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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024 ■ VOLUME 40 ■ ISSUE 31 ■ 715.384.4440 ■ MARSHFIELD, WI

Common Council mulls relocation of police department

Aldermen consider options for renovating Wildwood Plaza Buffalo Building

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD -- If Marshfield officials decide to move the city's police department to a vacant building on the south side, renovation would cost nearly as much as constructing a new facility on an empty lot. That's what aldermen and other city officials were told July 23, during a special meeting of the Common Council.

Aldermen heard an update from Michael Maas, Senior Architect of Lake Delton-based ADCI, who in 2023 conducted a feasibility study on the Buffalo Building at 2504 S. Central Ave., not only to assess its current condition, but also for its potential use as a site for the police department.

"If you think about converting a retail building or a multi-tenant building into the use for a police department, there's going to be a renovation project that would need to take place, thus the need for a relatively-substantial renovation project if that building is to be considered to

be converted for police department use," Maas told council members and other city officials in attendance.

Maas and his staff developed three different floor plans for renovating the Buffalo Building into a police department, ranging in size from roughly 35,000 to 42,000 square feet, and in price from \$13.2 million to \$14.1 million.

"With an existing building obviously, we're trying to use as much of that building as we can to keep it as

See RELOCATION page 9

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Voters to decide constitutional amendment questions

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

WOOD COUNTY -- Who should be tasked with spending Wisconsin's share of billions of federal dollars?

In Wisconsin's partisan Primary elections on Aug. 13, voters will decide the fate of two referendum questions which – if approved – would change the state Constitution to allow the legislature to have more authority over how money which comes from Washington, D.C. is doled out. Currently, that authority lies with the governor's office.

The two questions will appear statewide as follows:

Question 1: "Delegation of appropriation power. Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?"

Question 2: "Allocation of federal moneys. Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to

prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?"

"Effectively, the two questions – if ratified by the voters – would give the legislature authority by rule or by joint resolution of the two houses (Senate and Assembly) to make a determination on approval of federal funding that comes in," Bob Lang, a spokesman for the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, told us. "Right now, that is under the discretion of the governor, and it was prominently used during the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding that came in during the pandemic by the governor, when there were discretionary funds that he could use, which he did.

"In some instances, federal monies currently go to a specific purpose identified in legislation, but the passage

of these would basically – rather than having the governor unilaterally determine the use of those funds – the legislature would be able to do so by joint resolution and by rule," Lang added.

The Wisconsin governor's current authority dates back to the 1930s, when the office was given the power during the Great Depression. "Whenever the United States government shall make available funds for the education, the promotion of health, the relief of indigency, the promotion of agriculture or for any other purpose other than the administration of the tribal or any individual funds of Wisconsin Indians, the governor on behalf of the state is authorized to accept the funds so made available," that law reads.

If approved by voters on Aug. 13, the constitutional changes would go into effect in January 2025, prior to the start of the next legislative session.

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PROFILE

Maria Seefeld was born in LaCrosse, WI. She has been a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist since 2019; a Certified Nursing Assistant; and has worked in healthcare since 2012. She is a member of the International Hearing Society. Maria is passionate about helping others, and it shows in her personalized care.

When not helping others, Maria enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband have five children: four girls and one boy. They are active in their church, enjoy local sports, hunting, fishing, music, and the arts.

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- 6) **Hearing loss can be exhausting**. **Concentrating harder** to understand the people in the world around you.
- 7) Seniors with **untreated hearing loss** are **up to 24%** less likely to participate in **social activities**.
- 8) People with **moderate hearing loss** have **3X the risk of dementia**.
- 9) **48 million people** in the U.S. have **hearing loss**.

1-https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/HIAA_HearingLoss_Facts_Statistics.pdf
2- <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quikv-statistics-hearing>
3-Gallagher J, Rubaeta V, Ben-Shlomo Y, et al. Auditory threshold, phonologic demand, and incident dementia, Neurology 2012; 70. 1583-90
4-Pichoro-Fuller MK. (2008d) quoted in Convention News. "Celebrating 20 Years, AAA is Hear to Stay" from Advance for Speech – Language Pathologists and Audiologists. By Jason Mosheim, speech-languagepathology-audiology advance web com/editorial
5-<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26916793/>
6-Packer, Lisa, "Research shows severity of tinnitus is related to emotional processing." Healthy Hearing. Accessed April 16, 2019
7-The National Council on Aging. The Consequences of Untreat Hearing Loss in Older Persons, May 1999 <https://ncod.org/wp-content/uploads/NCOA-Study-1999.pdf>
8-<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4075051/>
9-https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/HIAA_HearingLoss_Facts_Statistics.pdf

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OBITUARIES

CAROL HARRIMAN
 Carol Harriman, 87, of Marshfield, passed away on July 21, 2024. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home is assisting the family.

DENNIS JENSEN
 Dennis Jensen, 70, of Marshfield, passed away on July 24, 2024. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.

ELIZBETH BLIVEN
 Elizabeth Bliven, 72, of Marshfield, passed away on July 24, 2024. The Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home & Cremation Center is assisting the family.

