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My team and I want to wish you happy holidays. We hope this holiday is joyous and peaceful for you and yours.

Arika Alft

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Monday, December 16, 2024

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Evergreen 4H Club



The Evergreen 4H Club held a good drive for the White Lake Area Christian Food Pantry. The White Lake School, Wolf River Roots, Elton Mall and Cafe, and Lafaro's Fresh Market hosted donation drop boxes for the club. Food pantry volunteers were very excited when the food was delivered.

Ace Hardware Grand Opening Celebrates Generosity and Community Commitment

NATASHA WINKLER

Antigo's new Ace Hardware, located at 715 Superior Street, has quickly become more than just a hardware store-it's a symbol of community partnership and generosity. During its grand opening celebration earlier last week, Ace Hardware demonstrated its dedication to Antigo and the surrounding area by donating \$10,000 to local organizations that play a vital role in the community.

Jeff Dodd, the store's manager, along with Greg Solberg, representing the T.A. Solberg Company presented the donations as part of Ace Hardware's mission to reinvest in the communities they serve.

Supporting Local Initiatives

Among the beneficiaries was AVAIL, Antigo's Domestic Abuse Shelter, which received \$2,500. AVAIL representatives Kay Sollitto, Jane Flores, Rev. Jennifer Sosinski, Tasha Barber, and Sharon Verbanac accepted the donation with gratitude. Director Tasha Barber emphasized the importance of such contributions, noting that funding for rural organizations like AVAIL has become increasingly limited.

Another \$2,500 was presented to Amanda Mohr on

See ACE page 4









Tavern League Donation

Shown in picture is president Brian Miedl and vice president Sara Kings Langlade county tavern League raised money for Foster kids Christmas at Not Bobs in Antigo

Holiday Lights Recycling Program is in Full Swing



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF WAUSAU, INC.

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau is excited to announce the return of the Holiday Lights Recycle Program! Habitat Wausau takes holiday lights that are new or old. Lights can twinkle or fizzle. Broken or tangled lights are gladly accepted. Every strand of lights contributes to increasing homeownership and critical home repairs for low-income families in the greater Wausau area. All lights collected support Habitat's Home Ownership Program, Critical Home Repairs and Veterans Build in the Wausau area. Habitat for Humanity of Wausau's goal is to collect 5,000lbs of lights this holiday season.

Collection boxes are convenient locations across the community and will be out now through January 15th. Wausau Habitat ReStore takes holiday lights all year round during regular store and donation hours of operation. New in 2024-2025 boxes are also available in Merrill and Stevens Point to support regional Habitat efforts.

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau has been recycling holiday lights since 2014 and has kept over 35,000lbs of lights out of our local landfill.

Spread joy and sustainability this holiday season by participating in the Holiday Lights Recycling Program!

• Keep the environment shining bright: Recycling old holiday lights prevents them from ending up in landfills,

reducing waste and protecting our planet.

• It's easy and convenient: Drop off your old or broken lights at our designated collection points and do your part in the recycling effort.

· Make a positive impact: By recycling your lights, you/re contributing to a greener and cleaner community for everyone while supporting homeownership.



Elcho Valedictorian Katrina McCarthy, Class of 2021, daughter of Jennifer McCarthy, will graduate from Mt. Mercy **University in Cedar Rapids** lowa with a RN-BSN Degree. She has accepted a position in Stem Cell Transplant at the University of Iowa Hospital.



(Picture credit to "Aysia's Photography")



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> CIRCULATION COUNCIL

Monday, December 16, 2024

ANTIGO TIMES

OBITUARIES

David C. Steger February 1, 1947 - December 4, 2024



nber 4, 2024 David C. Steger, of Antigo, died on December 4, 2024

at his home under the care of his family and LeRoyer Hospice. He was 77 years old. He was born on February 1, 1947 in Antigo, a son of the late Steve and Minnie (Kluball) Steger. He married Susan Oesterreich on November 19, 1966 at Peace Lutheran Church in Antigo.

