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Marshfield Clinic to merge with South Dakota-based Sanford Health

MCHS will maintain flagship Marshfield campus, regional brand presence

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

SIoux FALLS, S.D. and MARSHFIELD -- Sanford Health, headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Marshfield Clinic Health System announced on July 10 a nonbinding Memorandum of Understanding to combine their complementary assets and capabilities and create an integrated health system dedicated to advancing health

care in the rural Midwest.

"We are excited to combine our common purpose to lead the way for the future, drive innovation and solve the most pressing challenges facing rural health care," said Bill Gassen, president and CEO of Sanford Health. "We are who we are today because of combinations with care delivery organizations in rural communities across America's heartland. These opportunities have allowed

us to follow through on our promise to deliver world-class health care to every patient we serve no matter their zip code, and we are eager to continue building on this track record with Marshfield Clinic Health System."

"Partnering with Sanford Health presents an incredible opportunity for our organizations to unify and establish the premier rural health system in the nation," said Brian

See CLINIC page 5

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Wood County Community Health Assessment

Drug use, mental health, injury further explored

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

Part II of III

WOOD COUNTY -- Healthy People Wood County conducted a Community Health Assessment (CHA) from the fall of 2023 through the spring of 2024. The CHA tells us how healthy Wood County currently is and where work is needed to create thriving communities for all people in our county.

Here is the second installment of our review of some highlights of the report.

Healthy Behaviors & Outcomes

Drug Use

Drug use was the No. 1 selected area of improvement of all 35 categories in the CHA survey, while substance use was the most identified area of improvement in the written responses.

Between 2017 and 2021, there were 55 overdose deaths in Wood County due to any substance. Of those, 60 percent involved synthetic opioids, primarily illegally-made fentanyl.

Wood County had a higher rate of drug overdose deaths due to methamphetamine compared to Wisconsin between 2014 and 2021.

Between 2017 and 2021 in Wood County, there were 101 emergency department visits for opioid overdoses, 13 emergency department visits for stimulant overdoses, 275 ambulance runs for all drug overdoses and 205 ambulance runs for opioid overdoses.

Alcohol Use

Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in Wisconsin.

Between 2017 and 2021, 29 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths involved alcohol, and the trend for Wood County is worsening. In 2022, 632 hospitalizations and 48 deaths could be attributed to alcohol.

On a positive note, rates of binge drinking – consuming 5 or more drinks on a single occasion for men, or 4 or more drinks on a single occasion for women – are dropping, both among teenagers and adults.

In 2021, 20 percent of Wood County adults engaged in binge drinking in the past 30 days, which is a decrease from the previous four years. Meanwhile, the percentage of high school students who reported binge drinking in the past 30 days dropped from 14 percent in 2019 to 9 percent in 2023.

Still, the estimated annual cost of binge drinking in Wood County is \$46.1 million, or \$618 per resident. It is the most common and costly pattern of alcohol use in Wisconsin.

Tobacco Use & Vaping

Tobacco and nicotine products are Wisconsin's leading causes of preventable death and disease. Smoking harms nearly every organ in the body and increases the risk of heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, and many types of cancer. Additionally, smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined.

In 2021, 16 percent of Wood County adults were current smokers. In 2023, 28 percent of Wood County high school students reported they tried vaping at least once and

See ASSESSMENT page 11

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SAMPLE PAGE

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You can email your info to marshfield@mmclocal.com

The Events Calendar will run Wednesday, July 31st and include the events for July 31st thru August 31st.

Deadline for August Events is Friday, July 26th at 10:00am

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Election 2024: Donna Rozar

Mid-August runoff looms for three hopefuls

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – Among a trio of Republicans seeking the GOP nomination for the 86th Assembly seat in the November election is Donna Rozar of Marshfield, who feels she is running for an office she already holds.

“I am a sitting legislator seeking reelection. I am just seeking reelection in another Assembly district because I got redistricted out of my old district when the Supreme Court decided our maps were unconstitutional and demanded that we have new maps, so I got redistricted out and my residence is now in the 86th Assembly district,” Rozar told us during our recent visit.

The newly re-drawn 86th Assembly District now includes portions of Wood, Marathon and Portage counties.

“It was disappointing,” Rozar said about the passage of the new maps and the redrawn Assembly districts. “We all work hard to get elected and I guess we thought after the Census which we do every ten years, we just kind of thought it was a done deal and we’d be in our seat. Even though we represent about sixty-thousand people, for those sixty-thousand people to be fluid is disheartening because you get to know them, and we have constituents that tend to have the same problems over and over again and we help them navigate the bureaucracy of government, and then you lose them. This redistricting that we just had that we’re all now running under is chaotic, confusing and divisive.”

The new 86th Assembly district consists of portions of four different former districts.

“Forty-eight percent of the population in that district is my old 69th Assembly district,” said Rozar. “Twenty-five percent of that is the old 86th Assembly district. Twenty-one percent is Nancy VanderMeer’s old 70th Assembly district, and six-percent of that is Representative Edming’s, who has retired, but he represented the 87th Assembly district. So, this new, realigned 86th district is not the same district at all. It is comprised of four different districts.”

Rozar points to her diverse background as her main qualification for a seat in the Assembly.

“I bring unique life and work experiences to this,” she said. “With the retirement of Gae Magnafici (28th Assembly district), I would be the only nurse in the State Assembly. You may know I’ve been vice-chair of the Assembly Health Committee, and that has been a really interesting perspective to bring because I can stand up and say, ‘As a nurse, let me tell you.’ I’ll give you a perfect example. My first term in the State Assembly, I really fought for increased dental reimbursement for Medicaid patients because as a cardiac nurse, I know what poor dental hygiene does on the cardio-vascular system and on the body as a whole. I was able to go to the powers that be – the JFC (Joint Finance Committee) – and say, ‘Let me tell you what happens to somebody when they can’t get in to see a dentist,’ and then I told my story about this guy that had pulled his teeth with a vice pliers up in northern Wisconsin and he ended up in our hospital for six weeks on IV penicillin, had horrible damage to



Rozar

the endocardium of his heart and ended up dying in the operating room. Do you have any idea how much that cost the taxpayers to take care of him and his subsequent death? If he had just been able to go to a dentist and have those teeth extracted under sterile conditions, he would’ve never ended up on my unit and then dying,” Rozar recalled. “So, I’m able to share those kinds of stories, and I was able to get a forty-percent increase in dental reimbursement for that population.”

Rozar also cites her nearly quarter century of experience on the Wood County Board of Supervisors, which she says is a perfect fit for a state legislator.

“County government is the arm of the state. County government can do nothing unless the state gives them permission to do so. So, when I went to Madison I was able to talk about road construction, infrastructure investment, shared revenue, and so I know how the programs that start at the state affect the local government,” Rozar told us.

