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## 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

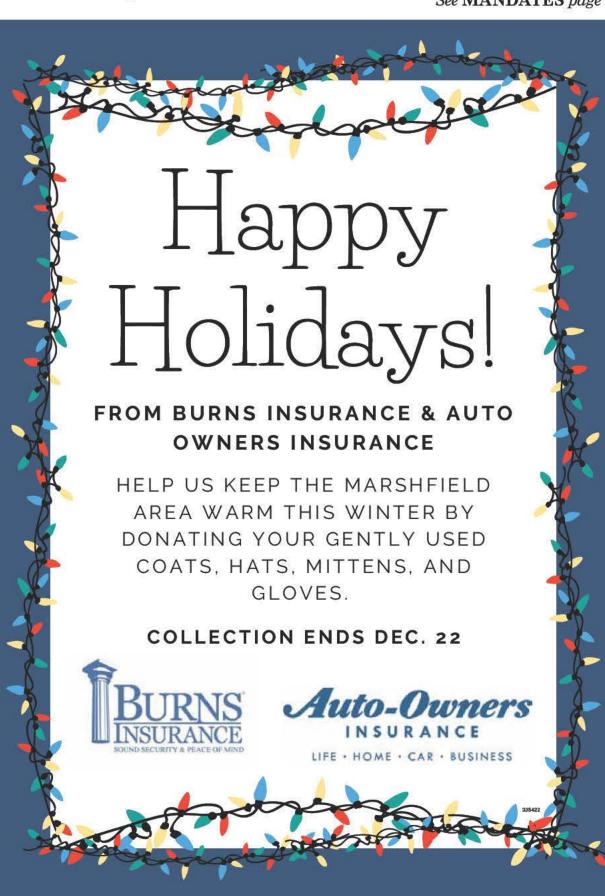
anxieties," the resolution reads. "These mandates may also have affected verbal, motor, and overall development of children born during the pandemic."

See MANDATES page 8

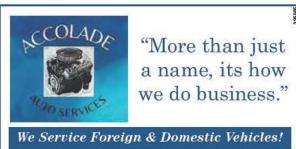












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## **Holiday Health Resource** Fair in Wisconsin Rapids

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

## **CLOVERDALE COUNTRY S**

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Beef Ground - Frozen 80% Lean, 20% Fat 5 lbs.....ONLY

Angus Beef Pattles Frozen - 6 ct 32 oz.

Chicken Breasts Skinless - Boneless

Chicken Drumsticks Breaded - Fully Cooked

Frozen

Corned Beef Raw - Frozen Frozen 3 lbs.

Bacon Sliced Hardwood Smoked Froze 16 oz.....ON

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ONLY

ONLY

Black Forest Ham Uncured - Sliced - Frozen 10.5 oz.....ONI Ham Sliced - Lean Smoked - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY 99

5 lbs

Coffee Medium Roast ONLY \$499 **Wheat Thins** 

40 oz.	ONLY
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DAY 8:30 - 6:30 • SATURDAY 8:30 - 4:00		
ddar Cheese dded \$999	Cranberries Fresh 5 lbsONLY	
zarella Smoked le Milk \$1 79 sONLY a lb.	Summer Sausage Garlic 20 oz. ONL	
Moon S1 49	Sandwich Cookies Original 19.1 oz. ONL	
ddar Cheese SONLY 199	Sauerkraut 27 oz. ONL	
edded Cheese a Blend \$899	Rice Brown Long Grain 16 ozONL	
rican Cheese Nelt - White ONLY \$499	Smoked Sausage Beef w/Cheddar - Frozen 12 ozONL	
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ONLY \$1 49 In-store ONLY. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Hashbrown Mini Patties - Frozen

Original - Frozen

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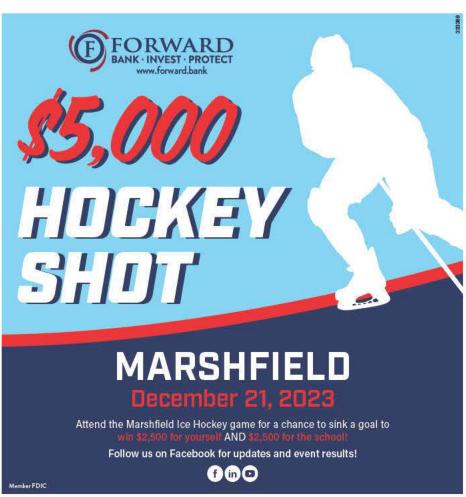
**Cool Whip** 

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2nd Day of Culver's-December 14th

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3rd Day of Culver's-December 15th Mixers Mixing - \$3 Mini Concrete Mixers