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MARTHA R. BENDER
 Martha R. Bender, age 96, of Marshfield, WI, joined her heavenly Father on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at House of the Dove, Marshfield. Funeral services will be at 11:00 am on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at Christ Lutheran Church where a visitation will be from 10:00 am until service time. Rev. Andrew Belt will officiate. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Marshfield. Rembs Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Martha Kahler Bender was born on December 22, 1928, to Paul and Katherine (Schamber) Kahler on the family farm south of Colome, South Dakota. One of twelve children, she attended school with her siblings at the Progressive Schoolhouse in Colome. Martha was confirmed in August 1942 at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, south of Colome, and on January 16, 1947, she married the love of her life, Leon H. Bender, at the very same church. Martha and Leon farmed with their family in Colome until 1954 when they moved to Marshfield, WI.

Throughout her life, Martha worked as a homemaker and salesclerk. She enjoyed gardening, bird watching, cooking, sewing, reading, camping, and fishing. A lifelong member of Christ Lutheran Church in Marshfield, she actively participated in Bible study and volunteered her time with the Ladies' Aide. Martha was always willing to help others in need, frequently opening her home to many individuals during her lifetime and enjoyed offering fellowship with her Sunday dinners. She cherished spending time with Jesus in prayer and reading her Bible, and most of all, she loved dotting on and spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Martha is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Leon; her sons, Donald, and Jerry; her parents, Paul and Katherine Kahler; and her siblings, Fred, Rudy, John, Leonard, Flora Kahler, Rose Kutabue, Lucille Fenner, Dorothy Snyder, Adeline Bender, and Erna Kinzer.

She is survived by her sons, Larry (Susie) Bender and Garry (Cindy) Bender; her daughter, Marilyn Bender, all of Marshfield; and her seven grandchildren, David (Jody) Bender of Stratford, WI, Tina Bender, Jenny Bender, Dan Bender, Kelly (Casey) Hintz, Ashley (James) Postmeier of Marshfield, and Ben (Ashley) Guldan of Minneapolis, MN. She is also survived by eight great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, and her sister, Mabel Lehmann of Appleton, WI.

Martha was loved and cherished by many friends and family and will be greatly missed.

Condolences may be sent online to www.rembsfh.com

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ACE Twilight meetings coming to four Wisconsin dairies



Grass Ridge Farm LLC, Pittsville, is among the stops for this summer's ACE Twilight meeting series in late August.

Submitted photo

August stops include Grass Ridge Farm, Pittsville

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

JUNEAU -- It's no secret that agriculture is a key driver of Wisconsin's economy and rural communities. In fact, agriculture delivers a total value of \$105 billion to the state, making it critical for community members, elected officials and business leaders to be engaged in conversations about agriculture, natural resources and other shared resources. Offering a forum for open dialogue and a firsthand look at the innovations used in dairy production, the 2024 Agricultural Community Engagement (ACE®) Twilight Meetings will be hosted at dairy farms in St. Croix, Wood, Kewaunee and Columbia counties August 26, 27, 28, and 29, respectively.

A partnership between Professional Dairy Producers® (PDP), Wisconsin Counties and the Wisconsin Towns Association,

ACE Twilight Meetings offer opportunities for community leaders, elected officials, educators, conservation specialists, dairy farmers and area community members to connect, network and learn together.

"If you're looking to get involved in your community and learn about the common priorities and challenges facing all of us, attending an ACE Twilight Meeting is the perfect way to get started," said John Haag, Dane, dairy producer and PDP board president. "Candid conversations with dairy farmers, elected officials, conservation and community leaders open the doors to solving some of the issues we face in Wisconsin."

Each meeting will begin with a tour of the host dairy farm at 6 p.m., providing attendees a firsthand look at how animals are cared for, housed and fed. Attendees will also have the opportunity to view each dairy's milking facilities, barns and the technologies they use. Ice cream will be served at 7 p.m. with open dialogue about such community issues as water, conservation, roadways and transportation, educational opportunities and more. Meetings will conclude at 8:30 p.m.

The 2024 ACE Twilight Meeting host farms are:

Monday, Aug. 26 – St. Croix County: Luckwaldt Agriculture Inc., 2606 County Rd. D, Woodville. Hosted by Dan and Mary Luckwaldt family.

Tuesday, Aug. 27 – Wood County: Grass Ridge Farm, 7916 Apple Rd., Pittsville (heifer farm location). Hosted by Matt, Paul and Carl Lippert.

Wednesday, Aug. 28 – Kewaunee County: Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy LLC, N4893 County Rd. C, Kewaunee. Hosted by JJ and Chase Pagel family, Bryan and Ashley Pagel family and Jamie Witcpalek family.

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See **DAIRIES**

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Rainbow Reflections
 Discount Groceries

Spiros seeking seventh term in state legislature

BY MIKE WARREN
EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield) is seeking reelection to the Wisconsin State Assembly, in an 86th district that has the same name, but is now very different geographically.

“I’m the current 86th District representative,” Spiros told us July 16. “I’ve served this district for the last twelve years. With the maps changing now, with four districts coming into one, I truly believe that we need leadership more today than we’ve needed it in the past in the Assembly, and I believe I can bring that and I can continue doing what I’ve been doing for the state for the last twelve years, and actually what I did prior to that for the city of Marshfield as an alderman (2005-13).”

Spiros was first elected to the Assembly’s 86th district in 2012. Now, under new maps approved in February, that district has shifted more to the south and west, and encompasses a portion of Portage County, a larger portion of Wood County and a smaller portion of Marathon County.