A Republican Primary now looms in mid-August between Rep. Rozar, Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield) and political newcomer Trine Spindler of Stratford. Spiros will represent the present-day 86th Assembly district until current legislative terms expire in January.

“I run as a Republican because I believe in limited government, reasonable taxation and personal freedom,” said Rozar. “I have dug my roots deep in this town. I’m not a Marshfield native, but I’ve been here since the 80s and I have truly made central Wisconsin my home.”

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

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

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

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

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

Under new legislative maps, Rozar, Spiros and Spindler will now have to face off in a Republican Primary Aug. 13.

Abbotsford double homicide victims were children

Victims’ father held on \$1 million bond



Acosta

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

ABBOTSFORD – The victims of a double homicide in Abbotsford were juveniles. That’s according to a July 8 press release from Alex Bowman, Chief of Police for the Colby-Abbotsford Police Department.

Bowman said the victims were stabbed to death in a home at 303 E. Oak Street, Lot No. 5 in the city of Abbotsford, Clark County. One adult female was also found with 17 stab wounds and she was receiving treatment at the Marshfield Medical Center at last word.

The suspect has now been identified as Victor Manuel Gomez Acosta, 29, of Abbotsford. He has been medically cleared and sent to the Clark County jail.

See HOMICIDE page 4

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Hours
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - Noon
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Publisher
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OBITUARIES



MADONNA HINRICHSEN

Madonna E. Hinrichsen, age 96, passed away peacefully on July 8th, 2024.

Madonna was born on October 24, 1927 in Salix, Iowa to Harry and Alice (Lussier) Kauper. She completed her grade school and high school education in Clinton Iowa. She married Harold W. Hinrichsen on November 8, 1945 upon his return from service in WWII. They lived in many cities and states in their time together, mostly in Idaho, where they

enjoyed camping and the great outdoors. Harold died May 8, 1983. No funeral services are planned. For full obituary go to www.rembsfh.com

YVONNE BUETZBERGER

Yvonne Buetzberger, 87, of Marshfield, passed away on July 2, 2024. Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center assisted the family.



SHIRLEY M. BARTH

Shirley M. Barth, age 94, passed away peacefully in the arms of our loving Savior on Thursday June 20, 2024, at Three Oaks Memory Care in Marshfield.

Shirley was born February 25, 1930 in Granton WI, the daughter of Raymond and Ardina (Helm) Nowack. She was a 1948 graduate of Granton High School. Shirley was united in marriage to Raymond Barth on August 28, 1948. The couple farmed until 1952 when

Raymond enlisted into service with the Navy. Shirley followed him to Norfolk, VA and San Pedro, CA as a military wife. Upon his discharge in 1956, they returned home and farmed together in the towns of York and Lynn until 1976 when they sold the farm and built their home in the village of Granton. They enjoyed couples bowling, fishing, camping, and playing cards with their many friends.

Shirley managed the Clark County Sportsman's Club, served as Treasurer on the Village Board, and worked 26 years as a Cook for the Granton School District. She was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Granton and previously served on the Cemetery Committee.

Shirley took great joy in many things. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She always put them before herself. She loved to bake and never did you visit without taking goodies home. She also loved writing in her journals, crossword and jigsaw puzzles, gardening, and feeding the birds, especially her cardinals.

Shirley is survived by her sons, both of Marshfield, Gary Barth and Tom (Anita) Barth. Four grandchildren, Amanda (Michael) Janssen, Trevor (Haley) Barth, Alissa (Jordan) Stuart, and Makayla Barth. Great-grandchildren, Porter & Cooper Janssen, Nora & Hank Barth, and Levi Stuart. Two sisters-in-law, Marjorie Barth and Mae Revak. And her beloved nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond, her parents, sister and brother-in-law: Laura (Ralph) Riedel; sister-in-law Norma Vandenberg and husband Harold, and brothers-in-law, Robert and Jim Barth.

The family wishes to thank her wonderful neighbors who always watched out for her and lent a helping hand. Also, Three Oaks Memory Care and Heartland Hospice for all their care and services.

A Celebration of Life will be held September 14th, 2024 from 1-4 PM at the American Legion in Neillsville.

Cremation Society of Wisconsin, Altoona is assisting the family. Online condolences may be shared at www.cremationsociety-wi.com.



DAVID A. PANSKE

David A. Panske, age 66, of Marshfield, passed away on Thursday, July 4, 2024, at Marshfield Medical Center.

He was born June 19, 1958, in Marshfield, to Alois "Buzz" and Rita (Schroeder) Panske. He was a 1976 graduate of Columbus High School. He married Victoria T. "Vicki" Panske on August 16, 1980, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Marshfield.

Dave spent his entire career as a master electrician with Ken Weis Electric until his retirement.

His happiest times were camping with the family, being at the lake and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki, and their daughters, Abby (Josh) Weinfurter of Gladstone MI, and Brenna (Alexander) Thompson of Appleton, and a grandson, Oliver James Thompson. He is also survived by his siblings, Bonnie (Dennis) Rasmussen, John (Donna) Panske, Tim (Dorie) Panske, Cindy Tielens, Patrick (Noelle) Panske, and Sandy (Bobby) Koskey. He is further survived by in-laws, Mary (Bill) Stich, Lois Keel, Kristin Schroepfer, Kerry Trudeau, and Lori (Andy) Weigel, and numerous nieces and nephews who loved to follow their uncle Dave everywhere, earning him the title of "Pied Piper".

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers-in-law, Rick Tielens and Joe Trudeau.

A private family gathering will be held at this time and a Celebration of Life will be at a later date.

The family wishes to thank the doctors and staff of the CCU and 6 North at Marshfield Medical Center for their wonderful care.

Condolences may be sent online at www.rembsfh.com

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Embracing Stoicism

Dear Reader,

In the hustle and bustle of our modern world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the pressures and challenges we face daily. However, the timeless wisdom of Stoicism, as articulated by great thinkers like Seneca, Cicero, and Marcus Aurelius, offers a path to inner peace and a meaningful life. By viewing each day as a separate life, practicing restraint and moderation, regulating our emotions, and seizing the opportunities life presents, we can transform our existence.



Seneca, one of the most prominent Stoic philosophers, teaches us to live each day as if it were a complete life. This concept encourages us to focus on the present moment, appreciating the here and now without being burdened by regrets of the past or anxieties about the future. By treating each day as a new beginning, we can cultivate a sense of gratitude and purpose, making the most of our time and experiences.

Cicero, renowned for his eloquence and philosophical insights, emphasized the importance of restraint and moderation in all aspects of life. He believed that true happiness comes from balance and self-control, not from excess or indulgence. By exercising moderation in our desires and actions, we can avoid the pitfalls of overindulgence and maintain a steady course towards a virtuous and fulfilling life.