He was a graduate of Antigo High School, class of 1965. He served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard from 1966 to 1973. While in the Guard he lived in Milwaukee where he worked construction. He returned to Antigo and owned the Texaco Service Station and tow-truck service. In 1981 he joined the Langlade County Sheriff Department as a deputy and in 1988 he began his 18 years as the Langlade County Sheriff, retiring in 2006 During his tenure as Sheriff he was instrumental in building the new jail.

David and Sue owned the Wagon Wheel Supper Club in Kempster and Northstar Lanes in Antigo.

He could fix anything, he was a true "MacGyver". David loved the outdoors, NASCAR, hunting, music, history, poetry, and storytelling. He also loved bowling achieving a 300 game on October 7, 2010.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Sue Steger; three daughters, Kelly (Christopher Honzik) Steger of Deerbrook, Brenda Sue (Todd) Mayr and Stephanie Steger; two sons, Matthew (Naomi) Steger and David (Tammy) Steger Jr. all of Antigo; ten grandchildren, Kelsey (Jon Schultz) Honzik, Kasey (Robert Theisen) Honzik, Wilhemina Steger, Jack Steger, Faith (Jasen) Bullock, Josh Steger, Maximus Steger, Leviticus Steger, Noah Nicholson, and Kendal Kickhaver; four great-grandchildren, Christopher, Tula, Cash, Jax and Lula; a sister, Lillian Novak of Deerbrook; three brothers, John (Jean) Steger of Antigo, Earl Steger of Antigo, and Edward (Kathy) Steger of Post Lake; a brother-in-law, Fred (Mary) Oesterreich; and sister-in-law, Rosemary Derrene of Antigo.

In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Katie Jo Honzik, a brother, Clarence (Joanne) Steger; sister, Phyllis (Kenneth) Bastle; brother-in-law, Tony Novak; and sisters-in-law, Bessie Steger and Connie (Pete) Arrowood.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 12 at 11 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church with Rev. Jarod Fenske officiating. Military Honor will be held at the church following the service. Burial will take place in Town of Summit Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 11 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Bradley Funeral Home and on Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church.

The Langlade County Sheriff's office will provide Honor Guard Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. and Thursday from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Tap Tap "True story, happened a 100 years ago" Online obituary and condolences at www.bradleyfh.com.

Kelly Ann Cofer-Martin November 3, 1979 - October 13, 2024



Kelly Ann Cofer-Martin passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, October 13, 2024 in Tampa, Florida at the age of 44. Kelly was born on November 3, 1979 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, a daughter of Dave Cofer and Rita (Sippl) Davis and granddaughter of Charlie and Ann Cofer and Ed and Jeanette Sippl.

A celebration of life for Kelly will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at Northstar Lanes from 1:00 PM to 4:00

PM. There will be a time for sharing memories of Kelly at 1:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family would ask that a donation be made in Kelly's name to the Pug Rescue of Florida. https://pugrescuereflga.com.

A full obituary can be found at strasserrollerfuneralhome.com.

Wisconsin's Top Tree Farms to Kick Off Your Holiday Traditions

A weekly column written by the staff of Discover Wisconsin highlights things to do and see throughout the State of Wisconsin.

What better way to kick off the holiday season than by picking

a fresh tree to spruce up your home? Wisconsin has a deep-rooted love for holiday traditions, and choosing the perfect tree is one cherished by many. Not only is it a fun and festive activity, but it brings a sense of nostalgia for those who have enjoyed this tradition since childhood. Keep reading to discover some of the best tree farms around the state to make your holiday season extra special!

