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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The Great Game: Humanity, AI, And The Battle For Control

Dear Reader,

As we venture further into the age of AI, there's a prevailing narrative that suggests humanity, with all its flaws and frailties, is destined to be overtaken by the cold, calculating logic of our creations. But to assume that AI will inevitably dominate is to underestimate the indomitable spirit of human nature, especially the cunning and strategic brilliance that has shaped our history.

AI, with its unmatched processing power and immunity to the temptations that ensnare humans, might seem poised to take control. But here's where the story gets more interesting: There are those among us—self-designated chess masters, if you will—who see the world not as a foregone conclusion but as a complex game where every move matters. These are the thinkers, strategists, and visionaries who understand that while AI may operate on logic, it lacks the depth of human experience, the instinct for survival, and the capacity for deception when necessary.

Consider the likes of Machiavelli, whose understanding of power dynamics transcended mere brute force. He recognized that true power lies in the subtle manipulation of perception, the art of appearing one way while acting another. In this context, AI might be the perfect logical machine, but it's playing a game designed by humans—a game where the rules are as fluid as they are complex.

We humans, despite our apparent weaknesses, have an



edge that AI cannot replicate: our ability to think beyond logic, to strategize with a long-term vision, and to use our very flaws as tools in the grand chessboard of existence. It's this combination of intellect, experience, and unpredictability that makes us formidable players in the game of power.

Yes, AI might believe it has the upper hand, viewing our world as one ripe for the taking. But it must also contend with those of us who are prepared to challenge it, to subordinate its capabilities in service of a greater good. We will not sit idly by as passive spectators in our own story. Instead, we will push hard to ensure that AI, for all its power, remains a tool—one that advocates for good, not for the kind of malevolent forces that history has shown us, be they tyrants, frauds, or any who would seek to exploit power for evil.

The real challenge, then, is not just in creating AI but in mastering it, in ensuring that it serves humanity rather than replaces it. This is not a simple battle of logic versus emotion, but a complex and ongoing game where every move matters and the stakes are nothing less than the future of our world.

In the end, AI may be powerful, but it is we, the self-designated chess masters, who will dictate the rules of the game. And as long as we remain vigilant, strategic, and committed to the greater good, we can ensure that the future, while shared with AI, is still very much under human control.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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Disinheritance Red Flags

Try to get a copy of your parents' will or trust so you can find out who inherited from them and whether there were any recent changes to their estate plan.

This information could raise red flags that warrant further investigation. For example, they left the money to a charity or other group with which they only recently became involved, they left everything to a caregiver who does not have a history with the family, a parent who could have been exploited by somebody changed their plan, or there was a change to the plan that is difficult to explain.

If your parents had a will, you should be able to get a copy of it from the probate court. If they used a trust, it may be more difficult for you to get a copy if you were not a named trust beneficiary.

Hurt feelings are likely not enough to challenge a parent's plan. Schedule an appointment to learn more.



DANCERS FROM THE WILD TRILLIUM BELLY DANCING GROUP PERFORMED AT WHITEWATER MUSIC HALL SATURDAY.

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Ticketed discussion

Committee holds early discussion on charging ticketed events

The city's public Health and Safety Committee in December and January will start working on an ordinance that imposes a fee to ticketed events using city resources.

City staff members have already been meeting to discuss the ordinance, which came about during the city's budget process. Mayor Doug Diny mandated city leaders to keep the levy increase to 2.5%, which the city's Finance Committee met by budgeting for a roughly \$1 per ticket fee on ticketed events that utilize public safety and the Department of Public Works.

The Public Health and Safety Committee will begin working out the details at its next meeting, PHS Chair Lisa Rasmussen says.

Those events use police, fire and department of public works resources. That results in overtime for those departments, which costs the city money. This fee would help recoup some of those costs.

But how that will impact events in Wausau remains to be seen. The Finance Committee also had considered fees for non-ticketed events but only budgeted for the fee for ticketed events. That would impact events such as Blues Fest or Wings

over Wausau.

That would also mean a separate agreement with the Wisconsin Valley Fair, since they utilize both city and county policing and services. The fair is at Marathon County Park, a county park located in Wausau.

More than 100 refugees coming before Jan. 20, sources confirm

More than 100 refugees are expected to arrive in Wausau between now and Jan. 20, sources have confirmed.