4th Day of Culver's-December 16th

**Chicken Tenders** \$8 Chicken Tender Value Basket (4pc)

5th Day of Culver's-December 17th Onion Rings - \$2 Regular Onion Rings

6th Day of Culver's-December 18th Cheese Curds - \$3 Regular Cheese Curds

7th Day of Culver's-December 19th Shakes a Spinning - \$2 Small Shakes

8th Day of Culver's-December 20th Melts a Grilling \$1 Off Any Regular Melt Value Basket

9th Day of Culver's-December 21st

Value Basket - \$1 Off Any Regular Value Basket

10th Day of Culver's-December 22nd Floats a Floating \$2 Small Root Beer Floats

11th Day of Culver's-December 23rd **Salads Tempting** \$1 Off Any Entrée Salad

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LIMIT OFFER



**AD COUPON** 

Large **Avocados** 

LIMIT 4

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AD COUPON Pepsi or

**Mountain Dew Products** 

24 pack, 12 oz. cans • assorted varieties LIMIT 2

Valid after minimum \$5 purchase. Limit 1 coupon per item, per visit. Valid through 12/19/23.

Nabisco Snack Crackers

or Ritz Toasted Chips

3.5 - 9 oz. snack crackers; 7.1 - 8.1 oz.

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**AD COUPON** 

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**AD COUPON** 

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14.5 - 15 oz. • assorted varieties LIMIT (12)

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food or white; 18.4 oz. brownie mix chocolate fudge or milk chocolate LIMIT 4

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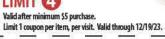
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### OBITUARIES



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 grandchil dren and great-great grandchildren. Audry will be laid to rest with wife Marion at Fort Rose

crans 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

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.

was always on the go. In her younger years when her hus band 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 metic

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

first son-in-law, DuWayne Davis, a brother, Chet Buza, and sisters, Pearl Szymanski and Harriet Adams.

Lorraine over the past five years.
Condolences may be sent online to www.rembsfh.com

Lorraine was born on March

Lorraine had a very active life. Even at the age of 90 she

Sauter, A.J. Sauter, Layne Sauter, and Isla Sauter. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her

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

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# 

## MARSHFIELD 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

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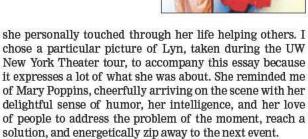
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About Lyn, Barb Gillespie, a good friend, stated, "Lyn's participation at our church was central to who she was. She led the committee which crafted the FPC mission statement over 20 years ago, which has truly guided our church in becoming more welcoming through the years." That mission statement embodies the essence of Lyn's

"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

## 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







Stratford, Wisconsin

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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.

terms for newly 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 twoyear 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

### 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



### RESOURCE

from page 2

thank Mid-State Technical College, El Mezcal, Polito's Tong's Asian Pizza, 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.

## Buyers' Guide

and Surrounding Areas Since 1987. The Marshfield Buyers' Guide is

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Shopping Carts, Computers, Displays, Cash Registers & More- Green Bay, WI Open House Thursday, December 14th from 10:00am-2:00pm 825B Pilgrim Way, Green Bay, WI 54304

Online Bidding Ends Thursday, December 21st Starts at \$1! For more information call 715-539-6295

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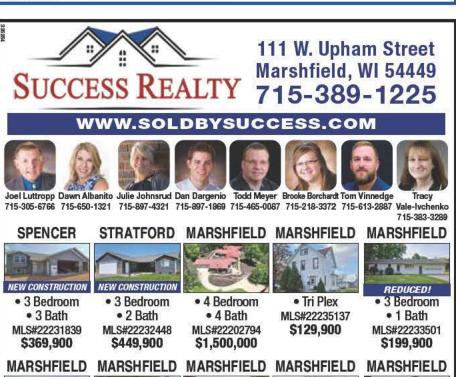


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3BRs with a bonus area finished in one of them perfect for kid's play or addt'l storage area plus another full bath with tub/shower. The large mature lot is also home to the 28x36 three-car det garage built in 1998 which features one taller overhead door and interior upper level for even more storage! (A survey recently done, shows a portion of the asphalt drive to be on westerly neighbor's property-drive has always been utilized by this & previous owners who have all done the maintenance of the entire drive) Recent city-wide assessment done-new tax bill not received to date. Sharon Helwig • 715-305-9971 • MLS#22235417 .....