Marcus Aurelius, the Stoic emperor, provides profound guidance on regulating our emotions. In his Meditations, he reflects on the importance of inner tranquility and emotional resilience. By understanding that our perceptions shape our reality, we can learn to manage our responses to external events. Practicing mindfulness and self-awareness allows us to maintain our composure and clarity of thought, even in the face of adversity.

Life is fleeting, and the Stoics remind us of the urgency to seize the opportunities it offers. Seneca, Cicero, and Marcus Aurelius all highlight the importance of taking initiative and making the most of our potential. This Stoic principle encourages us to act with purpose and determination, recognizing that our time is limited and each moment is precious.

PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

attorney is seeking a mental competency evaluation for his client. Acosta is due back in court July 30 for an initial appearance.

On July 5, at 1:38 a.m. Clark County Communications received a 911 call of an incident at 303 E. Oak Street, Lot No. 5 in the city of Abbotsford, Clark County.

The Colby-Abbotsford Police Department and Clark County Deputies responded to the scene.

Officers located one injured victim who was transported to the hospital for injuries. Two deceased victims were found inside the residence by officers, each with more than a dozen stab wounds.

Acosta was apprehended at the scene and initially transported to the Colby-Abbotsford Police Department, where it was discovered he had self-inflicted stab wounds. He was then transferred to the Marshfield Medical Center.

A motive for the stabbing has not been identified at this time.

The identity of the juvenile victims will not be released. The identity of the adult female victim is also not being released at this time.

The Colby-Abbotsford Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Office are conducting the investigation. They are assisted by The Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation, Wisconsin State Crime Lab, Wisconsin State Patrol, Clark County District Attorney's Office, Clark County Coroner's Office and the Marathon County Sheriff's Office.

Due to the nature of this investigation, no other information will be released at this time, according to Chief Bowman.

HOMICIDE from page 3

Acosta has been charged in Clark County Circuit Court with two counts of First-degree Intentional Homicide and one count of Attempted First-degree Intentional Homicide. His

OPEN HOUSE

Enjoy some family fun with the arts at the Chestnut Center during Hub City Days...

SATURDAY, JULY 27 • 10am-3pm

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CLINIC from page 1

Hoerneman, M.D., interim CEO of Marshfield Clinic Health System. "Together, we will ensure sustainable access to exceptional care for our communities for years to come. With a shared mission to serve, a mutual emphasis on research and education, and a strong tradition of physician leadership, Sanford Health is the ideal partner for this endeavor."

According to Marshfield Clinic Health System Board Chair George Brown, M.D., "The partnership marks a new chapter in our organization, and we look forward to serving our patients as the nationwide leader in rural health care."

Lauris Molbert, Chair of the Sanford Health Board of Trustees, added, "This partnership is a win-win for the patients and communities we serve, and for our organizations that have had a long tradition of innovation, physician leadership and dedicated caregivers. This combination will strengthen local, patient-centered nonprofit health care for generations to come."

The combined system will bring together nearly 56,000 employees, 56 hospitals, 4,300 providers, two fully-integrated health plans, specialty pharmacies and nationally-recognized research institutions.

Utilizing each organization's respective health plan, Sanford Health Plan and Security Health Plan, will allow the fully-integrated system to serve more than 425,000 members, maximizing the benefits it can deliver to patients and members through shared governance.

Upon finalization of the combination, the name of the parent company will be Sanford Health, with system headquarters in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Marshfield Clinic Health System will be a region within Sanford Health and maintain regional leadership with its flagship medical

campus in Marshfield, a regional board of directors, a regional physician executive council and regional brand presence. Sanford Health president and CEO Bill Gassen will serve as president and CEO of the combined system. Marshfield Clinic Health System interim CEO, Brian Hoerneman, M.D., will serve as president and CEO of the Marshfield Clinic Health System region.

The combination is expected to close by the end of the year, subject to regulatory processes and closing conditions. There are no immediate changes for employees or those each system serves. Sanford Health and Marshfield Clinic Health System remain two separate, independent organizations until the closing.

Marshfield Clinic Health System has attempted to go down this road before. In 2019, MCHS explored a possible integration with Gundersen Health System, but those discussions dissolved within the year. Three years later, in October 2022, the clinic said it was in talks with Duluth, Minnesota-based Essentia Health about a possible merger. Both sides announced early this year they were walking away from those negotiations.

About Sanford Health

Headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the organization serves 1.4 million patients and nearly 200,000 health plan members across 250,000 square miles. The integrated health system has 45 hospitals, 211 clinic locations, more than 160 Good Samaritan Society senior living centers, 2,900 Sanford physicians and advanced practice providers, 540 active clinical trials, and nine world clinic locations around the globe.

About Marshfield Clinic Health System

Marshfield Clinic Health System serves Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula with more than 1,400 providers comprising 170 specialties, health plan, and research and education programs. Primary operations include more than 60 Marshfield Clinic locations, 11 hospitals, Marshfield Children's Hospital, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Security Health Plan and Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation.

Advertisement for 'Our Savior's 48th Annual Polish Fest' held from July 27-28, 2024 at the Mosinee Rec. Center. It lists activities for Saturday and Sunday, including a parade, food, and entertainment.

Advertisement for '#GivingInJuly' by the Marshfield, WI Veteran Council. It encourages sponsoring wreaths for veterans' graves in December. It includes a QR code and the website www.wreathscrossamerica.org/WI0091.

Large advertisement for 'Hub City Days' in Marshfield, WI, celebrating 20 years. The event runs from July 25-27 and is powered by Main Street. The ad lists various activities like Plaza Movie, Bike Cruise, Shop Hop, Hotwheel Hunt, Live Music, Car Show, Brew Fest, Family Zone, Craft Show, BBQ Cookoff, Beer Garden, Blacksmithing, Artist Demos, and Food Vendors. It includes a QR code and the number 393059.

OPINION

BE OUR GUEST

A precious gift to our community But will we keep them?

BY TROY KROENING

MARSHFIELD -- The Sisters of the Franciscan Congregation of Divine Mercy. They are religious sisters dressed in red and white in our community. Their love for Jesus drives them. And we need them in our community, especially in a time that love for Jesus is waning so – not only in our community, but throughout our state, our nation and the whole world.

Their mere presence in our community is a gift, one that we need to encourage, cultivate, and support. Love for Jesus is so needed right now. They show their love for Jesus in their special way – one that cannot help but draw you in. Their joy is something that we all desire – the joy of knowing and loving Jesus.

As the sisters have said, they build up our community by prayer and sacrifice on our behalf and the whole world. The sisters help people, free of charge, to attain peace and healing through living mercy in their daily lives and the reconciliation of their relationships with self, others and God. The sisters do this also through offering spiritual direction, catechesis, and animal-assisted therapy with horses, dogs, and cats. Their farm setting provides a safe and natural place for children and families.

