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FREE

County board to Evers, legislature: No more mask mandates

BY MIKE WARREN
 EDITOR

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Unless required by law, Wood County will not be told what to do, when it comes to public health crises. That was the impetus behind a resolution passed Nov. 14 by the Wood County Board of Supervisors.

After taking public comments on the topic – all against any potential future mask or vaccination mandates at any level – the board voted 14-5 in favor of a resolution which expresses “the County Board’s desire to prioritize the civil liberties of its citizens when the county is dealing with a public health crisis.”

The resolution was introduced by the county’s Health and Human Services Committee, and reads, among other things, “the Wood County Board of Supervisors supports the health care rights and freedoms of its residents,” and “the Wood County Board of Supervisors is aware of studies that have shown that face masking may not have had a demonstrable effect on the transmission of airborne viruses such as COVID-19. Additionally, face coverings may impact the intake of carbon dioxide which may increase blood pressure, reduce cognitive ability, cause respiratory distress, and cause reproductive concerns.”

But it was the next part of the resolution that most public speakers seemed to defend the most.



Jean Kelley, Marshfield, was one of seven Wood County residents to speak Nov. 14 to the Wood County Board, in favor of a resolution which prioritizes civil liberties over state mandates when it comes to dealing with a public health crisis.
 Courtesy of Wisconsin Rapids Community Media

“The Wood County Board of Supervisors finds that forced masking, vaccination, and isolation mandates may have caused harm to adults and children by contributing to isolation and increasing mental health crisis and social anxieties,” the resolution reads. “These mandates may also have affected verbal, motor, and overall development of children born during the pandemic.”

See MANDATES page 8

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Merry Christmas

Holiday Health Resource Fair in Wisconsin Rapids

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -- The Wood County Health Department (WCHD) in partnership with the Hmong & Hispanic Communications Network Project (H2N) is hosting a Holiday Health Resource Fair on Friday, Dec. 15 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Mid-State Technical College's gymnasium, located at 500 32nd St. N in Wisconsin Rapids.

This free event is open to the public and all are encouraged to come. The following will be provided free of charge: Food and drinks (including a hot chocolate bar); Photos with Santa Claus; Local health resource information; COVID-19 and flu shots (if eligible, while supplies last); Blood pressure checks; Diabetes screenings; Kids' activities and more.

"We want residents to be aware of free and low-cost local health resources and community serving organizations near south Wood County," said Audrey Day, a Wood County Health Department Community Health Worker in a statement. "We want to bring people together this holiday season and help them have access to important health information."

The WCHD and H2N, in collaboration with other organizations, plan to share information regarding local free or low-cost resources. To ensure everyone can access health information and resources, there

will be Hmong and Hispanic Community Health Workers (CHWs) available who can help translate and interpret.

CHWs are public health workers who help those within minority and underserved communities. They share similarities with the community they serve, such as speaking the same language or sharing similar life experiences. They are a trusted information source for people who are unsure of medical and social support services. They help people access these services by making sure they are delivered in a way that is culturally appropriate.

CHWs help improve access to healthcare services, build stronger connections between the community and healthcare providers, and improve community health overall. Some services offered by CHWs are: Interpretation and translation services; Advocacy for underserved individuals or communities; Culturally appropriate health education, outreach, and available resources; Connecting communities to health care and social services.

Parking for this event is free at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids. The gymnasium is located in the southeast lot. Follow the signage from the main entrance.

The WCHD and H2N would like to

See RESOURCE page 5

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| OBITUARIES |



AUDRY VERNON CURTIN
Audry Vernon Curtin of Marshfield, was born on November 5, 1922 to James and Edith Curtin, and passed away on October 29, 2023 at 100 years old.
He served over 20 years in the Marine Corp, 1st Sgt. Ret.. He also worked over 20 years at Northwest Airlines, Ret.
Audry was preceded in death by his wife Marion and oldest son Timothy.
He is survived by daughters Kathy Cabot, Linda Curtin, Brenda (Jennifer) Curtin, son Daniel (Patty) Curtin and daughter-in-law Penny (Timothy) Curtin.
Audry is also survived by grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.
Audry will be laid to rest with wife Marion at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, California.