Francis Trees | Rio, WI

Kicking off our list is Francis Trees in Rio, Wisconsin, a second-generation tree farm owned by Gerald and Mona Francis. They purchased the farm from Gerald's parents in 2002 and reopened it in 2007. Francis Trees offers a variety of options, including Fraser fir, Balsam fir, Canaan fir, and Concolor fir. This tree farm makes it easy for those who are looking for a convenient experience; you and your family can drive right out to the trees, pick your favorite, and even cut it yourself with a saw provided by the farm. If you're not comfortable with

See **TREES** page 12





Antigo Christmas Bird Count

Dear Feeder Watcher,

The Antigo Christmas Bird Count is scheduled this year for Thursday December 19, 2024. Hopefully, you will have your bird feeders brimming with seeds and other avian forage.

Your help as a feeder watcher is greatly appreciated and the results of your efforts enable us to gain a much more complete understanding of winter bird populations than would otherwise be possible. The significance of this help can be seen in two principal ways. First, in most years, the feeder watchers add a few species to the count that were not otherwise observed.

And second, and probably of even greater importance, is that many birds (for example, Northern Cardinals, Mourning Doves, American Goldfinch, House Finches and sometimes Purple Finches) concentrate at feeders, so relying exclusively on field parties would produce totals that fall well below the actual populations of these species in the count area (fifteen-mile circle centered at Routes 45 and 64). When the temperatures are low and snow deep, feeders can have an even bigger impact on attracting birds. Again, only count birds on December 19th, (In the

comments feel free to make note of birds seen 3 days

See **BIRDS** page 6



ACE from page 3

behalf of the Red Robin Scholarship Program. Started by the Antigo Optimist Club years ago, the program has provided countless local students with the resources to pursue higher education. Dodd's personal connection to the program added extra significance to the gesture, as he shared that his own family members have benefited from these scholarships. Dillon Gretzinger, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of the Northwoods, accepted a \$2,500 donation to support programs that equip local youth with the skills they need to thrive. Gretzinger noted that this contribution would help offset reductions in grant funding that rural communities often face.





In addition, Dodd announced another \$2,500 donation to the Antigo Area Food Pantry, further demonstrating the T.A. Solberg Company's commitment to addressing essential needs in the community.

More Than a Hardware Store

Ace Hardware's grand opening was more than a celebration of a new business—it was a celebration of Antigo's spirit of collaboration and care. With this \$10,000 donation, Ace Hardware, under the leadership of Jeff Dodd and the T.A. Solberg Company, has shown that their mission goes beyond providing quality products and services. They are here to uplift the community, support its people, and strengthen the organizations that make Antigo a great place to live.

This meaningful investment in Antigo highlights Ace Hardware as not just "the helpful place" but also a key partner in fostering growth and resilience in the area.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Antigo Area Community Food Pantry Wednesdays 11am-1pm & Fridays 1-3pm. 2120 Progress Blvd., Antigo. All the time needs include: Low sodium canned vegetables, Low sodium canned beans, Low sodium condensed soups such as chicken noodle, tomato or cream of mushroom, Whole grain cereals, Canned fruit in 100% juice or sugar-free, Plain Oatmeal, Peanut butter, Brown rice/whole grain pasta. Personal Hygiene: Laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, toothpaste (these are not purchased by the pantry unless we are given a grant specifically for these items). For more information, go to AntigoFoodPantry.com or call 715-623-1103. For emergency food assistance needs after hours call 715-627-1818.

Elcho Area Community Food Pantry Mondays 2:30-4:30pm. Wednesdays 4-6pm, 11224 Antigo St., Elcho. Food will be distributed based on availability and # of family members. Note that the pantry is not open on holidays, or on days when the schools are closed because of snow. 715-275-5010. In accordance with federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Community Closet Open Mondays 10am-Noon, Wednesdays 4-6pm & Saturdays 9-10am, N9570 Hwy. B, Summit Lake (across from the Summit Lake Post Office) Free Clothing and Jackets (Baby to XXL). Clothing donations are welcome. Everyone is welcome!

Coffee and Conversation at the Senior Center of Langlade County Monday-Friday (except Holiday's) 9-11am. Senior Center of Langlade County, 623 Edison St., Antigo.