Why has God given them

to our community and not to another community? I do not know. We indeed are blessed. And so, how can we return the favor? How can we be a blessing to them? And what can we do to keep them in our community?

Well, first by loving Jesus. They are not in our community doing their work to love Jesus by themselves. No, they are trying to spread the love of Jesus to others. The dedication of their lives to Jesus is a witness to us. Will we dedicate ourselves to loving Jesus? The sisters invite others to do “one act of Mercy a day.” In this way, we are loving Jesus by being the love of Jesus for others.

Sadly, the sisters also need a new home where they can grow. Their current home only allows for up to eight sisters, though when visiting, even six has proven to be too much. The sisters are currently three, but two more are joining by October and others visit to discern a calling to join. Understandably, they do not want to build up their current home for a little while before having to move and build up their new home. Why spend the time, energy and money twice? Would volunteers and donors be willing to do their part twice as well?

As the sisters have also said, they are looking for at least 100 acres, preferably



The Sisters of the Franciscan Congregation of Divine Mercy are currently three, but two more are joining by October, and others visit to discern a calling to join. Submitted photos

150 acres, suitable for building a monastery and for building or remodeling associated buildings, such as a barn, indoor arena, meeting and teaching rooms. They are looking for land that is only lightly wooded and relatively flat, suitable for gardens, pastures and a hayfield. It would be best if this land were close to a well-kept road as well.

And yes, they will need that much acreage. This is an investment in our community as much as it is an investment in their religious community. The sisters live entirely off free will offerings. They are not supported financially by the Diocese or any individual parish. If we want to keep the sisters in our community, we need to find suitable land that we

provide for them.

Do you have land or a farm you would be willing to donate or sell to the sisters? Would you be willing to assist the sisters financially to buy land or a farm? And most especially, are you willing to pray that God keeps them in our community? If you have land or a farm that you are possibly willing to donate or sell, or if you are possibly willing to assist the sisters in potentially buying the necessary land or farm, please contact them at franciscancongofdivinemercy@gmail.com or 715-451-2395.

The sisters need our help to survive and thrive. They need our prayers. They are our sisters. God placed them within our community. And now, will we respond to God's gift of



The sisters help people, free of charge, through offering spiritual direction, catechesis, and animal-assisted therapy with horses, dogs, and cats. Their farm setting provides a safe and natural place for children and families. these sisters?

The sisters are looking for other possible communities that would be willing to provide them a new home and sustain them as they grow. We could lose them from our community, but we can still support them if they do leave our community. They would still need support, and supporting those who

build up the love of Jesus is important even if they are not in our backyard. Currently, they are looking to stay in Wisconsin if they can, especially within the Diocese of La Crosse. But we will see what God has planned for them.

The sisters have a website with more details about their community: www.fcdivinemercy.org.

BE OUR GUEST

Now that warmer weather is here, people ask me why fungal infections are becoming more common recently. Fungal infections, mycosis as they are often called by physicians, are indeed becoming more frequent, likely related to our encroachment on the habitats of other plants and animals, since fungi are so ubiquitous in our environment. However, we are endowed with a pretty sophisticated immune system that has evolved through the eons of evolution. But people who are immunocompromised i.e., have cancer and are being treated with chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive

Fungal infections

agents, e.g. corticosteroids etc., become vulnerable to infectious diseases in general.

Fungi are characteristically larger than bacteria and viruses; they are immobile organisms and can usually be seen with the naked eye and be treated effectively with a host of antifungal agents that are easy to take (orally) and well tolerated. A commonly used household agent that can be used for local foot, skin, and toenail infections is vinegar.

Unfortunately, there are no vaccines available for fungal infections, but they are not readily transmitted to other individuals and are not considered “contagious”



Mazza

and are non-communicable. However, some infections can cause a more serious infection that can be spread by direct contact or by inhaling infected fungal spores that become airborne infecting the lungs, and some may even become systemic and require a more lengthy course of therapy; fortunately the immune system plays an important role in preventing transmission to others. It is estimated that more than 4 million people die every year from fungal infections, far more than previous estimates in the past and have been rising in the US and other countries in recent years.

So why are fungal infections on the rise? Again, I keep coming back to the changes in our environment, many of which we have created; encroachment on the habitat of other plants and animal species and their pathogens, climate changes, contamination of freshwater, alteration of atmospheric gasses, etc. However, this is the reality of our existence on the planet and nothing will change (except the weather) if we don't change.

J.J. Mazza
Marshfield

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3 oz. (case of 24, \$17.55) **80^c**
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Main Street's Hub City Days returns for 20th year

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD -- With a lineup of activities that surpasses any previous year, a Marshfield mainstay is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month. Main Street Marshfield presents Hub City Days July 25-27 in downtown Marshfield.

"It is a Marshfield tradition, so I hope you come every year for the nostalgia of the car show and the special events," Main Street Marshfield Executive Director Kaelie Gomez told Hub City Times. "We also have new this year three different bands playing on the main stage from eleven until eleven (July 27). We also have live music in the Family Zone for kids and families, along with the typical fun that happens in the Family Zone with games and different family-oriented booths from community organizations. We have a different movie in the plaza," Gomez added. "That'll change every year, with a different book giveaway that corresponds with the movie in the plaza, which is *Wonka* this year, which means kids are going to be receiving *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* books, while supplies last, free to kids thanks to Friends of Marshfield Public Library."

Popcorn and soda will also be available for purchase during the Movie in the Plaza event, set to start at dusk on Friday, July 26 in Wenzel Family Plaza. "For Friday night, we have a lot of great things going on that were rained out last year, so I think that if people were looking forward to the shopping event on Friday night, the bike cruise on Friday night and then the Hub City Concert Series wrap-up, there's a lot to be excited about for Friday night this year," Gomez told us.

For the Friday night Bike Cruise, participants can join one of two neighborhood group rides into the downtown. At the finish, visit bike-related vendors and join in the Shop Hop fun. All participants will receive an ice cream voucher. The first 100 participants will receive goodie bags. If interested, meet at a group ride starting location by 5:50 p.m. Rides depart at 6 p.m. from the Wildwood Park locomotive at 17th and Roddis and the Marshfield Middle School tennis courts.

Coinciding with the Bike Cruise is the Shop Hop from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, July 26 downtown. The event will feature live music, sales, promotions, and photo-ops. Central Ave. will be closed to traffic between Veteran's Pkwy. and Fourth St., but participating stores run from Arnold all the way to Ninth Street, looping in Chestnut and Maple avenues.

*Bring your receipt to the beverage tent at Wenzel Family Plaza between 7-9 p.m. to receive an entry to win Brew Fest tickets for each receipt you show with your ID. Winners will be announced at 9

p.m. Tickets will be held at Hub City Brew Fest for those not present for the announcement.