“I ran in the 70th (Assembly district) back in 2010, and the 70th encompassed almost all of this district, other than Marathon, Marathon City, Stettin, so I think – for the most part – my name recognition is good,” Spiros said. “And that’s been the biggest challenge going to doors is trying to explain that, ‘Do you know that your district changed?’ It’s usually two out of four people that will say, ‘No, I didn’t know that,’ so I try to explain it to them. Overall, I liked the prior maps,” added Spiros. “I was disappointed that the governor’s map basically put multiple representatives – especially on the Republican side – against one another. So, from that standpoint I was disappointed. However, it is what it is as we move forward.”

Spiros says “the leadership piece” makes him the best choice among the three Republican hopefuls whose names are on the ballot in the Aug. 13 Primary runoff.

“I think I bring a level-headed perspective with first-hand experience to the role, in order to make the best decisions on behalf of Wisconsinites,” he told us. “I have an extensive record of being able to push back on some of these radical or left-leaning policies and bills, so a lot of this is bringing that level-headed perspective, but bringing that experience and leadership that I have in this role and being able to work with the Republicans, being able to work across the aisle when we need to.”

“Since I’ve been elected, we’ve cut taxes by over thirty-three billion dollars,” Spiros continued. “I remember someone telling me, ‘There’s no way you’re going to be able to reduce taxes.’ We’ve been able to reduce taxes, keep the deficit down, reduce our bonding, reduce borrowing and we’re solvent,” he added.

The Air Force veteran and former police officer also



Spiros

touts his record as chairman of the Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, and its work on a bill which increased charges against those transporting or distributing fentanyl.

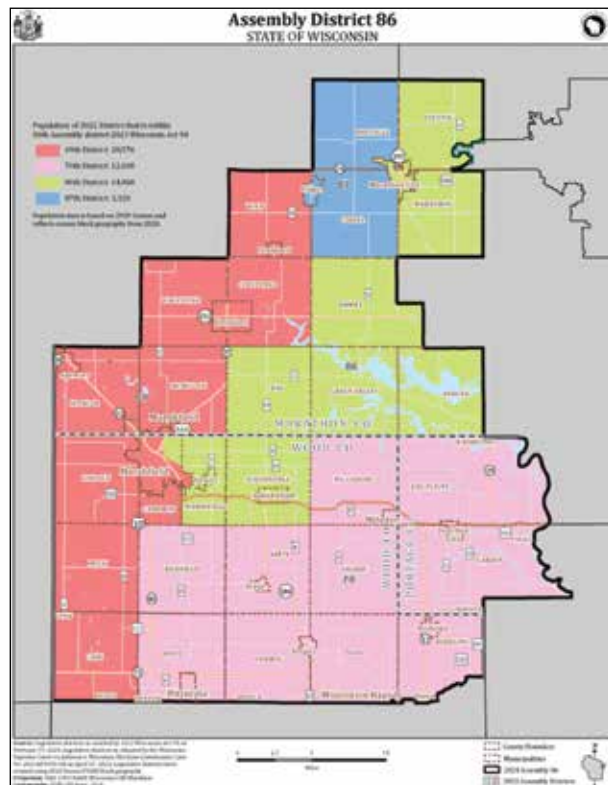
Spiros also cites bills he authored which increased protections for railroad maintenance workers and which goes after school staff and/or volunteers guilty of sexual misconduct against students in schools.

“And what happened was there’s a gray area within the statutes and was able to bring this bill forward and get it passed, and we actually had a child who was abused in school and it didn’t fit into any of the statutes, so we had to basically put together a statute, and that was a bi-partisan bill and we worked hard on getting that bill done,” Spiros recalled.

“We’re working hard on a lot of AI (artificial intelligence) issues,” he added. “I’ve been working with some of the prosecutors’ offices on AI because AI is definitely changing. There’s a good side of it and there’s a bad side of it from a theft standpoint, really against seniors, so we’re working on that.”

A Republican Primary now looms Aug. 13 between Spiros, Trine Spindler (Rozellville) and Rep. Donna Rozar (R-Marshfield).

Rep. Spiros issued a statement March 19 after announcing his reelection campaign for the 86th Assembly District, which he has represented since 2012. His announcement followed a similar one made by Rep. Rozar, who has represented the 69th Assembly District since January 2021.



The new 86th Assembly district will be comprised of portions of the current 69th (red), 70th (pink), 86th (green) and 87th (blue) Assembly districts. Submitted image

Spindler is a political newcomer.

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

In Wood County, the 86th now covers the cities of Marshfield and Pittsville, the villages of Arpin, Auburndale, Hewitt, Rudolph and Vesper, and the towns of Arpin, 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.

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Here's the scoop on Hub City Ice Cream Company

BY MELANIE ROSSIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARSHFIELD -- With two Marshfield locations, Hub City Ice Cream Company provides a place to cool down all summer long.

Serving over twenty-four rotating flavors made by Wisconsin's own Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream, Hub City's original southside location at 1610 S. Central Ave. was opened by Dave and Sandy Freeman in 2013.

Hub City Ice Cream's new owners, Tom and Jenn Witzel, took over in January 2022.

Originally, they saw no need to open a downtown location; however, after being asked by community members and doing their own research into Marshfield's needs, they became convinced.