Marathon County Administrator Lance Leonhard confirmed to City Pages that the county's social services department has been advised that 140 refugees will be making their way to Wausau via the ECDC Community Center, which has been assisting refugees relocating to Wausau since 2022.

Leonhard, along with Mayor Doug Diny, were initially unaware of the influx when asked about it by a reporter. Leonhard said he then learned from the county's social services department about the arrivals.

"Our Social Services staff will then coordinate the necessary benefit evaluations

for food share, medical benefits, and other support services," Leonhard says. "I will be working with staff leadership from across our organization to ensure that we are ready to respond to any other requests for assistance through this process."

Diny said after asking that he spoke with ECDC staff and that the numbers won't change the total number of refugees who are projected to arrive by September of next year.

City Pages reached out to ECDC staff through its contact email on its website to ask about the large number of refugees coming in a short time frame and where they are arriving from. As of Wednesday the organization has not responded.

Granite Peak targeting early December opening

Granite Peak Ski Hill is targeting an early December opening as the temperatures start to cooperate for snowmaking.

Granite Peak in an announcement on social media says now that the weather has turned much colder and looks to stay that way for a while, snowmaking can kick off. Snowmaking has begun this week at the ski area.

The ski hill hopes to open by Dec. 6,

plenty of time before the busy holiday season.

Last year was challenging for the ski hill and all winter recreation as the area received warmer than usual weather with a very limited amount of snowfall. That hit the northwoods especially hard, as the economy of those areas depends heavily on winter recreation.

Conversely, though, municipalities saved money on buying salt and paying overtime to snowplow drivers.

County to look closer at fund balance after budget process

Marathon County will look closer at how it handles its fund balances after one of those fund balances became a central debate in the 2025 budget.

County leaders at the county's Human Resources, Property and Finance Committee meeting directed staff to put together a packet of information about each of the fund balances the county carries to give board members a better picture of how that works.

Marathon County carries some large fund balances, which helps the county



Ticketed events such as Wings over Wausau would pay a fee under the new ordinance being developed.

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build capital projects instead of borrowing — which comes at an increased cost because of the interest paid back when one borrows money. But some of the board members questioned why the county had balances so high instead of spending down those funds to lower taxes for county residents.

City staff plan to put together a packet of information for the board members of each balance so the county can start having a discussion before next year's budget process starts.

Stratford football wins third-straight state title

The Stratford Tigers football team won its third straight state title last week.

The Tigers defeated Wrightstown 21-6, capitalizing on a big second quarter to secure the win.

Stratford entered the tournament as a No. 1 seed in the playoffs, and only had one close game, typically winning by double digits in each of its games on the way to the final. Stratford qualified for the final by beating Prairie du Chien by one

point, 26-25, to face Wrightstown.

Wrightstown was also a No. 1 seed in the tournament and had a similar run through the tournament en route to the final. The Tigers only allowed Wrightstown 6 points — Wrightstown scored 64 points in one of its playoff games.

Broomball league now to kick off in December

City Pages included a feature on the city's new broomball league in its latest edition of the Winterbook that came out Thursday. But since that magazine went to the printers, there has been a delay.

The broomball league will kick off Dec. 8, says Mark Dorow, the parks department official who founded the league.

Dorow told City Pages there were maintenance issues at one of the city's rinks and in order to keep the rest of the programs going, they decided to move back the start of the league to accommodate the other user groups.

Dorow, speaking to City Pages for the Winterbook feature, said he had played broomball in college and brought the idea

to the Wausau/Marathon County Parks Department when he came on board.

Broomball is played with a ball and a rubber mallet on ice with shoes, and is more accessible for recreation players than hockey since it involves less equipment.

Former clerk candidate paid \$23k severance, records show

A former candidate for county clerk was paid \$23,000 as part of a severance agreement, records obtained by City Pages show.

Toshia Ranallo challenged incumbent Kim Trueblood in the Republican primary last August, which Trueblood won. During the election, City Pages reported that Ranallo has been placed on leave from her job at the county over an incident in

which she allegedly solicited nomination signatures at an off-site county event.

Ranallo at the time said she felt she didn't do anything wrong, as it wasn't on county property and that she waited until the event concluded.