"In addition to that, we have another event happening downtown for kids called the Hotwheel Hunt, where three hundred toy cars will be hidden throughout downtown and kids can come and find them just like they would a painted rock, and be able to take that home and have a free, little gift from us to them to build anticipation for the car show," said Gomez.

Toy cars will be hidden outside of buildings, on the sidewalks, but never on areas of the street where real cars would be (apart from areas fully closed off for the event). Streets will be closed to traffic, but the hunt runs from Chestnut Ave. to Maple Ave. west to east and from Arnold all the way to Ninth Street north to south, the same boundaries as the Shop Hop event.

That evening, the Hub City Concert Series finale features The Verve Pipe from 7-10 p.m. in Wenzel Family Plaza. Main Street Marshfield will be selling beer, seltzer, and soda to raise funds for downtown events and programming. Music is compliments of Marshfield Parks & Recreation programming.

Saturday, July 27 will feature the massive Car & Bike Show, Family Zone with bounce houses and kiddie games, Craft Show, Brew Fest, Beer Garden, live music and more.

There will also be a BBQ Cookoff hosted by the Marshfield Elk's Club. This day-long competition features three categories: ribs, chicken, and pork. Competitors are welcome to showcase their BBQ skills, competing for both recognition and prizes. For more information or to register your cooking team, contact Erick Boon at 715-305-3809 or marshfieldelks665@gmail.com.

The Car Show, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., has become the crown jewel of Hub City Days. Spanning ten city blocks, the show features 500-plus car/bike entries, a live DJ, tons of door prizes, a Veteran appreciation raffle at 2 p.m., and a kids-only raffle, also at 2 p.m.

Brew Fest has also been a Hub City Days mainstay. The event runs from noon to 3 p.m. at Wenzel Family Plaza. Live music sets the tone for summer as cold beer flows all afternoon. Blue Heron BrewPub, M.A.S.H., Mosinee Brewing, and more will be ready to serve. Breweries offer multiple samples so you can discover your new favorites. Take home a souvenir pint glass and other goodies from sponsors. Food vendors, shopping, car show, craft show, and beer garden are all conveniently located within a block of the event.

"It's a great way to cool off and just relax with friends and listen to the music in Wenzel Family Plaza," Gomez said. "Brew Fest has a little more access to shade and some perks that you wouldn't have if you were hanging out in the beer garden, more seating, a few games, so I would say if you are a craft beer enthusiast, it's an excellent way to take a break in the middle of Hub City Days."

The Horse Power Show will again be featured from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Upham Mansion. Visit the Governor Upham House, celebrating the "Sweet 16" of Marshfield's Historic District, walk through an exhibit of horse-drawn carriages dating from the early 1900s, and you might even catch a glimpse of blacksmithing.

The Chestnut Center for the Arts will be holding an Open House, which will also feature demonstrations of chainsaw art, pottery demos, and artists on site.

The Family Zone returns at Veterans Park with kiddie cars, Hiller's Bounce Houses, face painting, science activities with Discovery Education Station, and more - all in the relaxing shade of Veterans Park. There will also be demonstrations by Reis Martial Arts beginning at 10 a.m., performances by Main Street Conservatory of Dance starting at 11 a.m. and FoxFire Affair will play live music from noon to 3 p.m.

The Craft Show in the City Hall Plaza parking lot at Seventh and Chestnut will have vendors fully stocked for you to take home a commemorative item from the event.



The Hub City Days Family Zone at Veterans Park features lots of kid-friendly displays and activities, and is close to the Car & Bike Show. Submitted photo

"This event is the biggest fundraiser for downtown events and programming of the year, so when people are spending money at the beer tents or they see a sponsor something, they should

know that those funds are going directly back into more events to support small businesses," said Gomez. "It is nonprofit-led, it is volunteer-driven and it is something that affects two- to three-hundred

different businesses in a given year."

For a complete list of details, visit mainstreetmarshfield.com or the Hub City Days page on Facebook.

Blood, platelet donors critically needed

Help hospitals stay prepared this summer

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

WAUSAU -- This July, the American Red Cross continues to stress that blood and platelet donors are critically needed right now to support lifesaving transfusions this summer. Donors of all blood types are in demand, especially those with type O blood and donors giving platelets.

Every donation counts in the mission to keep blood products stocked for patients, including those facing life-threatening situations. More than a quarter of all blood products each year are used in critical care and emergency room cases, highlighting

the importance of generous blood and platelet donors. Be a force for good. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Universal Pictures for the theatrical release of *Twisters* to help avoid a summer blood shortage. All who come to give blood or platelets this month will get a Fandango Movie Ticket* by email. Those

See DONORS page 9

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Honoring Marshfield's 150th

Marshfield 150 for 150: Florian "Flossy" Gust

NOMINATED BY HIS CHILDREN, CHARLES, SUZZANE, JIM, JEANNE AND JON

Florian Gust had a six-decade love affair with boxing, and in those years he influenced the developing strength and character of thousands of young men from Marshfield and the surrounding areas. He was born Florian John Gust on Sept. 2, 1918, the son of Jacob and Catherine (Zettler) Gust of Auburndale. As the story goes, the nickname "Flossy" was given to him by Wilmer Drollinger, on whose farm Gust worked during high school. Drollinger often had a wad of chewing tobacco in his mouth and when he said Florian's name, it sounded like Flossy.

Gust began boxing to stay active in 1937 on a dirt basement floor at St. John the Baptist School in Marshfield with the Catholic Youth Organization's fighters. Over the next five years, with the Marshfield Athletic Club and then Golden Gloves, he fought in more than 60 bouts without being knocked out. His short boxing career ended when World War II began. He had intended on making a comeback after the war, but got married, started a family and began devoting his time to instructing kids.

Gust started to help coaches Charlie Brehm and Eddie Schattschneider of the Marshfield Lions Club with



skills, saying, "Don't get into bar room or neighborhood fights, because there's always someone who's going to be looking for you because you are a boxer. You're in a no-win situation to box in a fight, because you are supposed to win, but if you get dropped on the ground, that man is the king of the bar or neighborhood." Also, Gust emphasized to his fighters what they could do to better themselves instead of how good they were doing. And, when the bell rang for the next round, his last words to the fighters were always, "Good luck and God bless."

For many of these young men, Gust became more than just a coach or trainer. He was like a second father, and he treated them as if they were his own kids.

Gust trained boxers from every corner of the state and traveled all over the country managing amateur boxers – his boxers competed in national tournaments in Chicago, Milwaukee, Salt Lake City, Knoxville, Fort Worth, Las Vegas and Kansas City. One of the highlights in his career came in Madison during 1975 when he was selected as one of the Wisconsin team coaches for the United States Pan-American Amateur Boxing Trials. There he worked with future Olympians and later professional boxers Michael and Leon Spinks and Sugar Ray Leonard.