LORRAINE B. TRIERWEILER
Lorraine B. Trierweiler, age 100, passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at Wells Nature View Assisted Living. Private family services will be held.
Lorraine was born on March 5, 1923, in Stevens Point, to Harold and Verona Buza and was a graduate of Stevens Point High School. She was united in marriage to Edward W. Trierweiler on March 15, 1941, in Dubuque, IA. He died on August 13, 2000.
Lorraine had a very active life. Even at the age of 90 she was always on the go. In her younger years when her husband was establishing Trierweiler Construction, she was employed at Weinbrenner Shoe Factory in Marshfield from 1941 until 1959. She then was a homemaker and raised her daughter. She and Ed built three lake homes in Minocqua where they enjoyed snowmobiling, boating, and fishing. Lorraine enjoyed her yard and landscaping and kept a meticulous lawn.
She is survived by her daughter, Donna (Sean) Davis-Yaun of Marshfield and two grandchildren, Katie (Jim) Sauter of Tomah and Kyle (Tania) Davis of Marshfield. She is also survived by eight great grandchildren, Desirae Weisenberger, Autumn Davis, Addyson Sauter, Kainan Davis, Avery Sauter, A.J. Sauter, Layne Sauter, and Isla Sauter.
She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her first son-in-law, DuWayne Davis, a brother, Chet Buza, and sisters, Pearl Szymanski and Harriet Adams.
A special thanks to Patty and the staff at Wells Nature View at 2711 S. Apple Av. for the wonderful care that was given to Lorraine over the past five years.
Condolences may be sent online to www.rembsfh.com

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Honoring Marshfield's 150th

Marshfield 150 for 150: Lyn Zais

NOMINATED BY JANE KENNEDY
Lynette (Lyn) Zais was born in Stanley, WI, on January 20, 1942. She graduated from Stanley High School and attended Luther College and the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, graduating with a major in biology and a minor in psychology. She married her high school and college sweetheart, Donald Zais, in 1964. Don and Lyn shared their first home together in Sparta before moving to Wisconsin Rapids and then to Marshfield in 1967.
Lyn was a constant student in life. Formally, she earned two master's degrees, and informally she was always open to trying new experiences, such as foods, travel, books, and subjects. Her love of learning and education led her into a job in substitute teaching followed by her dream career as a guidance counselor at Mid-State Technical College helping others find their own passions. She received the Wisconsin Association for Counseling and Development award in 1994, the National Career Development Association award in 1998 and the Wisconsin Vocational Association Professional Excellence award in 1999. Lyn was also an educator and counselor to countless members of the community, as well as family members, frequently supporting them through their career decisions and other life changes. Following her recent death, her husband, Don, says that he has heard from many of those she helped.
Lyn Zais had a passion for social justice and took whatever steps she could to provide opportunities and access to those in need. She was involved with immigrant families coming to Marshfield, including from South Asia and Mexico, finding housing, providing financial assistance and advice.
Lyn joined a group of fourteen from her church who studied the southern border immigration issue and then spent a home stay with a Mexican family to learn more about why people were immigrating to the US. She studied issues thoroughly and then worked tirelessly to support just causes. She was on the Sister Cities Committee and she and her husband, Don, took the first Marshfield traveling students to Argentina. Lyn was on the founding committee for the Marshfield Cultural Fair.
Lyn was very musical, especially as a piano player. She taught piano to many and was a frequent accompanist for countless students at music festivals, church, and recitals. She participated in the bell choir at her church. Lyn fed her love of music attending many musicals and operas.
Lyn was widely known throughout Marshfield for her participation in various civic functions. She served on the Library Board and the School Board. She was a regular at the Kitchen Table restaurant where she delighted in meeting new people at the community tables. Even in her neighborhood, she, along with her husband, Don, brought people together by hosting the creation of a mulligan stew and outdoor gathering every year. She was a fixture at First Presbyterian Church, always urging that community to help everyone be more fair, equitable, and protective of all people and the planet we share. She received the United Way Volunteer of the Year Award. She was also the first secretary for Marshfield Area Habitat for Humanity, established in 1995.
Lyn will long be remembered by the hundreds of lives