Senior Cribbage Group Mondays 1pm. Summit Lake Town Hall N 9575, County Rd B, Summit Lake. CURRENTLY ON HOLD DUE TO LOW PARTICIPATION- PLZ CALL IF INTERESTED: Judy Beecher 715-219-4333

Group Dance Class & Social Tuesdays 6pm. Northstar Lanes 400 Prosser Pl., Antigo. learn to dance in a fun, social setting! Each week the lesson rotates to another style of Latin or Ballroom dance (Salsa, Bachata, Cha Cha, Waltz, Rumba, Foxtrot, Swing, etc.) NO PARTNER (OR EXPERIENCE) REQUIRED! Doors open by 5:45pm. The 45-minute class begins at 6pm and afterwards we'll play a variety of music so everyone can dance and have fun!

White Lake Fitness & Fun Chair Yoga Thursdays 9-10am. White Lake Community Center 615 School St., White Lake. **Line Dancing** Dec. 16th 1-2:30pm. Senior Center of Langlade County 623 Edison St., Antigo. Line Dancing- Instructions and handouts are provided for every dance. No prior knowledge of line dance is necessary. The goal of the class is to have fun while getting to know others and learning steps to dance.

Exercise Class Dec. 17th 4:45pm. Senior Center of Langlade County 623 Edison St., Antigo. This class is designed to get people stretching and moving in gentle ways. All levels are invited. The class costs \$5.

Cardio and Strength Training Dec. 18th 4:30-5:30pm. Senior Center of Langlade County, 623 Edison St., Antigo. Cardio and strength training at the senior center with Dawn. This is designed for all levels of fitness. There is no charge.

Unified School District of Antigo's Elementary Christmas Concert Dec. 18th & 19th & 20th 1-2pm. AHS Volm Theatre 1900 10th Ave., Antigo.

Visits with Santa Dec. 20th 6-8pm (21st & 22nd 1-4pm). Langlade County Historical Society Museum 404 Superior St., Antigo.

Holiday Cookie Decorating Dec. 17th 6-8:30pm. NTC Antigo Campus 312 Forrest Ave., Antigo. This course is a hands-on cookie decorating class. Learners will ice, decorate and enjoy holiday cookies. This course will provide 18 holiday cookies for the learner to decorate, take home and enjoy. The instructor will provide fun designs for the students to practice their skills.

A Winter Wonderland at Rondele Ranch December 17th, 22nd & 29th (Fridays & Saturdays 5-8pm Drive Thru) 4-9pm. Rondele Ranch, 8959 Cty. Rd. K, Harshaw. Walk through or take our wagon ride through our largest ever Christmas Lights display - at over A MILLION LIGHTS! Most of our animated displays were made here at Rondele Ranch so they're unique to any other Christmas light displays in the area. Cost is \$20 per vehicle and will help support local non-profits. For more info, call 844-947-2624 or visit the FB page or website www. rondeleranch.com NO PETS ALLOWED

Let Food Be Thy Medicine Dec. 17th 6:30pm (Every other Tuesday) Mosaic Massage and Float Center 533 Fifth Ave.,, Antigo. As a group we learn about how real food with its nutrients impacts the body as a whole to help the body to heal.

MEETINGS

LangladeCountyBroadbandCommissionMeetingDec.17th5-6pm.NTC Antigo 312 Forrest Ave., Antigo.

Finance, Personnel, and Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting Dec. 18th 6pm. City Hall 700 Edison St., Antigo.

<u>Groups</u>

AA Support Group (Open) Wednesdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Ave., Antigo.



AA Meetings Tuesdays at 7pm at the Elcho UCC Church N11291 Dorr St., Elcho.

AA Meetings Sundays 10am. White Lake Community Center 615 School St., White Lake. Any questions call 715-219-0305

Alanon/Nornon Group Mondays 1:30pm. Antigo Community Church School (old St. Mary's), 723 Deleglise St., Antigo. Enter in the back please. For more information including other meeting times and locations call (715-623-4904).