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PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT
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### **Activities and Meetings**

7128 (WCAN)

HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES Rocking W Stable, Eagle River WI DEC 9 thru JAN 1; Beautiful Trails! Great Family Fun. Can Handle All Size Groups & Private Parties! Info 715-617-6779 northwoodsattractions.com

**Craft Sales** 7204 GIFT, ARTIST

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LPG Service & Gifts 1130 Mosinee Ave. 715-693-4057 Mosinee's Best Kept Secret M-F 9-5:30 • Sat 10-4 • Sun 11-3

7208

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JANE'S Estate Sales & Services

LLC

Weston: Friday, 12/15,11 a.m. 4 p.m., Saturday, 12/16,9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Sunday, 12/17,10 a.m.- 1 p.m. NOTICE: OUR WINTER HOURS. JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!! Loads and loads of Christmas stuff. Vintage toys thousands of Lego pieces, two Buicks and so much more!!! NO EARLY SALES. We DO NOT give out prices or informa-tion prior to the sale. Please do not text, call or email requests. First come, first served. Del style numbers will be given out starting at 11:00am on Friday Go to JANE'S Estate Sales or Facebook or estatesales.org or

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The candidate should possess the ability to assertively manage situations

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### Dogs

7272

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### Required Skills:

Detail oriented - this is imperative, Ability to learn technical information, Ability to multi-task, Good typing skills, Excellent written and verbal communication skills, Problem solving skills, Math skills, Confidentiality, Office appropriate conduct & attire, Work independently as well as in a team, Knowledge of wood veneers and the building industry is a plus, but not required.

We offer competitive pay, company match retirement, health care, short-term disability, paid vacation and paid holiday, M-F. Email application/resume to: Bettie@deilerdoor.com

## SHUTTLE BUS DRIVER

Progressive Travel, Inc. currently has an opening for a shuttle driver to transport mentally and/or physically challenged adults to their work programs in Marshfield. The routes cover an area approximately 20 - 25 miles away from Marshfield.



- Routes can run up to five days per week throughout the year. Currently routes are running four days.
- Two routes per day approximately 2 ½ hours per route.
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## Columbus off to unbeaten start

**EDITOR** 

MARSHFIELD 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 without Emmitt game (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 his effort and preparation and everything he does," Coach Konieczny added, "And then Cv is just an athlete. Whatever sport



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

Lucky Shot Media photo

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

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 injuries recovers from 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 seasonhigh 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

nother 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

restrictions at our southern border, and everyone is trying to adjust to climate change.

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

around us.

that is never peaceful. It's not because we don't understand the problems, it's because we refuse to change or adapt to the changing world

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 selfevident 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!

> JJ Mazza Marshfield

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### **PROGRAM** from page 4

facility.

year, post completion, in a qualifying rural dental

The Dental Assistant technical diploma is a onesemester 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

Workforce 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 chronic faced with 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

N THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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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requirements. **Fully Insured** 



Supervisor Adam Fischer, Marshfield, speaking Nov. 14 on the floor of the Wood County Board. Fischer announced recently he is not seeking reelection to his District 5 seat, which covers City of Marshfield wards 7, 8, 10, 21, and 22

Courtesy of Wisconsin Rapids Community Media

### MANDATES

from page 1

"This can't happen again," Ranee Graf, Wisconsin Rapids, told the county board, during her public comments. "We have the right to make whatever stupid choices we want to make. If we choose to take the chance to die of COVID, that's my choice."

Graf was one of seven Wood County residents to speak in favor of the resolution.

"The resolution is designed to send a message from here forward to the next level of government and to the medical community," added Marshfield resident Jean Kelley. "It will alert them that we will not allow our human rights to be violated again. It is shameful that many lost the ability to retain employment because they were forced to make the only choice that they were given, to either accept an untested vaccine with unknown results or be fired and give up the means to sustain themselves and their families," Kelley continued. "Some died because they reacted to the vaccine. It also resulted in family members who suffered and died alone unable to be comforted by their loved ones. It is shameful that those who invested their life savings in a business and lost it with no means of income due to illegal shutdowns caused many to lose everything, and for some, while feeling helpless, took their own lives. No one should be forced in the United States to be muzzled, poked or isolated ever again. This is not a political position. It should not be considered as such. Its purpose is to send a warning: We will fight for the right assured us in our nation's Bill of Rights, that which protects us from tyrannical restrictions.'

Supervisor Bill Clendenning (Grand Rapids) was one of five board members to oppose it. He said the Health and Human Services Committee took the wrong approach with the resolution, and the board would have been better served running it through the steering committees of the Wisconsin Counties Association.

'What's the sense of having these committees, these steering committees at all?" Clendenning wondered. "I don't know how this even started at the Health and Human Services Committee. We should talk about this to people who can really do something about it," he added. "Us just sending a resolution isn't gonna do a darn thing. How many of you people called your legislators and thought this was a good idea? And if you thought this was a good idea, why didn't you call your legislators? And the governor's office? It's just a feel-good thing, folks. Do it right," he urged. "Go to the counties association and get it done that way.'

An attempt by Clendenning to send the resolution back to the Health and Human Services Committee was voted down on a voice vote.