"We realized that there was a desire and a need," Tom Witzel said. "Having been in other communities where there were downtown ice cream shops, we saw the success that they were having, so we thought that it would be worth giving it a try."

Their downtown location at 111 W. Second St. opened in May 2024. So far, the biggest challenge to opening the new location has been making Marshfield residents aware of it.

"It's kind of slow-going right now. I think a lot of it is people not realizing that we're here. I wander around the [Wenzel] plaza...during events, and people are surprised to hear we have an ice cream shop right across the street," Witzel said.

Each of the two Hub City Ice Cream locations has something unique to offer.

"When Dave and Sandy opened the business, they purposefully did not put a drive thru at our south side location because the vision was it would be a destination, and it really is," Witzel said. "We have a lot of people that will come, they'll sit for hours, they'll have their ice cream, and then they'll just sit and talk. We have people that come in and say, 'Oh, I'm meeting family, they're in town visiting and so we decided to meet here.' It's really a destination location on the south side," he added.

"Our downtown location is more of a grab-and-go, but it's right across the street from the [Wenzel Family] Plaza.



Hub City Ice Cream Company's original location is located near Marshfield's Wildwood Park & Zoo and aquatic center, ideal for summer fun-seekers. Submitted photo

It's a nice gathering place where families can bring their little kids and turn on the splash pad. It's free, and they can play around with the water, have a good time. It's definitely a nice gathering place, whether it's for events, concerts, or just hanging out with family, enjoying the splash pad or grabbing a dinner in the downtown area and sitting in one of the chairs."

For Tom and Jenn Witzel, the benefits of owning and operating Hub City Ice Cream Company are twofold.

"We have a wonderful staff," Witzel said. "It's really fun to work with our staff, and we really rely on them. It's mostly high school, college-age kids. They start with us oftentimes around age sixteen, and then they work for us as a seasonal business when they're out of school. They work for us into their college years sometimes.

"The other part of course is seeing our youngest customers as they come in. There's nothing quite like a child eating an ice cream cone and the way their face lights up as they get that item handed to them. And even kids of all ages. We have adults that when we hand them a banana split and they see how beautiful it is, they just light up, and that's exciting. Just seeing that occur is a really fun thing."



Hub City Ice Cream Co. is now serving up sweet summertime treats at a second location in Marshfield's historic downtown, and right across the street from the city's always-bustling Wenzel Family Plaza. Submitted photo

The Coven: New co-working space comes downtown

BY MELANIE ROSSI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARSHFIELD -- A new co-working space is opening in downtown Marshfield, allowing for entrepreneurs to collaborate, develop and expand – all while staying local. The Coven Marshfield is located at 211 S. Central Avenue, in what was previously known as the MoneyWise Mortgage Center, but which has now been rebranded into The Vault.

"At one point in time in Marshfield's history, this building was the largest bank in the community," Marsha Bushman, The Coven Marshfield Community Owner said. "And as a result of that,

there's actually four bank vaults still in the building, which are really cool and kind of unique conversation pieces. The play on words in terms of The Vault can mean all sorts of things that have all sorts of associations, but it's really around the idea that there's a lot of opportunity, a lot of great creative ideas that can be held within a vault."

The building will be divided up into three distinct areas, all intended "to center around really supporting individuals who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs and members of the Marshfield business community," Bushman said.

The upper portion of the



Marsha Bushman, The Coven Marshfield Community Owner, has brought the concept of a community space to town.

Bethany Birnie photo

building will be office space available for businesses or individuals to rent. On the lower level, a small portion



A new co-working space, similar to this one, is opening in downtown Marshfield.

Bethany Birnie photo

of the building will house Main Street Marshfield.

The majority of The Vault's lower level – around two-thirds of the space – will be home to a community co-working entrepreneurial space called The Coven.

"The Coven is actually a franchise that began in Minneapolis-Saint Paul," Bushman said. "It was originally founded by four women with marketing

backgrounds, prior to COVID, who felt like there were some gaps in service to certain individuals within the entrepreneurial community in that geographic location. Their original intent was to be really inclusive, compassionate and offer services to where they felt there were gaps in service."

Bushman had been interested in bringing

a co-working space into Marshfield for years before learning about The Coven.

"I was born and raised here in Marshfield," Bushman said. "I have always wanted to see some type of a community – whether it was co-working, whether it was a generator, incubator entrepreneurial center. It's something that

See COVEN page 8

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Honoring Marshfield's 150th

Marshfield 150 for 150: Gerald A. "Jerry" Heinzen

**NOMINATED BY
MICHAEL D. MEYER**

Many Marshfield businessmen throughout the community's history are remembered for their successful business ventures, but we find many of these same individuals contributed to the success of the various community, fraternal and religious organizations.

One poignant example of such a person is Gerald Arthur "Jerry" Heinzen, longtime owner of Heinzen Printing.

Jerry was born to Benjamin and Marie (Kohlbeck) Heinzen on Aug. 14, 1927, in Marshfield. He attended St. John's Catholic School and Marshfield High School, graduating with the Class of 1945. While attending MHS he was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in band and drama.

After graduating, he continued playing music as a member of the 135th Medical Regiment Band, playing the cornet and in a dance band playing the trumpet. Years later, he was pleased to have played the cornet at each of his children's weddings.