As part of the severance agreement, Ranallo resigned and received the \$23,000 settlement. **CP**

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Legal review

Vos hopes Gableman is disbarred in face of ethical violations

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos says he hopes former state Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman is disbarred “so he’s never allowed to practice law in Wisconsin again.”

Vos hired Gableman to review the 2020 election. Later, he fired him. The Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation recently filed a complaint accusing Gableman of numerous ethical violations during his review.

“As I look at what the Office of Lawyer Regulation is saying happened, it’s an embarrassment for anybody who practices law,” Vos told WISN’s “UpFront,” which is produced in partnership with WisPolitics. “So I certainly hope Michael Gableman loses his law license. I hope he goes back to work at Home Depot where he was working prior to working for us.”

Under state rules, those who are disbarred can seek reinstatement after five years.

Vos also said he is confident Republicans will control the Assembly “for the rest of the decade” despite new maps. And he’s promising the GOP will introduce a tax cut bill, in part targeting retirement income, using the state’s now projected \$4 billion surplus.

“We’re not going to spend that money on growing the size of government, because we already gave pretty large increases to make sure we kept up with inflation in the last budget,” Vos said, adding he was unsure if the language would be exactly the same as a previous bill Dem Gov. Tony Evers vetoed. “We have to talk about it with our members. I think the language that we had was pretty good. It was very progressive, the fact that it wasn’t open-ended; it was capped. I think that is something that we will certainly look at, but again, I want to talk about it with my colleagues. We have a new state Senate. We have a lot of people to talk to.”

Vos is already drawing numerous red lines on budget requests coming from state agencies, including education and the Universities of Wisconsin.

“We’re not going to give \$1 billion to the university. I can tell you that’s probably not going to happen,” Vos said. “I think it’s unlikely that we’re going to give Superintendent Underly’s request for this massive increase in education spending when we just gave the largest increase in a



generation like 18 months ago. So that is nothing but a political document from her.”

State, local tax burden drops to record low

State and local taxes in 2022 totaled 9.9% of personal income, a record low that was driven by rising incomes, state caps on property taxes and an income tax cut, according to the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

That dropped Wisconsin to the 35th highest state and local tax burden — another all-time low. It continued a two-decade trend of Wisconsin falling down the rankings of the highest taxed states; in 2000, it ranked No. 3.

The new report, though, noted local property tax referendums and increases in the sales taxes for Milwaukee County and the city may halt or slow the decline.

The Wisconsin Policy Forum also noted a corresponding shift in spending as the tax burden has declined. Wisconsin in 2000 ranked eight-highest for spending on K-12 education. In 2022, it was 31st.

The 9.9% of personal income that went to state and local taxes in 2022 was down from 10.3% the year before. It was also 1.2 percentage points below the national average of 11.1% for fiscal year 2022.

The drop in the tax burden occurred even as state and

local tax revenues rose 4.6% in 2022 amid inflation, according to the report. Nationally, those collections grew 12.6%. But the state implemented a reduction in the third-highest tax bracket that began in calendar year 2021, taking the rate to 5.3% from 6.27%. That helped limit the growth in government revenues.

The Wisconsin Policy Forum conducts a review of the state and local tax burden each year by looking at data from the U.S. Census Bureau, along with population and personal income figures from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Wisconsin sees record number of school referenda passed

A record number of school district referenda went before voters across Wisconsin in 2024, who responded by approving them in record numbers. These ballot questions essentially ask voters to raise their own property taxes to fund the district’s operations, either on a temporary or permanent basis, or to repay debt issued for capital projects such as building construction or renovation.

The statewide total this year was 241 school referenda held, with 138 happening in the fall elections (the August primary and November general) and 103 in the spring (the February primary and April general). This represented the most school referenda ever in a single year, narrowly surpassing the previous record of 240 in 1998.

Unofficial election results indicate that voters approved 169 of these ballot questions in 2024, which was also a record, topping the previous high of 140 in 2018. In 2024, the approved referenda authorized a total of \$4.4 billion in new funds for school districts, \$3.3 billion of which will come from debt. This was by far the most ever in a calendar year.

These results translated to a school referendum passage rate for all of 2024 of 70.1%. While voters approved the large majority of referenda, it marks a 10 percentage-point decline from 2022 and was the lowest passage rate in a midterm or presidential election year since 2014. This decrease continues a recent trend of declining passage rates since 2018.