"I've been on the county board since 2016 and I have lost count of the amount of feel-good resolutions that I have been presented," said Supervisor Adam Fischer, Marshfield. "Feel-good resolutions come because people are passionate about that issue. We have people who are passionate about this issue and want to send a message, and they are asking their county board to vote 'yes.' I am voting 'yes,' not because people have made public comments. I am voting 'yes' because I believe in individual rights," Fischer added. "At the end of the day, I believe people should have the right to make their own decision, and I have always believed that. And we even give people the right who've been elected to make their own decisions, and so I'm going to do that today. I'm going to make my own decision and I'm going to make the decision to vote for this resolution, even though it may be a feel-good resolution, I still want to send a message to people at the state and let them know that I would like the choice whether or not, for example, to wear a mask."

Further language in the resolution states, "the Wood County Board of Supervisors finds it is essential that the Board express its position that, unless required by law, Wood County residents should not have their civil liberties jeopardized by mandates pertaining to face coverings or masking, vaccine requirements, or forced isolation, and should be free to make their own choices regarding whether to, and where to, utilize face coverings, vaccinate, or isolate."

"I want to remind everybody that there are statutory authorities at many levels of the government," said Marshfield Supervisor Donna Rozar, also a member of the State Assembly. "The Wisconsin Legislative Council put out an issue brief in September of 2023 that you can find online. And it talks about the statutory authority of the governor, the Department of Health Services, the local unit of government, local Health Officer and the school board," Rozar continued. "I would not be able to support this resolution if that phrase ["unless required by law"] were not in there because there are laws that need to be followed and we don't want increased liability in this unit of government by not following laws. I want to remind people that nursing homes followed CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) guidelines, and had they not done that, we would've lost our funding and there would've been no place for people to go in nursing homes. I know that a lot of people that administer nursing homes felt bad about what they were doing to keep loved ones from their family members."

The resolution also indicates it will be directed to Governor Evers, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and appropriate members of the Wisconsin Legislature.

Joining Clendenning in voting against the resolution were Supervisors Ed Wagner, Al Breu, Lee Thao and Laura Valenstein.

### Immunizations available for seasonal respiratory viruses

This is the first fall and winter virus season where vaccines are available for the three viruses responsible for severe illness and hospitalizations. The triple threat of respiratory viruses that includes influenza (flu), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and COVID-19 have the potential to spread quickly in crowded classrooms, across workplaces, indoor gatherings, and during the holidays.

This year's flu vaccine protects against the four influenza viruses that are likely most common during the upcoming season. Routine annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone six months and older to reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalizations. People 65 years and older may be at higher risk of developing serious complications from

New RSV vaccines for older adults and pregnant women and an antibody therapy for infants provide options for preventing severe RSV infection. The vaccine is available to adults 60 years and older and pregnant individuals between 32 weeks and 36 weeks of pregnancy; monoclonal antibodies are available to infants and children up to 24 months who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease. Individuals should talk to their healthcare provider and request this added protection against RSV this season.

COVID-19 cases are on the rise in Wisconsin, according to the Wood County Health Department. Antiviral medications, at-home test kits, and other preventative measures make it a more manageable disease and are widely available in Wood County. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recently approved two new COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccines are recommended for everyone six months and older to provide enhanced protection against the COVID-19 variants currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations.

Most individuals can still get a COVID-19 vaccine for free. Households are again able to order four free tests through COVIDTests.gov. These tests will detect the currently circulating COVID-19 variants. People are encouraged to use the free tests immediately as Americans prepare for travel and gatherings with friends and family throughout the 2023 holiday season. Free home tests are also available for pick-up at the WCHD and Wood County libraries while supplies last.



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## Schwecke on the move

BY GENE DELISIO CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARSHFIELD Marshfield's Trevor Schwecke is changing major league teams.

Philadelphia The Phillies are claiming Trevor from the Toronto Blue Javs as part of baseball's Rule 5 draft, which allows players to be drafted who have played at least four



Schwecke

seasons of minor league baseball, but are not on their team's 40-man roster.

Trevor has played in the Toronto farm system since 2019. He split time in 2023 between the Blue Jays' Double-A farm club at Manchester, New Hampshire, and the Triple-A team in Buffalo, batting a combined .278, with eight home runs and 42 RBIs, all while playing five

different positions. Trevor will likely be assigned to either Philadelphia's Double-A farm team at Reading, PA or their Triple-A squad at Lehigh Valley, which plays in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The 25-year-old utility man is known for his versatility and played all four infield positions and both corner outfield spots this year. In an interview with who helped him adjust to Double-A.

## End of an Era



Marshfield High School will have a new head volleyball coach next season. Dawn Sadowska is retiring after 33 years as Tiger head coach. Dawn was first named

head coach in 1991. Her 847-360 teams were and won 13 Wisconsin Valley Conference championships, including league titles the last four seasons. Dawn's teams also won 18 regional titles and appeared at the WIAA Division I state



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