In April 1946, Army Pvt. Gerald Heinzen reported to Camp Pickett, Virginia after completing three months of basic training at Fort Worth, Texas. He was later attached to Engineering Base Topography Battalion at Fort William D. Davis in the Panama Canal Zone. He was discharged in May 1947 as Technician Fourth Grade.

Returning from the service, Jerry enrolled in Marquette University at Milwaukee in the fall of



1947, but when his father died of a heart attack in 1948, Jerry quit school and entered the printing business. Less than six months later, he took over printing operations of the plant, when his mother passed away in early February.

Ben Heinzen established Heinzen's Print Shop at 103 N. Central Avenue in August 1932. Five years later, the shop relocated to 734 S. Central Avenue. Then, in 1943, needing more space, Heinzen Printing moved to 156 S. Central Avenue, where they remained through several building expansions. Jerry's sons, Rick and Mike, joined him as printers in 1976 and 1982, respectively. Then, in 1993, Rick and Mike bought the company and Jerry semi-retired. Two years later, Heinzen Printing moved to a much larger, newly-renovated building at 550 S. Central Avenue. Rick and Mike retired in 2017, selling the business, which continues today as Heinzen Printing and Promotional.

Jerry recognized the value of joining other business leaders to promote the city and what it offers to others through the

Marshfield Chamber of Commerce. He served the organization over the years in multiple capacities, helping it to grow. He also recognized the importance of growing the city's tax base and boosting its economy through industrial growth, so he served 27 years as a member of the board of directors of Greater Marshfield, Inc., which became Marshfield Development Corp., the predecessor of today's Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

His church commitments included being a charter member of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, where he was a lector, usher, first lay eucharistic minister, a lifelong member of the Holy Name Society, and school board and church board member. Jerry also led fundraising efforts on behalf of the parish towards funding for various construction projects at OLP and Columbus High School.

Jerry devoted 50 years in service to the Knights of Columbus, and served many years in the Serra Club of Marshfield, a Catholic organization dedicated to the promotion of vocations to the religious life.

He was also a member of the Columbus Galleon Club, a group of about 100 members formed in 1974 who donated a minimum of \$100 each year to support the annual operating budget and various school projects at Columbus High School.

In 1961, when St. Joseph's Hospital embarked on a massive facility expansion project, Jerry joined other

downtown businessmen as part of the Business and Professional Division of the Hospital Expansion Fund, soliciting memorials and contributions from business firms and their employees. In 1967, Jerry was named as a member of the board of directors of the Marshfield Clinic Foundation for Research and Education. He served on the board of directors for 18 years. Then in 1978, he was named as a director of the Marshfield Savings & Loan Association board.

Jerry was also active in the Marshfield Area United Way, the Marshfield Elks,

and Rotary International, serving as their 56th president in 1976.

In 1978, Jerry's frequent blood donations to the American Red Cross Bloodmobile topped nine gallons.

Jerry was honored as the Marshfield Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1958 for his many community contributions. Then, in 1987, Rotarians honored him with the Service Above Self award recognizing his notable record of volunteer service and support to area organizations and the

community. In accepting the award, Jerry thanked his wife, Rita, who he said, "really knows "service above self."

Jerry Heinzen and Rita Koller, daughter of Louis and Mary Koller, were married June 29, 1950, at St. John's Catholic Church in Marshfield. Jerry died Dec. 12, 1998, and his wife, Rita, on June 21, 2003.

Their children, Jeff, Rick, Kathy, Jean, Mike, Bob and Kris, each worked at the print shop at a young age and continue to carry on that sense of community involvement taught to them by their parents' examples.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Elusive Quest for Eternal Youth: Reflections on the Fountain of Youth

Dear Reader,

In the annals of history, tales of Ponce de Leon's relentless pursuit of the mythical Fountain of Youth endure as a testament to humanity's fascination with eternal youth. Yet, as we navigate the complexities of aging, the allure of rejuvenation remains as enticing as ever.

In our quest for perpetual youth, we ponder the prospect of a second chance—a chance to relive our youth with the wisdom of age. But perhaps, therein lies the paradox: for it is through the passage of time and the accumulation of experiences that we truly mature and evolve.

The notion of a reset button, tempting as it may be, raises profound questions about the essence of our existence. Are we defined by our past actions, or do we possess the capacity for reinvention? While the prospect of rewriting our life's script may seem tantalizing, it is our unique journey, with all its triumphs and tribulations, that shapes our character



and molds our destiny.

As we contemplate the hypothetical existence of the Fountain of Youth, we confront the sobering reality that immortality is but a fleeting fantasy. The cyclical nature of life, with its inherent impermanence, reminds us of the preciousness of each moment and the importance of embracing the full spectrum of

human experience.

Ultimately, the elusiveness of the Fountain of Youth serves as a poignant reminder that true fulfillment lies not in the pursuit of eternal youth, but in the acceptance of our mortality and the embrace of the present moment. For in the tapestry of life, it is our individual stories, woven together with threads of joy and sorrow, that imbue our existence with meaning and purpose.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

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

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COVEN
from page 6

I've always been extremely passionate about."

After joining Main Street Marshfield's Board of Directors, Bushman decided to revisit the idea

of bringing a community space to town. She began researching spaces in communities with similar demographic makeups to Marshfield, and in Eau Claire, Bushman learned about The Coven Eau Claire, a space recently rebranded from CoLab to draw on the

support The Coven offers. Excited by the work they were doing to support and foster entrepreneurialism, Bushman reached out to them, toured their facilities and saw that they would make a great addition to Marshfield's business community.