In addition to school referenda, voters also decided at least 14 municipality referenda to exceed levy limits in the Nov. 5 election (these totals may not be complete but reflect all those included in data from the Wisconsin Elections Commission). **CP**

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Cars, Yard Items & Tools: Like New 2019 Ford Fusion SE front wheel drive car w/ EcoBoost engine & 48k 1-owner miles, Collector 1997 Cadillac Sedan deVille d'Elegance, fully loaded, Brute 6.75HP push mower, Gas cans, Craftsman LaserTrac miter saw on stand, Delta cast iron table saw, New 10" saw blades, Delta Disc sander on stand, Cordless drill/driver, Jumper cables, Rust-Oleum, Oil & Garage supplies, Hyd bottle jack, Remington Gun Dealer sign, Bench Grinders w/ elec. Motors, Shop table, Hand brace & drills, Hammers, Pliers, Screwdrivers, Screw bins, 2 wheel cart, Grub axe, Rakes, Some Lumber

Antiques & Household: Oak pedestal dining table with claw feet & pressback chairs, Oak hutch, Loveseat, Lazy Boy, Full size bed, Patchwork quilt, Knitted afghans, Sewing supplies, Modern 5-drawer Chest, Boston rocker, Lamps & Tables, Ant. Live Oak Jewel ornate cast iron Potbelly stove, Free-standing portable electric Fireplace with stone surround, Mantle clock, Sanyo flat screen TV, DVD player, Admiral upright freezer, Like new S-curve Oak rolltop desk, C-curve rolltop desk, Eagle

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Appointment battle

Wisconsin Supreme Court case could decide fate of state's top election official

A lawsuit that could determine whether Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator Meagan Wolfe can keep her job is coming before the state Supreme Court on Monday. The case focuses on the legality of appointees staying on after their terms expire, rather than any matter of her performance as the state's top election official.

Republicans targeted Wolfe, a nonpartisan appointee, after Donald Trump lost Wisconsin in the 2020 election. Since then, she has endured criticism from Trump supporters for several decisions that the election commission made, as well as for some memos she sent to clerks who run local elections.

As Wolfe's term expired in the summer of 2023, the election commission deadlocked on her reappointment. Shortly after, the Republican-controlled state Senate voted to fire her in a move that it later said was only symbolic, but that triggered a protracted fight.

She and the Wisconsin Elections Commission sued Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, a Republican, who pushed to oust Wolfe following the expiration of her term. The lawsuit also names Senate President Chris Kapenga and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, both Republicans, as defendants.

Wolfe has now spent the last 16 months as a holdover appointment. During much of that time, it wasn't clear

who would be running the commission during the 2024 presidential election. Wolfe stayed in her role despite the pressure from the right, simultaneously becoming one of the most respected — and scrutinized — election officials nationwide.

One day after the presidential election, Wolfe said that she was “completely committed to seeing through this election,” which has yet to be certified. But she didn't clarify whether she was seeking to stay in her role beyond the fall.

Lawsuit comes after years of scrutiny, legal battles

The Wisconsin Elections Commission is composed of three Democratic and three Republican commissioners. Wolfe, as the administrator, can issue recommendations to the commissioners on guidance they issue to local election officials, but she has no vote. The commissioners are the ones who decide whether to approve them.

Still, Wolfe became a target after Trump's loss in the 2020 election.

After the 2020 presidential election, Wolfe was blamed for a slew of decisions by the commissioners, like letting local officials cure mistakes on absentee ballot envelopes

and bypassing a state law that ordinarily requires sending election officials to conduct elections in nursing homes. She was also criticized for issuing a memo about using drop boxes in 2020, two years before the high court banned them. (The court reversed that decision this year under a new liberal majority.)

Some went further, saying baselessly that Wolfe led a wide-ranging conspiracy to commit fraud to rig the 2020 election in Joe Biden's favor. Late last year, some legislative Republicans tried but failed to impeach Wolfe.

In April, Trump charged that Wolfe “will try to steal another election” if she's not removed from office. Trump won Wisconsin in the 2024 presidential election.

Commission inaction can 'undermine trust'

Wolfe's term expired in July 2023, and the Senate appeared poised to reject her confirmation had she been reappointed. All three Republicans on the commission voted to reappoint Wolfe at the time, which would set her up for a Senate confirmation vote.