she personally touched through her life helping others. I chose a particular picture of Lyn, taken during the UW New York Theater tour, to accompany this essay because it expresses a lot of what she was about. She reminded me of Mary Poppins, cheerfully arriving on the scene with her delightful sense of humor, her intelligence, and her love of people to address the problem of the moment, reach a solution, and energetically zip away to the next event.
About Lyn, Barb Gillespie, a good friend, stated, "Lyn's participation at our church was central to who she was. She led the committee which crafted the FPC mission statement over 20 years ago, which has truly guided our church in becoming more welcoming through the years." That mission statement embodies the essence of Lyn's character:
"First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin seeks to welcome all to join us on our journey of faith, denying no one, based upon his or her particular human condition, participation in the life of the church. We want to be a safe place, a sanctuary where people are accepted, included, and cared for as they are. We will be agents of God's transforming power, aligning ourselves with the Holy Spirit as we pray, worship, learn, share fellowship and serve together. By attending to the love of Jesus Christ in our midst, we discover a deepening faith that makes a difference in our lives. As a community based on God's love, we strive to be of service to our neighbors and to the world."

Mid-State accepting applications to new Dental Assistant program

Tuition is funded for the first three cohorts of students

FOR HUB CITY TIMES
WISCONSIN RAPIDS -- A new Dental Assistant program is coming to Mid-State Technical College this spring, thanks to a collaboration with Family Health Center of Marshfield.
The Dental Assistant partnership was inspired by a Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) grant aimed at addressing the shortage of dental assistants and other oral care professionals in central Wisconsin. That grant funding will cover tuition for any student in the first three cohorts who commits to working for one
See PROGRAM page 7

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Filing for candidacy now open for mayor, council seats

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- An election for alderpersons and mayor for the City of Marshfield will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, unless a spring primary is needed, which will be held Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

There are 10 aldermanic districts in Marshfield, and in this spring election, seats in the odd-numbered districts (Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9) are up for election, along with the mayor's office.

Nomination papers for these offices can be obtained at the City Clerk's office located in City Hall at 207 W. Sixth Street, Marshfield.

Candidates can now circulate their nomination papers. The deadline to file candidacy papers with the City Clerk is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. Candidates for the office of alderperson are required to obtain a minimum of 20 signatures, and a maximum of 40 signatures from eligible voters in their district, and for the office of mayor are required to obtain a minimum of 200 signatures and a maximum of 400 signatures.

The terms for newly elected alderpersons and a mayor will begin on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. All terms are for two years unless otherwise indicated.

An alderperson and mayor in Marshfield are elected to serve for two-year terms and are expected to attend several meetings each month. These include Common Council meetings held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. In addition, each alderperson will be appointed to a standing committee, which is scheduled to meet on the first and third weeks of the month, typically Monday, or Tuesday.

A candidacy informational packet may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Embracing Agape Love: A Foundation For Lasting Connections

Dear Reader,

In the tapestry of human relationships, the thread of love weaves through the fabric of our lives, creating bonds that withstand the tests of time and adversity. At the heart of these connections lies a profound concept: agape love.

Agape love, often described as selfless and unconditional, transcends the ordinary boundaries of affection. Its roots delve deep into the core of our humanity, influencing the dynamics of marriage, friendship, and community.