In 1987, Gust was honored by both houses of the Wisconsin State Legislature with resolutions recognizing his 50 years of service to amateur boxing. The governor and mayor of Marshfield proclaimed October 24, 1987 as "Flossy Gust Day" and over 400 of his former boxers, family and friends attended a special dinner and dance. The milestone was also recognized by the Wood County Board of Supervisors, Marshfield Lions Club, the Marshfield Athletic Club, the Marshfield Jaycees, the Fond du Lac Boxing Club and the Menominee Nation Boxing Club.

At the USA Boxing Wisconsin State Championship, held in Marshfield's Old Armory building in 1999, Gust was honored by his former boxers and hundreds of fans during the intermission. When asked what kept him going, he said, "I love the sport."

Gust spent the better part of his life training, teaching and arranging boxing shows for thousands of kids from all over the state. Talking about his career once, he said, "It's all worthwhile when you make a kid happy." He added, "When I look back, I wonder how I accomplished it all." Referring to running a farm, a family and thousands of boxing careers, he said, "It hasn't been easy, but if you can help a kid fulfill his dream, you've done something." He went on, "If you leave this world without making it a better place in some way, you haven't done anything."

Local boxing legend, Florian "Flossy" Gust died at age 85 on May 8, 2004 after a lifetime of mentoring area youth in the manly art of self-defense while making this corner of the world a much better place.

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Parcel 2) 75.81 deeded +/- acres. Consists of 65.3 acres of cropland (per FSA/USDA), 3.04 acres of permanent hay ground with the balance wooded and lowlands.
Terms of Sale: Successful bidder(s) will be required to deposit 10% earnest (non-refundable) on sale date and sign required offer to purchase and related forms indicating a cash sale. NO BUYERS FEE! All information set forth is to be believed to be accurate and reliable, however property is being sold "as is" with no implied warranties or guarantees by the seller or the seller's agents. Potential buyers are encouraged to verify any information. All announcements on the day of the sale will take precedence over any previous printed information Final closing date to be scheduled December 6, 2024
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competitions in 1942. He became the boxing coach for the Lions Boxing Club in 1946 and continued through 1957 when the club discontinued sponsorship of the local Golden Gloves and closed the gym.

After several local boxers approached him, Gust agreed to help them out and started a gym in the basement of his rural Auburndale home. The basement was used as the Gust Gym until 1969 when a neighbor offered the use of the abandoned Hillside School. Although the schoolhouse was a step up from the basement it wasn't anything fancy. Hundreds of young boxers passed through its doors. In 1996 Gust moved the boxing gym to the upstairs of the Old Armory, now the Oak Avenue Community Center. It marked the first time since 1957 that boxers were trained in Marshfield.

In these locations, local youth and adults came to test their limits, discipline their bodies and maybe let out some aggression. Gust spent countless hours teaching them the "manly art of self-defense" while emphasizing boxing basics. He coached his boxers not to abuse their

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MCPL system announces summer youth events



Create a book to fill with summer adventures during regular business hours the week of July 29-Aug. 3 at the Marathon County Public Library's Spencer Branch, 105 South Park St.

Submitted photo

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – The Marathon County Public Library system has scheduled a series of programs for area youth this summer.

Play & Learn: Beading for All Ages (MCPL Stratford)

Jewelry, anyone? The Children's Wisconsin Marshfield Family Resource Center will be sharing a variety of beads, baubles, and strings to make jewelry and other creations at the Marathon County Public Library's Stratford Branch (213201 Scholar St., Stratford) from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on July 22. Free, open to the public, no registration required. Call the Stratford Branch at 715-687-4420 for more information.

Mini Paper Kites (MCPL Spencer)

Kids can create a fun, travel-size mini kite that they can fly this summer. Stop in anytime during regular business hours the week of July 22-27 at the Marathon County Public Library's Spencer Branch (105 South Park St., Spencer). Free, all supplies provided, no registration required. Call 715-659-3996 for more info.

Summertime Scavenger Hunt (MCPL Marathon City & MCPL Spencer)

Kids of all ages can drop in for a summertime scavenger hunt during open hours from July 22 to July 27 at the Marathon County Public Library's Spencer Branch (105 S. Park St., Spencer) and Marathon City Branch (515 Washington St., Marathon City). Search the shelves and around the library to answer questions (some weird and wacky ones, too!) about the library. Free, no

registration required. Call the Spencer Branch at 715-659-3996 or the Marathon City Branch at 715-443-2775 for more information.

Backpack Buddies (MCPL Edgar)

Kids and tweens who love stringing beads can drop in to create a beaded dragonfly or other animal creation. Stop in anytime during regular business hours the week of July 29-August 3 at the Marathon County Public Library's Edgar Branch (224 S. Third Ave., Edgar). Free, all supplies provided, no registration required. Call 715-352-3155 for more information.

My Summer Adventure Book (MCPL Spencer)

Create a book to fill with summer adventures. Kids and tweens can bind pages together for a book to fill with photos, writing and more during regular business hours the week of July 29-Aug. 3 at the Marathon County Public Library's Spencer Branch (105 South Park St., Spencer). Free, all supplies provided, no registration required. Call 715-659-3996 for more information.

Sunflower Weaving (MCPL Stratford)

Youth and families are invited to stop in and weave your own flower. Children will learn simple weaving techniques to create a unique flower using a paper plate and colorful yarn. Stop in anytime during regular business hours the week of July 29-Aug. 3 at the Marathon County Public Library's Stratford Branch (213201 Scholar St., Stratford). Free, all supplies provided, no registration required. Call 715-687-4420 for more information.

City announces death of bobcat at Wildwood Zoo

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- The City of Marshfield Parks & Recreation Department has announced the passing of Bets, the male bobcat at Wildwood Zoo.

At the time of his death, Bets was 17 years old and considered to be a geriatric cat. After he was observed behaving atypically, a veterinary exam revealed that Bets had an extremely enlarged liver, which was determined to be filled with likely cancerous tumors. The size of the tumor was causing problems for other organs to function normally. Given the size of the tumor, surgical removal was not a viable option. With a lack of treatment options and the aggressive nature of his condition, the difficult decision was made to euthanize Bets.

He was a favorite amongst visitors and staff alike, with his sweet, personable nature and zest for life. He enjoyed watching the ducks and geese at the lower pond, receiving back scratches via his wooden scratcher, and napping in the sun.

At 17 years of age, Bets had surpassed the average lifespan of bobcats both under human care and his wild counterparts. Bets had lived at Wildwood Zoo since October of 2016 when he was transferred from Oschner Park Zoo in Baraboo.

He shared the wildcat exhibit with Lexi, the 19-year-old female lynx. Lexi will be closely observed by her care team for changes in behavior, but she has always been a highly-independent individual and zoo officials expect her to adjust well.