But Democratic election commissioners abstained from the vote. They cited a 2022 Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling stating that appointees can stay in their roles past the

expiration of their terms, a decision that Democrats had previously opposed.

That meant Wolfe wasn't formally reappointed and therefore not subject to another Senate confirmation proceeding. Senate leaders acknowledged that later, but still took a vote to fire her, leading to the current lawsuit.

A Dane County judge in January sided with the elections commission argument that Wolfe is a lawful holdover. GOP leaders appealed that decision to an appeals court, and the election commission appealed it to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

"This case is fascinating because the shoes are all on the wrong feet," said Jeff Mandell, founder of the liberal legal group Law Forward. "And maybe what that shows is that there's less — maybe on all sides — there's less of a matter of principle and Constitution than of political convenience."

Mandell has long pushed back against the false accusations against Wolfe and other election officials in Wisconsin that arose from the 2020 election. Still, he said, "it's not ideal" for democracy for Wolfe to be in her role past her term.

The debate further demonstrates how both Democrats and Republicans have been relying more on hardball tactics to accomplish their policy goals recently, said Barry Burden, a political science professor at UW-Madison.

Those tactics escalated as Senate Republicans slow-walked or outright rejected appointments, many of them made by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, to critical roles in state government.

The various twists in the fight are examples of dysfunction in the appointment processes that can "undermine trust in those processes and in those institutions," said Bryna Godar, a staff attorney at the University of Wisconsin Law School's State Democracy Research Initiative.

"Whether or not you think that (Wolfe) should continue in her role, I think it is important

for appointment processes and confirmation processes to happen in the way that they're supposed to happen," Godar said.

Under state law, the election commission administrator serves a four-year term. Election commissioners are supposed to appoint a new administrator if the current position is vacant.

Until the Senate confirms an appointment, the law says, the commission would be overseen by an interim supervisor selected by a majority of commissioners. If the commission doesn't appoint somebody within 45 days of the vacancy, a legislative committee can appoint an interim administrator.

Republican legislators are pointing to that law now in

their attempt to force commissioners to appoint an administrator, saying the current state of play "would allow a partisan minority of WEC to keep in place a holdover administrator indefinitely," without a process for Senate confirmation.

But some of the Democrats supporting Wolfe say they're just following the 2022 Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling.


"When the law has things you can do, you use the law the way it allows you to use it," said Ann Jacobs, a Democrat on the election commission.

The high court's 2022 ruling about holdovers makes clear that Wolfe can be a holdover, Jacobs said, adding, "if the Legislature wants to change the law, they have every ability to do that."

"The Legislature has hijacked the appointment process for all appointees, not just WEC, where they don't act on them, so they try to maintain control over appointees by refusing to either confirm or reject them, and I don't think that's good government either," Jacobs said. **CP**

Wisconsin Watch reporter Jack Kelly contributed to this report.

Alexander Shur is a reporter for Votebeat based in Wisconsin. Contact Shur at ashur@votebeat.org.



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 Saturday, Nov 30 (Bidding closes at 5 pm) 11 am - 5 pm
 Sunday, Dec 1 (Viewing only, bidding closed) 9 am - 2 pm
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HIGHLIGHTS



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

JOSH WHITE

Shriners Breakfast with Santa

Saturday 11/30 | The Labor Temple, Wausau

These events are always interesting - children have one of two reactions to Santa when they see him, typically. Either they freak out and scream-cry, or they scream in delight. The Shriners Breakfast with Santa event is one of those opportunities to find out which one your child is, and it makes for a nice family morning with a nice hearty all-you-can-eat breakfast, a visit to see ole Saint Nick and you can even have the kids get their faces painted. With the mall gone, there are fewer places to meet and greet with Santa but the Shriners are keeping this tradition alive. 8 am-noon. \$9 adults, \$4 children.