The Coven's space in The Vault is designed to ease the path of individuals interested in entrepreneurship, a career that often feels "lonely and tricky."

"[Entrepreneurism] is not something that you can really do alone, and the more people that you have in your corner and the more support services that you have, the more successful you can be," Bushman said.

With the goal of fostering collaboration and community, the coworking space will include seven private offices, dedicated desk spaces, a conference room, two huddle rooms, and a space for beverages and snacks.

The Coven is membership-based, and any members will have 24/7 access to the building and its resources at any moment.

In addition to entrepreneurs, the space can also be used by freelancers, remote workers, students, and community members – anyone interested in finding a flexible workspace.

"There's really no limit to how they can utilize the space," Bushman said. "The idea is that...[the members] will hopefully be working together and making some connections with other like-minded individuals that want to do some really cool things, but aren't sure how to get started or who can

help them in the community to make that happen."

With the new co-working space opening this fall, their main goal now is to attract members.

"Founding memberships will be crucial to our launch and can include all individuals and businesses, whether they are entrepreneurs or not. The growth in members really supports the fact that we have people in this community who want to share their ideas, and they want to be able to do big things here," Bushman said. "Unfortunately this is a community where we do tend to lose a lot of younger individuals because they don't see a career pathway for them. And so I'm hoping that through that we'll start to see some growth and partnerships."

Bushman hopes that by encouraging Marshfield residents to develop their businesses locally, Marshfield itself can benefit economically and publicly,

transforming itself into a hub for entrepreneurial development.

"Partnering with other community resources will be critical because we don't want to duplicate, but rather augment and strengthen the community as a whole, so we are continuously engaging with other economic development groups.

"My hope and my goal is that the businesses that get started and that get fostered eventually will grow out of this space because they will become too large, and they will be the ones that will be doing the job creation and really making that economic impact.

"Obviously we're very well known for our medical community; we've got a great manufacturing community. But I think that we have the potential to also be known as a really exciting entrepreneurial community, as well."

Membership information can be found at thecoven.com/marshfield.



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This commercial property at 2504 S. Central Ave., known as the Buffalo Building, has been identified as a possible future location for the Marshfield Police Department.

Mike Warren photo

RELOCATION from page 1

cost-effective as possible, so we're trying to re-work things with the least amount of renovation necessary," Maas said. "But knowing that the building is not of adequate square footage, we also have to look at building an addition or additions onto that building to get to the total area that would be necessary."

In his assessment, Maas reported that "a total facility properly planned for current needs and future growth will likely be in the range of 37,500 square feet. This additional area will allow the police department necessary growth in the years and decades ahead, with the anticipation the space will allow for a 15-25-year use of the facility."

The current police department at 110 W. First St., built in 1981, is approximately 18,000 square feet in size. According to ADCI's review of the existing facility, "it appeared that most, if not all, areas of the existing building are outgrown, and staff are often moved to make accommodations to utilize spaces other than what they were intended or sized for. In general, it is evident the police department has outgrown the existing building. It was noted that many components of the building are not ADA compliant, including restrooms, stairs, door clearances, clear turn spaces, etc."

The Wildwood Plaza building, originally constructed in 1996, has approximately 23,400 square feet.

"Three plan options have been developed for consideration of use of the existing Wildwood Plaza building for the police department," said Maas' report. "All three options will include the need for some level of demolition, renovation and building expansion. Each option has its own level of pros and cons to be considered."

For instance, Maas said the building would need an automatic fire protection system, which would require additional water service to the facility. Also, all utilities would have to be modified to remove existing spilt services. Maas also recommends "to fully remove the existing asphalt on the entire lot and re-grade the base course to ensure a solid and stable base for the installation of new asphalt, given the fact a police department renovation project would most likely include one or more building additions to the existing structure."

"The summary of what that means is that, yes, we came to the assessment that the Wildwood Plaza building can be converted for a police department use," Maas told council members. "It's going to take a renovation of the majority of the building area, it's going to take one or more building additions, but yes, the building will work for that purpose."

Maas also laid out a new construction option, which he priced at just over \$15.3 million.

"There's multiple millions of dollars of cost savings by using that building and renovating it versus new construction," Maas said. "The majority of the value

of the existing property will be in the site and existing building structure/shell," his written report to the council concluded.

Possible referendum floated to secure funds for project

Alderman Rebecca Spiros asked that the question be raised, as part of Maas' presentation and the council's subsequent discussion.

"It's a lot of money to spend and I'm not sure the taxpayers, that that's how they would want it spent," said Spiros.

City Clerk Jessica Schiferl noted it would be nearly impossible to get such a question ready in time for this fall's elections.

"If you wanted something on the November ballot for referendum, that does have to be to the county clerk by eight a.m. on August 28th, so you would need to adopt that resolution before that point," Schiferl noted. "However, there was a change in the referendum laws with Act Twelve, so for an advisory referendum, a municipality can no longer do advisory. You have to be putting forth a referendum with specific dollar amounts with specific purpose. So, I believe you need to have all of your engineering work, all of your plans, finished, finalized, with your total dollar amount ready to come forward before you could go to referendum. So, I don't think - if that's really the case - you would be ready for November. You would be looking at - maybe - April, if that could be done. After that, we don't have any other elections next year."