Agape Love in Marriage

Marriage, an institution built on the pillars of commitment and companionship, flourishes when adorned with the mantle of agape love. In the face of trials, agape love stands resilient, a beacon guiding spouses through the ebb and flow of life. It is the choice to prioritize the well-being of a partner over personal desires, fostering an environment where sacrificial love becomes the cornerstone of a lasting union.

Agape Love in Friendship

In the realm of friendship, agape love transforms casual companionship into a force that transcends circumstances. True friends are those who embrace each other's imperfections, standing by one another through thick and thin. Agape love fosters an environment where friends become a source of unwavering support, demonstrating a selflessness that mirrors

the divine. Rudyard Kipling's poem "The Thousandth Man" paints a vivid portrait of agape friendship.

Agape Love in the Community

Communities thrive when agape love becomes the lifeblood that courses through the veins of shared experiences. It is the embodiment of compassion and empathy that binds individuals together, creating a foundation of diverse yet interconnected lives. In times of need, agape love compels community members to extend a helping hand, embodying the essence of "love thy neighbor."

The Divine Thread

From a Christian perspective, agape love finds its roots in the divine. Many believe that God's love for humanity is the epitome of selfless, sacrificial love – the very essence of agape. Understanding and embodying this divine love can serve as a compass, guiding individuals, couples, and communities toward stronger, more meaningful connections. As we navigate the intricate landscapes of marriage, friendship, and community, let us embrace the transformative power of agape love. In doing so, we contribute to a world where the bonds we forge are not easily broken – a testament to the enduring strength of selfless, unconditional love.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

RESOURCE

from page 2

thank Mid-State Technical College, El Mezcal, Polito's Pizza, Tong's Asian Market, Starbucks, WIRI 105.5 FM, and La Taqueria for their generous donations and assistance. They would also like to thank Hometown Pharmacy for their support in making this event possible.

For any questions about this event, please contact Audrey Day with the Wood County Health Department at 715-295-4244.

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Columbus off to unbeaten start

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – The Columbus Dons followed their fourth straight Cranberry Classic championship Thanksgiving weekend with two more wins to open the month of December.

The Dons scored their third consecutive road win at Auburndale Dec. 4, with a 66-55 victory over the Eagles.

“It was a test. First game without Emmitt (Konieczny) was obviously tough. He does a lot for us, offensively especially, as far as creating for other people,” said Head Coach Joe Konieczny following the game. “So I thought we had some guys tonight kinda start to step into that role, and it’s gonna be by committee. We’ll have to do that for a while yet, so overall, all the circumstances considered, just feel very fortunate to come and coach ‘em and to get a win.”

The Dons were led by Blake Jakobi, who led all scorers with 23 points. Cy Becker added 21 for Columbus.

“Blake is so consistent with his effort and preparation and everything he does,” Coach Konieczny added. “And then Cy is just an athlete. Whatever sport



Auburndale's Kaden Anderson (left) and Cy Becker of Marshfield Columbus position themselves for a rebound, during a non-conference matchup Dec. 4 at Auburndale High School. The visiting Dons beat the Eagles, 66-55.

he's playing, he's gonna go and compete and have fun competing, and be effective at it. I thought those two were obviously big for us offensively. [Cy] can slash. He can shoot a three if we need to. Defensively, he's the kid we put on [Caden] Weinfurter. I know Cade had 16, but I thought we did a pretty good job on him. He's just hard to guard, with his size and ability to shoot. We knew he could shoot threes, and then tonight he took us in the post a few times and hit a turnaround or a jump hook, and I thought Cy did a great job, as well as you can do on a great player,

so very, very proud of Cy,” Konieczny said.

Charlie Moore chipped in 11 points for the Dons, who were playing for the first time this season without Emmitt Konieczny, who is out indefinitely, as he recovers from injuries sustained in a recent car accident.