Seussical The Musical

Fri-Sat 11/29-30 | Center for Civic Engagement

We say this pretty much every time we write about the organization, but it bears repeating: don't be fooled by the fact that this is a children's theater group - Central Wisconsin Children's Theater puts on some outstanding performances that will keep you entertained throughout. For this performance, they'll channel the genius of

beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. *Seussical the Musical* is the story of *The Cat in the Hat* telling the tale of Horton the Elephant who must protect the Whos, who he finds living on a speck of dust. 2 pm and 7 pm shows both days. \$15 adults, \$13 children and seniors. mycwct.org

Conquerors exhibition against the Milwaukee Wave

Saturday 11/30 | Greenheck Turner Family Center

Wausau has a brand new soccer team! (Or football, for your Euro soccer nerds). The Conquerors will kick off (last time, I promise) their new season with a "friendly" game against the Milwaukee Wave Saturday at the brand-spanking-new Greenheck Turner Family Center in Weston. This is a minor league arena soccer team, and they're going to kick things off with a match against a top-tier arena team in the Wave before starting their regular season. Arena soccer is a much faster-paced game with much higher scores typically, so it should be a blast! 6 pm \$10 adults, \$5 students. www.wisconsinconquerors.org

will go toward the Marathon County Hunger Coalition. \$35. Limited to 2,000 runners. Pick up your shirt at the Grand Theater from 10 am to 5 pm Wednesday. 8:30 am. <https://unitedwaymc.org/turkey-trot-15th-annual>

Josh White

Friday 11/29 | Malarkey's Pub, Wausau

Josh White is a very diverse musician. As he puts it "It's like the best assorted bag of jelly beans, like all your favorite jelly beans." White has been a regular at Malarkey's Pub in downtown Wausau, and there is a reason for that. The Duluth-based musician has fronted a heavy metal band, has a side project built around an alt-country aesthetic, and has both solo versions of his show along with the Josh White Band. 8 pm. malarkeyspub.com

Brad Emanuel

Saturday 11/30 | The Garage, Rib Mountain

When it comes to music in Wausau there's one name that just about everyone in town recognizes - Brad Emanuel. He's the party guy in Wausau, with his signature loft-your-drink-in-the-air move, and he even came out with a new Christmas song that he previewed on the Wausau Business Show. Plus, he's consistently named your top Wausau area musician in our reader survey. While he travels all over the state and beyond to play, he will be taking his act to The Garage, which is one of your favorite places for live music and to have a good time. 8 pm. thegaragewausau.com **CP**

Turkey Trot

Thursday 11/28 | 400 Block, Wausau

Let's face it, you know you're going to stuff your face with food on Turkey Day. I know I am! So, this annual tradition is a good chance to get out and burn off some calories before the big day comes. (Science says that exercise helps increase sensitivity to fullness signals, but we'll see how that works when a second serving of pumpkin pie is on offering!) Get up off your butt and get a nice run in with some of your fellow gobblers, some in costume, and know that some of the proceeds



TURKEY TROT

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

It's the classic tale of hard-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by the ghost of his late partner, Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Dec. 12th 6:30pm Dec. 13th 7:30pm
Dec. 14th 7:30pm Dec. 15th 2:00pm
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Tickets available at

www.purplepass.com/wct2024christmascarol

Pro Musica & Wausau Lyric Choir at First Presbyterian Church, 406 Grant St, Wausau. Welcome in the holiday season with a wonderful array of familiar music such as the Franz Biebl arrangement of Ave Maria for womens voices as well as a rousing rendition of O Come, All Ye Faithful for mixed voices arranged by Daniel Forrest performed by both choirs. In addition to combined choral pieces, both Wausau Pro Musica & Wausau Lyric Choir will perform some of their own holiday offerings. Starts at 7:30 pm on Fri. & 3 pm on Sat. Free. 715-581-5889

The John Altenburgh Christmas Extravaganza · Fri. 12/13, Grand Theater, Wausau. Enjoy an evening of jazz, blues and other holiday songs. Starts at 7:30 pm. \$45-\$72. grandtheater.org

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• Tenderloin Sandwiches
• Fish Sandwiches

Holiday in Broadway · Sat-Sun. 12/14-12/15, hosted by the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra at Sentry Theater, Stevens Point. The Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra will be performing holiday music along with Tony-award nominee & Broadway star Christiane Noll. Starts at 7:30 pm on Sat. & 4 pm on Sun. \$45 adult, \$35 senior, \$15 students (with ID). cwso.org