Bets

Over the past year or so, Wildwood Zoo has said goodbye to a higher number of animals than usual. As a testament to the care they receive in Marshfield, the Wildwood Zoo animal population is heavily comprised of seniors who are facing age-related illnesses and complications.

As always, the Parks and Recreation staff appreciates your continued support of Wildwood Park and Zoo.

DNR now accepting applications for storm grants

MADISON -- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced it is now accepting applications for Wisconsin Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grants.

This round of grant funding became available through Executive Order No. 232, signed by Gov. Tony Evers on June 28, declaring a state of emergency due to recent



Six low-grade tornadoes in the Colby area this spring and early summer have caused significant storm damage the past few months.

Kris Leonhardt photo

See GRANTS page 11

DONORS from page 7

who come to give blood in July will also automatically be entered for a chance to win a 2025 Ram 1500 Big Horn®. See RedCrossBlood.org/Twisters for full details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Wood County: Marshfield – July 29, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 750 S. Central Ave;

Pittsville – Aug. 9, 12 - 5 p.m., Lions Club Building, 5572 Fourth Ave.;

Wisconsin Rapids – July 19, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., McMillan Library, 490 E. Grand Avenue; July 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wisconsin Rapids Fire Dept, 1511 12th St. S.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any

Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides

comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

*Fandango Promotional Code ("Code") is good towards the purchase of one movie ticket (up to \$15 total ticket price and associated fees and charges) to see Twisters or any other movie at Fandango partner theaters in the US. Code expires 12/31/24. FANDANGO and the Fandango Logo are registered trademarks of Fandango Media, LLC. © 2024 Universal Studios, Warner Bros., Domain Pictures & Amblin Entertainment

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CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements 7005

Hub City Times Classified Ad Deadline
To place a classified ad call our office at **715-384-4440** or online at **classifiedsmmc.com** before **10am on Friday**. Your ad will run in the paper the following week. Cost starts at \$10/week for 5 lines (appx 25 words). Prepayment is required.

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

312 W. 3rd Street
Thurs & Fri July 18-19 7am-5pm
Possible Sat 8-noon (weather)
Old bottles of all kinds (soda/medicine/liquor/inks/dairy) Many vtg still banks, stoneware, antiques, Mall Furniture items, area rugs, linens, decor, and wall art. Multi interest books, guys stuffs, bird feeders, shepherds hooks, some very unique items, please see are pictures in our Craigslist ads.

Advertise Here

715-384-4440

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Dave Suchon's Indoor Rummage Sale
540 2nd Street N. - St Point
July 17, 18 & 19 8am-5pm
Display glass cabinets w/lights, Oak curio cabinets, big Coke rack on wheels, phone booth (like new), cars signs, holiday decoration: some electric, large assort. of Coke Cola products: signs, pottery 35+ years some still in boxes, never opened. Large assort of diecast cars, some still in boxes, electric 3 wheel scooter w/large wheels, Men's/Women's clothes, 2X-3X. New standup tool box on wheels, Jeff Gordon, Richard Petty, Muhammad Ali memorabilia, electric neon signs, framed car pictures w/electric lights, tin lunch boxes & canisters, fiber glass canoe, snow blower, lots of misc. items.

MARSHFIELD, 217 West 11th St.
July 18-20, 8a-5p. Clothes, All Sizes, holiday décor, tents, chairs, tols, chainsaw, flower pots, bikes, games, treasures, toys, & misc.

MARSHFIELD, 2501 W. 3rd St.
July 18 & 19, 8am-4pm;
July 20, 8am-Noon.
Hunting, fishing, tree stands, men's & women's things, household, crafts & a lot more!

MARSHFIELD, 310 E. 15th Street. Spanish Teacher Retirement Sale. July 17-19 & 24-26, 8am-5pm. Lots of quality treasures for your home or classroom.

MARSHFIELD, 409 E 18th St.
Thur, Fri & Sat July 18-July 20, 8a-6p. Lots of miscellaneous and men's tools.

Marshfield, 504 N. Ash Ave.
Thur/Fri July 18 & 19, 7am-6pm,
Sat July 20, 7am-noon. Adult men & women clothes, girls clothes 24 months to size 7. Baby Items, toys, household & lots of misc.

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

Lake DuBay - Knowlton Area Community Rummage Sales
Thursday-Saturday, July 18-20.
Sale Map and listing at DuBay Lions Park, 203701 Hwy DB in Downtown Knowlton and at dubaylions.org. Cookout 10-2 each day at the Lions Park plus breakfast on Saturday as part of Summerfest.

Estate Sales 7208

EZ Estate Sale
611 N Plum, Marshfield
Friday July 19th 9-5
& Saturday July 20th 10-2
Very nice lift chair, like new recliner, mid century table and chairs, stereo console with record player and 8 track tape player, MC bedroom furniture, dressers TV stand, couches, lots of Fenton collectible glass, Fire King mixing bowls, Holt-Howard pixie ware, vintage glassware and dishes, Melamine dishes, many Barbie Dolls, vintage dolls and accessories, collectible toys, vinyl records, cassettes and 8 track tapes (some still in the original packaging). Costume jewelry, cook books, clothing, tool chest and tools, metal ladders, garden tools, vacuum, washing machine. Come check this one out!
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Guns 7264

WANTED! .22 Caliber Single Shot or Repeater Rifles with 24" Barrels. The rougher the better!! These are for A Gunsmith Training Project. Bring them to the **Wau-paca Gun Show July 19 & 20** VFW Post 1037, 244 Industrial Dr Fri 3-8pm Sat. 9am-4pm **OR CALL BJ 608-548-GUNS(4867) (WCAN)**

Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

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Dogs 7272

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GRANTS
from page 9

severe weather events across Wisconsin. Following the governor's declaration, the DNR's Urban Forestry Grant program will make 20 percent of its unallocated annual funds available to aid eligible applicants, including Wisconsin municipalities, counties, tribal governments and 501(c)(3) organizations. Grants range from \$4,000 to \$50,000 and do not require a dollar-for-dollar match.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

The DNR's Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant program funds tree repair, removal or replacement within urban areas following a catastrophic storm event for which the governor has declared a state of emergency under s. 323.10, Wis. Stats.

A catastrophic storm is defined as damage to urban forests caused by snow, ice, hail, wind or tornado. Catastrophic storms do not include insect infestation or disease, forest fire, drought or water saturation due to flooding.

For more information and to apply, please visit the DNR's Urban Forestry Catastrophic Grants webpage (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/urbanforests/grants/catastrophic>).

For additional storm-damaged tree care resources, visit the DNR's Tree Learning Center webpage (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/urbanforests/treecenter>).

ASSESSMENT
from page 2

14 percent used a vape product in the last 30 days. E-cigarettes are more popular than conventional cigarettes among Wisconsin teens.