District 1 Alderman Mike Feirer expressed his opposition to a referendum.

"Of my twenty-four years in city government, our chances of referendums passing have been slim to none," Feirer said. "When you ask the citizens to spend ten million dollars, they're going to say, 'Why would we want to do that?' They don't want to look at the figures. They're not going to look at the facts. We should just bite the bullet and make the decision on our own. We're elected to do this. As an alderman, it's part of our duties to make the big decisions."

"I honestly think that the referendum is the right way to go," said Alderman Mike O'Reilly. "As much as we're here making decisions as representatives, something of this size - and the shape that our budget's in - I think going to get their input on it as taxpayers, it's of the utmost importance. To say we haven't had luck on them (referendums), I don't think it's luck. I think it's what the people that are paying the bill are telling you what to do with the money, and I think that's the way it should be in government."

"I feel that we've expressed that we have a need for the department and with every year, that becomes more and more of a problem," Police Chief Jody Geurink told the



A renovation of the Buffalo Building into a police department would cost the city between \$13.2 million and \$14.1 million.

ADCI image

council. "As soon as possible," Chief Geurink responded, when pressed on his ideal timeframe for breaking ground on or renovations for a new police department location.

The issue of a possible relocated police department - and a potential referendum to pay for it - will get further discussion at another council meeting in the near future.

The Common Council agreed in December 2023 to take ownership of the Wildwood Plaza building and the 1.7 acres of land it sits on, after it was offered to the city for free by the previous owner, Dan O'Connell and Wildwood Real Estate, LLC.

DAIRIES from page 4

Bring your questions and plan to be engaged in the discussions. To learn more and to register for the free event, visit www.PDPW.org or contact PDPW at 800-947-7379. Follow along digitally in advance of and during the event by following @dairyPDPW on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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Announcements 7005

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Mid-State announces first Dental Assistant program graduates

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

WISCONSIN RAPIDS -- The inaugural cohort of Mid-State Technical College's Dental Assistant technical diploma finished their coursework this June, marking the first five students to graduate from the program.

The Dental Assistant students began the 16-credit program in February and were able to participate in Mid-State's May commencement ceremony. The program was free to participants due to grant funding provided by the state of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Allied Health Professional Education and Training Grant.

"Discovering a hidden passion and finding my new dental family will always be my favorite memory from this program," said Elizabeth Eades of Wisconsin Rapids, one of the graduates from Mid-State's first Dental Assistant cohort. Eades received many interviews and job offers before graduation and is currently a dental assistant at Karla R. McDonald DDS in Wisconsin Rapids.

According to Eades, the dental field didn't interest her at first. After being let go from her previous employer, she decided it was time for a change and applied. "My first day, I was in love, and every day after, my love grew more and more for dentistry and it was soon a passion," Eades said.

"I enjoyed every aspect of my journey," Eades added. "Dayne, my Dental Assistant instructor, has built an impressive foundation for this program and brings with it an astonishing passion and an unwavering amount of support for each of her students' success. In the end of all of this, my pride and confidence in myself was discovered, and I feel like I won a big race. I allowed myself to get an education, and that is a gift I gave myself that will never be taken away."

"We are extremely proud of our Dental Assistant graduates as they pave the way for future students," said Daniel Wall, dean of the School of Allied Health. "The demand for dental professionals in our area is high, and this program - along with our graduates - is working to fill this need."

"Our students learned from experienced dental

professionals and practiced their skills right inside local dental facilities," added Wall. "This type of training is critical to prepare graduates to confidently enter the workforce."

Following are Mid-State's spring 2024 Dental Assistant graduates:

Maci Curtin - Marshfield; Elizabeth Eades, Addison Goodness, Destiny Radzinski, Jordyn Russell - Wisconsin

Rapids

More funding provided by the state of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Allied Health Professional Education and Training Grant, the Delta Dental of Wisconsin Foundation and the Mid-State Foundation is available for the next Dental Assistant cohort this fall.

Learn more about Mid-State's Dental Assistant program and funding opportunities at mstc.edu/programs.

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| SPORTS |

Coach contact initial focus of WIAA Calendar and Contact Ad Hoc Committee

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

STEVENS POINT -- The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Calendar and Contact Ad Hoc Committee, which was approved by the Board of Control last December, conducted its sixth meeting on July 22 at the WIAA executive office in Stevens Point.

After initial discussions, the ad hoc committee affirmed summer coaching contact days as the focal point of the upcoming survey and its first priority among the assigned topics to study. In addition, the committee split into small and large groups and spent much of the meeting discussing a draft of a survey that will be distributed to multiple, statewide stakeholder groups this fall. In addition, after reviewing a summary of survey data from the National Federation of State High School Associations, the committee reviewed a draft of the communications plan and approved revisions.

The established purpose of the

Calendar and Contact Ad Hoc Committee is to represent the diverse voices of the membership in evaluating season lengths, game maximums, and coaching contact with the primary goal to promote a balanced, education-based athletic experience for student-athletes. The committee is committed to studying the topics comprehensively to formulate and propose viable solutions to best serve the membership and their respective communities.

The recommendations of the Calendar and Contact Ad Hoc Committee may result in implementation with action by the Board of Control or advancement to the Annual Meeting for a membership vote with amendments to the membership's Constitution, Bylaws or Rules of Eligibility.