“We’ll find out more. We don’t know,” Coach K. said. “Our hope is obviously that he gets another chance to wear the jersey. One of those unfortunate things that happened. Very thankful for the central Wisconsin community who’ve reached out and said prayers and

done a lot for us, so we ask for continued prayers for healing, and we’re just very, very grateful that we have a lot of good people around us,” Coach K. added. “If things go well, [he’ll return] second half of the season, but there’s just so much. He’s got some unique injuries. Very, very fortunate not to break bones, but we’re taking it day-to-day as a family and as a program and we’ll get through it.”

Kaden Anderson led Auburndale with 21 points, including 7-for-7 from the free throw line.

The Dons followed that performance up with a 68-38 home win versus Spencer, as the two squads opened their Eastern Cloverbelt Conference schedules.

Columbus Catholic led at halftime, 44-17.

The Dons were led by Lucas Kreklau with 19 points. Jakobi added 13 points. Nate Nemitz, filling in for the injured Emmitt Konieczny, had a season-high 11 points.

Spencer was led by Sam Bezlyk with 13 points. Davide Chemello added 9 points.

Columbus is scheduled to host Owen-Withee on Friday, Dec. 15, followed by a road trip to Prairie du Chien the following night.

BE OUR GUEST

Let’s make 2024 better than 2023

Another year has gone by and the world’s problems continue to mount: anti-semitism, anti-Palestinian, war in the Ukraine and Russia, conflicts in the Middle East, immigration problems and



Mazza

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When we realize that there are some things we have no control over (i.e. climate change) and there are things happening in the world that we can control, or at least mitigate but are unable or unwilling to see solutions to the problems we have created, it leaves us with a chaotic world that is never peaceful. It’s not

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One hundred and twenty years ago people from all over, many countries, came to this country seeking a new and better life, my parents among them. Now, we have little tolerance for Jews, Africans, Muslims, etc. Is this holiday season going to be a time when we can look beyond where people go to church or how they voted? Is 2024 going to be another year fueled by the indifferences of people resulting in violence or evolving into war? These decisions are not written in a book and are self-evident in all of us.

We should never stray from or compromise the principle tenets of our constitution and the democratic government by which we live. And remember, we are more alike than different, and whether we know it or not, we need each other. Happy Holidays!

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PROGRAM from page 4

year, post completion, in a qualifying rural dental facility.

The Dental Assistant technical diploma is a one-semester program, with classes starting in January for up to eight students. Students will experience hands-on training in a space provided by the Family Health Center clinic site in Marshfield.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected job growth for dental assistants nationally is 8 percent through 2031. That increase is tied to increasing demand for preventive dental services, especially as baby boomers continue to enter older age groups and require more oral health care. According to Wisconsin Department of Workforce and Development data, central Wisconsin's growth rate in the profession is even higher, at 9.1 percent, with many upcoming vacancies due to retirements and transfers.

“Over the years Family Health Center has been faced with a chronic shortage of dental assistants who are critical members of our dental teams,” said Greg Nycz, chief executive officer for Family Health Center. “Without them, fewer people in our communities will get the dental care they need. We are excited about our partnership with Mid-State to help us address this issue, as it will lead to more access to dental care for those in need,” he said. “The enthusiasm Mid-State's leadership has had for this partnership is inspiring and demonstrates the critical role our technical colleges play in addressing workforce challenges.”

“At Mid-State Technical College, forging unique partnerships to solve our district's most pressing workforce challenges is an ongoing focus,” said Mid-State's president, Dr. Shelly Mondeik. “We are thrilled to see this collaboration

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with Family Health Center of Marshfield come to fruition and look forward to delivering skilled Mid-State graduates to ease the growing demand for dental care services in central Wisconsin, especially in rural communities who might otherwise not have access to them.”

Registration is open now for the new Dental Assistant program. In addition to

funded tuition for the first three cohorts, students who enroll will receive all of Mid-State's usual student support services, including enrollment assistance, career pathway development, guidance and counseling, academic advising, tutoring, learning resources and placement services. To learn more and/or apply visit mstc.edu/programs.

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