Alzheimer's Support Group Second Monday of the month 5-6pm. Rolalia Gardens Door #3 519 Flight Rd., Antigo. 715-610-6681

Alzheimer's Association Virtual Support Groups Coffee for Family Caregivers, 2nd Monday of the month 5:30pm-6:30pm. For Persons Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment, 2nd Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am. Family Caregivers for a loved one with Frontotemporal Degeneration 3rd Wednesday of the month 6-7:30pm. Family Caregivers for a loved one with Dementia in the early stages 4th Tuesday of the month 10-11:30am. Family Caregivers for a loved one with dementia living at a facility every other Friday 10-11:30am. Phone In Caregiver Support Group the last Tuesday of every month 10-11:30am. To register for any of the support groups contact the 24/7 helpline. 800.272.3900

AVAIL Support Group Meetings on Mondays, 5:30pm-7pm, Wednesdays 10:30am-12pm, Thursdays, 10:30am-12pm and again at 5:30pm-7pm, Fridays 3-6pm. AVAIL Inc. 1410 N. Superior St., Antigo. **Baby & Me Support Group** Wednesdays from 1-2pm in the Langlade Birthing Center 112 E 5th Ave, Antigo, second floor. Facilitator: RN/International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. For more information please call 715-623-9280. No fee.

Broken Arrow Christian Recovery Meeting Thursdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Avenue, Antigo.

Community Recovery Bible Study Fridays 6pm. Aspirus Langlade Hospital 112 E. Fifth Ave., Antigo- in the large conference room.

Life Recovery Group & Christian Recovery Meetings Wednesdays 8:30am. Church of the Nazarine 230 Elm St., Antigo. This group is for anyone struggling with addiction, anxiety, food, depression, relationships, etc. There will also be Christian Recovery meetings at the same place and time.

Narcotics Anonymous Mondays 8am, Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Ave., Antigo.

Overeaters Anonymous Mondays 7-8pm. SS. Mary & Hyacinth Parish Center, 819 3rd Ave., Antigo. Room #4 Contact: Rose Marie, 715-623-2128.

Stroke & Neurological Support Group (2nd Friday of the Month) Langlade Co. Senior Center 623 Edison St., Antigo.

If you have an upcoming event or ongoing group activity that you would like to include, please email the information to nwinkler@mmclocal.com



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BIRDS

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from page 4

before and after) Please remember to be conservative in your numbers: if you check your feeders three times during the day and you see three chickadees each time, put down a total of three for the day and not nine.

Often birds are reported at feeders that were not seen by field parties. If you are able, please try to photograph any bird you encounter that is not among those listed, for this makes confirmation easy.

The National Audubon Society, the major sponsor of the Christmas Bird Counts, wants all the material returned to them by January 31th, so it would be very

helpful if you can send me the results as soon as possible (by January 15th), either via post or e-mail at the addresses below.

Please include your e-mail address if you have one. Send your results to David Johnson, 504 Crown Point Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 600089. Or e-mail them to djohnsoda@comcast.net

Your	Ν	lame	

Address
Phone #
E-mail
Time spent watching feeders

Come join

us for lunch!

a .					
Species	Number of Individuals	Species	Number of Individuals		
Mallard		European	Starling		
Wild Turke	'Y	Bohemian	Waxwing		
Rock Pigeo	n	American	Tree Sparrow		
Mourning l	Dove	Dark-eyed	Junco		
Barred Ow	1	Snow Bun	ting (open fields)		
Great Horn	ed Owl	Northern	Cardinal		
Red-bellied	Woodpecker	Pine Grosl	beak		
Downy Woo	odpecker	House Fin	House Finch (in town)		
Hairy Wood	lpecker	Purple Fin	nch		
Pileated Wo	oodpecker	Red Cross	bill		
Blue Jay		Common H	Redpoll		
American (Crow	Pine Siski	n		
Black-capp	ed Chickadee	American	Goldfinch		
Red-breasted Nuthatch		House Sparrow			
White-brea	sted Nuthatch	Other:			
American l	Robin				

MAIL TO: David B. Johnson, 504 Crown Point Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-1660

Hip Replacement Surgery: Is Age Really a Limiting Factor?