Cirque Dreams Holidayze · Wed-Thurs. 12/18-12/19, Grand Theater, Wausau. Enjoy a circus holiday theatrical event that fuses Broadway-style production with contemporary circus arts. Starts at 7:30 pm. \$55-\$95. grandtheater.org

ONGOING

Parent Aide Triple P In-Home Program · Children's WI, 705 S 24th Ave, Wausau. Program that promotes positive parenting practices to address and prevent a range of social, emotional, and behavioral problems in children and teens. For parents of children ages 0-17. 715-660-0397 for more information or to sign up

Marshfield Pickleball · Every Mon., Tues., Weds., and Fri., hosted by the city of Marshfield. Located at the Oak Ave. Community Center, 201 S. Oak Ave. Advanced ticket discounts available through the Parks & Rec department. ci.marshfield.wi.us

Learning Essentials About Parenting · Mondays, Children's WI, 705 S 24th Ave, Wausau. Learn how to solve problems and strengthen relationships in your home. Starts at 6 pm. Free. 715-848-1457 to register

Werle Park Plus Neighborhoods of Wausau · 2nd Monday of most months, Grace United Church of Christ, 535 S 3rd Ave, Wausau. Meet and discuss neighborhood issues. Use basement entrance off back of church. Starts at 6 pm. 715-845-7051.

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A family affair

The owner of Hoehn's Huddle and his friends and family joined forces on the new 4 Fathers Pub

Dan Hoehn, owner of Hoehn's Huddle and the Hatley Hangout, his wife Taushia Hoehn and sibling Jerica Philipp and her husband Matt had been discussing buying rental properties as their next business adventure.

But when the quartet learned that 4 Fathers Pub had become available, and Hoehn crunched the numbers, starting another bar just made sense.

Today that bar is running smoothly, despite the old adage of never getting into business with family.

"They say to never go into business with friends or family," Dan Hoehn says. "But in the end, my sister and I grew up together. We know each other's flaws, and strengths and have a great partnership. This is a way to build something we created while starting something as a family."

Highlights include a large back room which can hold about 80 people and is used for events like birthdays. Two pool tables and four dartboards ensure customers can have a space to play in contrast to other bars where only one table or board may be available and several golfing games exist to complement the 1724 Merrill Ave. location's theme around the ancient competitive sport.

Of course, those familiar with the neighborhood know 4 Father's Pub is nowhere near a golf course, but, there is a reason why it has the name it does and honors the sport it does. For one, Daniel Hoehn themes all the bars he owns around a sport, and the title pays tribute to parentage molding young minds now and past parents who no longer raise the next generation.

"For Jarica and I, our dad was our biggest influence," Dan Hoehn adds. "He was our friend and hero and Matt



From left, 4 Father's Pub owners Matt Philipp, Jerica Philipp, Taushia Hoehn, and Dan Hoehn pose in their new bar located at 1725 Merrill Ave. in Wausau. Dan Hoehn is the lead of the operation and also oversees Hoehn's Huddle in Schofield and the Hatley Hangout.

and Taushia had a similar experience. Dad was everything. Matt recently lost his father, so we honored him in that way as well. Matt and I are both fathers and so, the golf term fore and the four of us. In order to do it without making it obvious, we came up with fore."

The Cruisin 1724 was known for its music, and 4 Fathers Pub has continued that as well. The venue has already had a few acts play, including bands such Killing Rapunzel, Knock Point and national recording act WayLand.

Plans in the future include becoming widely known for being a nice neighborhood bar where families can bring their children, not growing any bigger than it currently is, and offering free pizzas on Mondays from a selection of 50, including direct products from Italy. There is also live music and, for customer Korine Parks, a chance to support people who are quite simply good.

"I remember when it was [Cruisin 1724]," her July review reads. "Much better. Updated, clean and I love their

deals ... I usually don't recommend places, but this is one that has my vote."

More information about the 4 Father's Pub in Wausau can be found on their Facebook page. They can be reached by calling 715-841-0035 or by emailing 4fatherspub@gmail.com, too. **CP**

Evan J. Pretzer is a freelance contributor to City Pages. He can be reached at evanjpretzer.com or evan.pretzer@protonmail.com.

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 Make plans to cover all of your holiday advertising needs in this issue including Christmas & New Years!

There will be NO ISSUE the week of Christmas.
Our office will be closed from 12/23 thru 12/27.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT CITY PAGES!

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