's Facebook page or go to marshfieldcurling.com.

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Kiwanis contribute to C2 Makerspace



Kiwanis Club of Marshfield presented a contribution March 1 to the new C2 Makerspace-Collaborate & Create program. Director Mark Bowie (center in photo), a former longtime engineering employee & teacher, said the program's mission is to help people explore personal development and career paths with high-tech, hands-on learning. Kiwanis President Nicki Anderson is at right, Kiwanian Thom Gerretsen at left. Programs such as classes, workshops and events are expected to begin soon. Bowie said the program's biggest start-up need is for volunteers who work with technology & electronics and enjoy experimenting with new materials. C2 is based at UW-Stevens Point at Marshfield, and has received help from numerous community organizations, local & state governments and area schools. More information can be found at https://www.c2makerspace.com. Donna Martin photo

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GOLF
from page 2

"We have Uneekor simulators that run all the processing that reads the ball flight, shoots through the computer, up through the projector and right on the screen," Reis says. "So, the feedback is almost instantaneous. You hit it. You look at the screen and you see your ball move."

"It's great," said Chris Miller, Marshfield, after a March 5 round of golf. "First time I've ever shot on a simulator, and it holds pretty true to my game thus far," he added. "You have to play it like a real course, use the correct clubs for the distance that you're at, hit it true, and so far so good. I'm enjoying it. There's 14 inches of snow outside yet and we're here in downtown Marshfield golfing. It's a lot of fun. And you don't lose any balls," Miller added with a smile.

Miller was joined by Mike Gillette and Mark Johnson, both of Marshfield.

"I think it's really good because if you haven't swung a club all winter, you can get in here and get back into it," Gillette added. "You have to make good shots," Gillette said of the simulated game. "You pay the price if you make a bad shot, just like on a course." Gillette added the simulator is pretty close to the real thing. "The distance I don't think is. Plus you can't really read the slope. But, it's as close as you can get to real golf."

"I really love it," Johnson added. "It's a place to go before the courses open up," he said. "And as far as my game goes, it's really pretty accurate. You need to play a few rounds to get used to the simulator,



The Clubhaus offers four state-of-the-art golf simulator bays, which feature regular rounds of golf, driving and practice ranges, mini golf and putt-putt games for the kids. The new Marshfield business opened Feb. 27. Submitted photo

but, I mean, my slice is there when I hit a slice. When I hit it fat or hit it thin, it shows up that way. I'm hooked," said Johnson.

We found the trio playing the Bighorn Canyons Golf Course on a leisurely Sunday afternoon.

"They're high quality, and they're accurate enough to give high-quality launch and trajectory data, spin data, club face data, for the low handicappers, the guys who are really serious about golf who really are paying attention to that," Reis said of the simulators. "Then it goes all the way down to mini golf and putt-putt," he added.

"We've thought about it," Reis said, when asked about potential expansion in the future. "We have access to most of the building," he said. "The front we lease out to Rural Mutual (Insurance Company),

so they'll be in there, but there's a fair amount of space right on the other side of the wall here where we could absolutely push it down and throw one to two more bays in there. I've already thought about it a lot. I thought about it before we even opened."

The Clubhaus is a side hustle for the four co-owners. Of the four, Tomke will spend most of his time there. The others have full-time jobs elsewhere.

"We can staff the whole thing without having to hire," Reis said.

The Clubhaus is currently open 9-9 Sundays through Thursdays, and 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. They have also launched a spring tune-up league, complete with 24 two-person teams. Reis says more league options will be forthcoming.

TOYS
from page 5

time and the person who was coordinating Marshfield's Toys for Tots campaign was stepping down, so my sister referred me as a possible candidate to take over."

Schmidt has a solid group of 18-20 volunteers helping her out every year.

"I definitely can't do it myself. I have a gentleman and my husband who go and pick all the toys up on toy pick-up day. They take a trailer. They pick up all the toys for us, which is a huge help."

Schmidt also says her volunteers help count the toys each year, which is a huge undertaking.

"For the Toys for Tots program any toys we take in we have to count," Schmidt says. "I have to then report that number to the national foundation. There's a lot of paperwork involved in this after the year is done. We have to report to the Toys for Tots Foundation how many toys we collected, how many books we collected, how many stocking stuffers we collect, so we have to sort everything in those categories. We have to report it to them that way, then we have to report how many kids we helped, how many volunteers we had. I have to keep track of all of that. We have our paperwork that has to be done by Jan. 15."

Nationally, there were 833 Toys for Tots campaigns in 2022, with over 41,000

volunteers across the country, which collected 14 million toys and books and assisted over nine million children, both more than the previous year.

"The stories that we get and the thanks that we get, the tears that we get...I mean, every year we have somebody that comes in and makes us cry because of why they're there or just their gratefulness," Schmidt says. "It always brings tears to our eyes. Some people come in and share their story while they're walking through the toy room and some people don't. It doesn't matter either way to us. If they want to share why they need it, they share why they need it."

That, says Margie, is what keeps her going.

"When you're walking through with that parent as a volunteer, and they spot that toy that their kid has been asking for for the last month, you can see it in their face. You can always see it. That right there is the reason I still do this."

Schmidt is always looking for monetary donations, too. The Auburndale FFA's Pumpkin Glow and Sunflower patch donate funds each year. Margie also tries to host a roller-skating fundraiser each summer at Melody Gardens Skateland.

For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, contact the local Toys for Tots program via email at marshfield.wi@toysfortots.org.

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