The primary goal is to give patients the ability to live their lives comfortably and safely, no matter their age

ASPIRUS HEALTH

Maintaining mobility and a comfortable quality of life becomes increasingly important as we age. For many older adults, joint replacement surgery offers a path to greater independence, pain relief, and improved functionality.

Joe Mueller, DO, an orthopedic surgeon with Aspirus Health, explains that there is no age too young or too old for joint replacement, whether it be a hip, knee, or shoulder procedure. The decision to undergo surgery is more about the individuals life expectations and the severity of their condition rather than age.

"At Aspirus Health, our goal with joint replacement surgery is twofold: pain relief and improving mobility," Dr. Mueller shares. "Especially as we age, having a new joint can be life-changing. It might mean the difference between staying independent and being able to live alone versus requiring constant assistance."

The decision to move forward with surgery is not made lightly. Dr. Mueller notes that several factors are considered when determining if someone is a good

KEMPSTER United Church of Christ N7234 Keen Rd, Kempster 715-275-3031 Sunday 8:45am MATTOON St. John's Luther **Church - LCMS** 304 Flint Ave., Mattoon 715-489-3471 Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am MOUNTAIN **Risen Savior Evangelical** Lutheran Church 13825 State Hwy 32, Mountain 715-473-5633 6:30n

candidate for joint replacement, including the level of pain, the severity of the joint damage (as seen through X-rays), and the individual's overall physical health. "The goal is to ensure that the patient is in good enough health to handle a major surgery and that it will improve their quality of life," he explains.

For older patients, one of the biggest concerns is their ability to take care of themselves post-surgery.

"We often recommend a bit of help around the house in the first few days after

See SURGERY page 12

PICKEREL St. John's Luther **Church - LCMS** N8934 State Rd 55, Pickerel 715-484-3382 Mondays 10:30am

St. Mary's Catholic Church N9155 State Rd 55, Pickerel 715-484-4300 www.hfstm.org Thursday 9:00am Saturday 4:00pm

POLAR Polar Mennonite Church N3480 County Rd. S Antigo, WI 54409 Contact: Mervin Brubaker 715-921-2638 Sunday Morning 10:00am

of Central Wisconsin

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin serves lunch at 11:30 am at:

Antigo Community Church:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays Senior Center of Langlade County:
- Wednesdays
- St Mary's Church in Pickerel:
- Mondays & Wednesdays

Elcho Community Center:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Eligibility: Age 60+ Suggested contribution is \$6.00 a meal

Reservations Required by noon the business day before

888-486-9545

Your contribution makes a significant difference to our program!

No eligible person is denied meals due to ability to contribute. Full meal cost \$14.86 per meal (for someone who is not eligible on a contribution basis). Senior Nutrition Program is funded by Federal, State, local funds and contributions



ANIWA **Bethany Lutheran Church** 174071 Church Rd., Aniwa Sunday Worship 10:30am

Church of Christ on Village Road

Antigo Seventh-Day Adventist Church 1515 3rd Ave., Antigo 715-623-4168 www.antigo22.adventistchurchconnect.org Saturday Worship Service 9:00am Sabbath School 10:30am

Antigo United Methodist Church 2034 W. 5th Ave., Antigo ww.antigoumc.org 715-623-3802 Sunday 10:00am

Ascension Lutheran Church 1412 Neva Rd, Antigo 715-627-2232 www.ascensionantigo.com Sunday 9:00am nday Family Bible Hour 10:15am