The committee's next in-person meeting will take place at the WIAA office on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Chaparrals win eight straight, postseason just ahead

BY MIKE WARREN EDITOR

MARSHFIELD -- With the postseason in their sights, the Marshfield Chaparrals have also kept a close eye on the competition. The Chaps won their eighth consecutive game on July 24, with a 13-4 win over the Merrill Rangers at Jack Hackman Field in Marshfield.

Marshfield opened up the scoring in the bottom of the first inning. After Colin DeBoer sent a leadoff triple to the right-center field fence, Riley Bauman walked and then stole second. After Logan Homolka struck out, Sloan Welch walked -- but not before DeBoer scored on a wild pitch, which Bauman used to advance to third. Ben Dietsche then sent a sacrifice fly to centerfield, scoring Bauman from third. Will Lee flied out to centerfield to end the inning.

After a scoreless second inning, the Chaparrals broke the game wide open in the third. DeBoer led off the inning with a walk, followed by a base hit by Bauman. After Homolka flied out to right field, Welch reached on a fielding error by Merrill pitcher Jayden Sus, who tried to barehand a high hopper over the mound. DeBoer scored from third on the play to give the Chaps a 3-0 lead. A few pitches later, Bauman scored from third on another wild pitch by Sus. Welch then scored when Merrill centerfielder Landon Parlier dropped a flyball by Will Lee, who reached on the error. Following a walk to Luke Wirtz, Carsten Jirschele reached base on a fielding error by Rangers' shortstop Henry Reimann that loaded the bases with two outs. Sean Bryant then singled to left field to score Lee from third. DeBoer, in his second plate appearance of the inning, lined a groundball under the glove of Merrill second baseman Brady Norton to score Wirtz and Jirschele, to give the Chaps an 8-nothing lead after three innings.

The Rangers finally got on the scoreboard in the top of the fourth inning. Following a leadoff walk to Parlier, Piersen Pyan crushed an RBI double off the right field fence that scored Parlier all the way from first base. After Marshfield

starting pitcher Preston Wagner struck out Reimann, Sus singled to right-center field. After Wagner struck out Tyler Westphal, Caleb DeJong sent a two-run triple to the right-centerfield wall, scoring Pyan and Sus. DeJong then scored on a fielding error by Carsten Jirschele behind second base, allowing Zach Kriegel to reach safely. Shawn Schultz then flied to left to end the inning.

Marshfield added to their lead in the sixth inning, when leadoff hitter Riley Bauman crushed a solo home run high and deep and well beyond the 320-foot mark in left field. Homolka followed with a base hit to right-center field. After Welch grounded out, Dietsche walked and Lee singled. Homolka then scored on a groundball out by Wirtz. Jirschele then grounded out to end the inning.

But the Chaparrals were not done yet, adding to their lead again in the seventh inning. Sean Bryant and Colin DeBoer led off the inning with back-to-back base hits to left, followed by a single to centerfield by Bauman to load the bases. Homolka then drew a bases-loaded walk that scored Bryant from third. DeBoer then scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Sloan Welch.

The Chaps capped off their scoring in the eighth inning, when Jirschele scored on an RBI base hit by DeBoer, who led the Marshfield offense by going 4-for-5 with a walk, three singles, a triple, three RBIs and three runs scored.

Bauman went 3-for-5 with two singles, a home run, a walk and three runs scored. Sean Bryant was 2-for-4 with two singles and an RBI.

Preston Wagner picked up the win on the mound. The Marshfield right-hander gave up four runs on four hits while striking out six and walking just one over five innings of work. In relief, Carsten Jirschele went four innings, allowing ten hits but no runs while striking out four and walking just one.

With the win, the Chaps improved their overall record to 13-3. They have one more home game at Hackman Field this summer. The Chaparrals will host the Abby Merchants on Aug. 7 at 7 p.m., on Fan Appreciation Night.



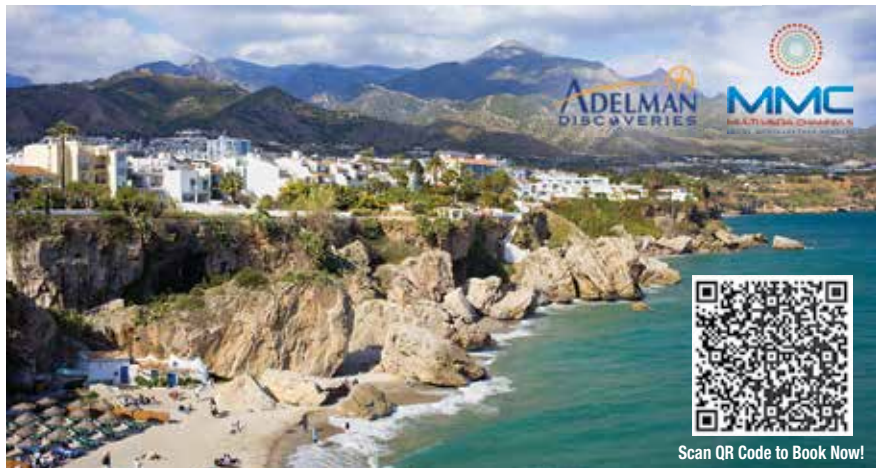
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