Mental Health

Between 2017 and 2020, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of mentally-unhealthy days reported by adults in the past 30 days increased in Wood County, and peaked at nearly 5 in 2020, at the height of the pandemic. The following year, that number had dropped to 4.3 mentally-unhealthy days. That same year, 20 percent of adults in Wood County reported having depression.

Between 2018 and 2022, Wood County's suicide death rate per 100,000 residents reached a high of 23 in 2022.

In 2023, 5 in 9 Wood County students answered affirmatively to at least one question about anxiety, depression, or self-harm.

The percentages of Wood County high school students who self-reported anxiety, seriously considered suicide, and/or attempted suicide in the past 12 months all increased over the past five years. In 2023, 49 percent reported anxiety, 31 percent reported depression, 19 percent seriously considered suicide and 8 percent attempted suicide.

Mortality

The average life expectancy in Wood County is 77.3 years, compared to 78.2 in Wisconsin as a whole.

The top five causes of death in Wood County in 2022 were led by heart disease (247), followed by cancer (153), other causes (150), unintentional injuries (63) and COVID-19 (58).

Wood County's premature death rate has climbed from just over 5,000 in 2013 to nearly 8,000 in 2020.

Injury

In 2022, there were 5,166 emergency department visits and 358 hospitalizations due to injury in Wood County. Falls were the number one cause of both injury-related hospitalizations (215) and emergency department visits (1,761) in Wood County in 2022.

To be continued...

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Minnesota State Mankato announces spring Dean's List

MANKATO, MN -- The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past spring semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato have been announced by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs David Hood.

Among 3,679 students, a total of 1,150 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 2,529 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Minnesota State Mankato, a comprehensive university with 14,635 students, is part of the Minnesota State system, which includes 26 colleges and seven universities.

Marshfield: Brandon Lang, Honor List; Artemis Rentmeester, Honor List

Thorp: Riley Eichstadt, High Honor List; Sidney Eichstadt, High Honor List



Sidney and Riley Eichstadt



Lang

Mid-State fall registration now open

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -- Registration is now open for Mid-State Technical College's fall term. The College is emphasizing its ability to help new and continuing students find a perfect fit for their life and career goals. Classes start Aug. 19.

In addition to opening its brand-new Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering Technology, and Apprenticeship (AMETA™) Center in Stevens Point, Mid-State's 90-plus fall offerings include new degree and certificate programs, including the Early Childhood Professional technical diploma and the LEAD Institute and Process Improvement certificates. The new training facility, programs and certificates are the result of growing demand in the central Wisconsin community.

Mid-State offers a wide variety of flexible, affordable classes, including online, hybrid or small in-person classes with collaborative learning environments. Examples include program-specific courses as well as a variety of general education offerings. Many of the available classes also include guaranteed transfer to more than 20 four-year colleges and universities.

Learn more and get started at mstc.edu/perfectfit.

'The Tin Woman' tackles tough subject with heart, gentle humor

BY KRIS RUED-CLARK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PITTSVILLE -- How does a family cope with the death of their son and older brother? And how does the recipient of his heart deal with knowing someone had to die for her to live? The play, *The Tin Woman*, does not depict the slow and arduous physical recovery from heart transplant surgery. Rather, it addresses deeper questions – questions that many might not consider until they are flung into such undesired territory.

The dramatic comedy, presented by Pittsville Area Community Theater (PACT), has its second and final weekend of performances July 19-21, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, in the Pittsville Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave., Pittsville. Inspired by a true story and written by Sean Grennan, the play explores grief as well as survivor's guilt.

Under the able direction of theatre veteran Roxie Wetterau, every cast member gives a stellar performance. One comes away with the impression that the play has been perfectly cast, feeling that each actor has truly inhabited the character she or he plays. Even the supporting actors, from the annoyingly-sweet hospital nurse (Connie Michalski) to Darla (Montana Smith-Frome), the goofy yet sincere friend of the heart's recipient, sweep us into the illusion that these are real people we're watching.

Two performances in particular stand out – Andrew Spencer, the deceased son Jack, and Rebecca Neal Niese as his bereaved mother, Alice. Spencer's silent presence onstage through most of the performance is made all the more poignant by his reactions to the other characters and their inability to see or hear him. Niese plays the titular character, a tin woman who is grieving the death of her son, whose heart now beats in someone else.

Greg Jackan gives a convincing performance as the donor's father, Hank, who copes with loss through alcohol. His disappearances and silent inability to acknowledge his emotions and discuss the family's loss are punctuated by sullen outbursts at his wife and daughter.

Another stand-out performance comes from Carly Eileen Rhyner who plays Joy, the conflicted young woman who receives Jack's heart. Joy is a graphic designer, moored in a corporate job with little room for artistic expression. Through conversations with her friend Darla, we learn why Joy cannot stand to be hugged. Her sarcastic sense of humor hides the pain and confusion she feels over why she is allowed to live and Jack had to die. In one scene, Joy cries out in anguish, "Why am I supposed to live? For who? For what?"



Inspired by a true story, "The Tin Woman" follows Joy (Carly Eileen Rhyner), whose life is given an unexpected jump-start through the gift of a donated heart from Jack (Andrew Spencer). Joy's yearning to meet Jack's still-grieving family results in a surprise ending.

Roxie Wetterau photo

Yet eventually she takes the time to write a letter to Jack's family, thanking them for the opportunity to, not only survive, but thrive. She concludes, "I'm sorry that it comes at such a cost to you."

Humorous moments scattered throughout the play bring much-needed relief from the gravity of the topic. Yet the play remains a powerful reflection on life and death, even when Jack's little sister Sammy (Grace Engel) delivers a pre-school lesson on flowers that addresses their dying and turning to mulch, which then becomes the next generation of flowers.

With simple yet effective sets, the play takes place in the donor family's dining room and living room, the recipient's apartment, and most hauntingly, the cemetery where Jack is buried. A stone bench represents the gravesite, and it always remains in view, just as the silent presence of Jack's ghost onstage never lets us forget. He is ever present with his family members and the recipient of his heart, even though they do not know he is there.

The Tin Woman does not give us a happily-ever-after ending, for how is that even possible in the face of such terrible loss? It does, however, end on a hopeful note, a cathartic breakthrough that ever so slightly cracks open the door for healing to begin. When the nurse sends Joy home after her heart transplant, she exclaims, "Live your life!" This play reminds us all to live our lives with more awareness and appreciation, and to consider – while we still have the chance – the opportunity to provide a life-giving gift as an organ or tissue donor.

A post-show discussion for *The Tin Woman* will be held on Friday, July 19. Audience members will have the opportunity to question the cast and director about their creative process and discuss their experiences related to the play's themes. The talk-back will begin approximately 10 minutes following the performance.

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