Faith United Church of Christ 628 Clermont St., Antigo 715-623-5717

Sunday 10:30am First Baptist Church 414 Eckart St., Antigo 715-610-0774

Wednesday 6:00pm Prayer Meeting Sunday 10:00am Homestead Church 710 Center St., Antigo 715-623-5093 Sunday 10:00am

eadantigo.com Liberty Baptist Church 311 2nd Ave., Antigo 715-623-4304 Sunday 10:30am Kid's Club Wed. Evenings 6:30pm Peace Lutheran Church

St. Philomena Church 432 State Rd., Birnamwood 715-449-2104 Sunday 8:00am **Trinity Lutheran Church** 407 Birch St., Birnamwood 715-449-3778 Sunday 10:00a DEERBROOK

P4805 Village Rd., Aniwa Sunday Bible Class 9:30am Worship 10:30am & 6:00pm Wednesday Bible Class 6:30pm www.cocvr.org

St. Boniface Catholic Church W19104 Church Aniwa Saturday 4:00pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church W18995 1st St., Aniwa Sunday Service 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am

ANTIGO

Antigo Church of the Nazarene 230 Elm St., Antigo 715-489-3405 Sunday 9:00am Worship

Antigo Church of Christ

1427 5th Ave., Antigo 715-627-4588 Sunday 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship

Antigo Community Church

723 Deleglise St., Antigo 715-627-2805 www.antigocommunitychurch.org Todd Stensberg - Executive Pastor Steve Sanford - Teaching Pastor Sunday 9:30am

Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA 310 S. Superior St., Antigo

715-623-3102 www.calvarylutheranantigo.com Sunday Worship 8:30am (September-December)

Christ Central Church 630 Superior St., Antigo PO Box 482, Antigo, WI 54409 715-350-4242, 715-610-1787, 715-610-1788 Sunday 10:00am

Christ Gospel Church 840 7th Ave., Antigo 715-623-6367 Sunday School 10:00am Sunday Morning 11:00am Sunday Evening 6:30pm Wednesday 7:00pm, Friday 7:00pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

717 Sunset Dr., Antigo 715-212-3188 Sunday 9:30am

Faith Center Church of God

N2142 Hwy 45 S, Antigo 715-627-7200 Wednesday 7:00pm Sunday 10:30am

300 Lincoln St., Antigo 715-623-2200 www.peaceantigo.org Saturday 6:00pm

SS Mary & Hyacinth Parish 819 Third Ave., Antigo 715-623-4938 Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 7:00am

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church Sixth Ave. & Clermont St. 715-551-6796 Wednesday Mass 10:00am

St. John Catholic Parish 415 Sixth Ave., Antigo 715-623-2024 www.stjohnantigo.com Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 9:00am

BIRNAMWOOD

First Congregational Church 417 Elm St., Birnamwood 715-524-5724 Sunday 10:30am St. John Lutheran **Church - ELCA** W17680 Church Rd., Birnamwood 715-449-3778 Sunday Service 10:30am (September-December)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

N9035 US Hwy 45, Birnamwood 715-449-2101 Thursday 7:00pm Sunday 10:30am

5893 Brook Trail, Eagle River Thursday 10:15am Sunday 10:30am

St. Matthew Lutheran

Church (Miss. Synod)

N5674 Cty Rd E, Deerbrook

715-627-7989

Sunday 9:00am

715-275-3750

Holy Family Parish

W10524 Cole St., Elcho

ELCHO

St. Luke Lutheran Church (Miss. Synod) N11341 Antigo St. (Hwy 45), Elcho

715-275-3152 Sunday 10:45am

United Church of Christ

N11291 Dorr St., Elcho 715-275-3031

Sunday 10:30am **Upper Room Family Church** W10285 County Rd K, Elcho

715-275-3255 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm Sunday Service 10:00am

HATLEY St. Florian Parish

500 Church Ln., Hatley 715-446-3085 www.stflos.org Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 10:30am St. Ladislaus Parish (Bevent)

6455 St. Hwy 153, Hatley 715-446-3060 www.stladislaur.org Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 10:10am

<u>NEVA</u>

St. Wenceslaus Parish

N5340 Church Road, Deerbrook 715-627-2126 Tuesday 8:00am Sunday 10:30am

PEARSON Arbutus Lutheran Church - ELCA N6607 Church Lane, Pearson (Just North of Cty T on Hwy 55)

715-219-6363 Sunday 9:45am

PELICAN LAKE

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 4 Miles West of Hwy 45 on Cty Rd G, Pelican Lake 715-487-5484

Sunday 11:00am

PHLOX

St. Joseph Holy Family **Catholic Church**

W7365 Hwy 47, Phlox 715-489-3330 Father Edmundo Siguenza www.sihf-phlox.org Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 10:00am

3rd & 4th Sunday Evenings 7:00pm Everyone Welcome

St. Peter Lutheran Church N2891 Cty Rd S, Antigo 715-623-6921 Sunday 9:00am

WHITE LAKE

Four Corners Assembly of God N3891 County Rd. P, White Lake Corner of Hwy 64 and P 715-882-3021 Sunday 10:30am Wednesday (Youth) 6:00pm

SS James & Stanislaus **Catholic Parish** 235 Bissell St., White Lake 715-882-2551 stjames2551@frontier.com St. James - White Lake

Thursday 9:00am Saturday 4:00pm (May 29-Sept. 4) Sundays 8:00am Mass

St. Matthew Lutheran Church 138 Bissell Street, White Lake 715-882-3111 Sunday 10:00am Worship; 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class

List your services here by calling 715-350-6867.

ANTIGO TIMES



Holiday shopping tips you can't afford to miss

FOR MMC

The festive and fun nature of the holiday season can make it easy to forget the benefits of being frugal. Many people go overboard on holiday spending, making this time of year costly for consumers.

Sales between the beginning of November 2023 and Christmas Eve 2023 climbed 3.1 percent from the year earlier, according to the Mastercard SpendingPulse. The National Retail Federation reported in November 2023 that holiday spending was expected to reach between \$957 and \$966 billion. Trading Economics, a financial market indicator and forecast provider, said personal spending in the United States only rose 0.2 percent in May 2024 from the previous month, which marked the lowest increase since January 2024.

Shoppers who want to spend less and stick to a budget for holiday entertaining and gifting can keep these budgeting tips in mind.

• Set a value to gift recipients. It may sound harsh, but certain people on holiday shopping lists may be assigned a higher value than others. For example, you wouldn't necessarily spend the same amount on a gift for a child's teacher as you would for a grandmother. Putting a

We

Accept

Orders!

dollar figure next to each name on the shopping list helps you identify your expected spending and where you can cut back, if necessary.

• Establish your overall budget. Once you have an idea of your potential holiday expenditures, set

See TIPS page 10

Ringing in the Season 2024

Each year at this time we ask community residents to assist in the Salvation Army's bell ringing campaign. If we can only have an hour or two of your time, you can make a difference for families and individuals.

We use the funds to help Langlade County residents with emergency lodging, evictions, auto repair, utility shut offs, medical and other emergency transportation issues.

Last year we raised \$98,500. We are hoping to do even better in 2024. If you can "*Ring the Bell*" this holiday season, we will find a spot for you.

Please help us to help those in need by calling:

715-610-1313 Sign up to ring online! www.SAlanglade.org







Share Your Blessings. Be Blessed.

Page 7

Many of our neighbors need food, shelter - and hope.

You can make a difference!

When you see the Red Kettles this year, please give generously. You'll be amazed at what you'll get out of giving.

86% stays local





THE SALVATION ARMY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Here is my donation of: \$\\$20 \$\\$35 \$\\$50 \$\\$100 \$\\$

Name	
Address	
City	

State____

Phone____

ZIP

Please make your check payable to *The Salvation Army*, and mail it with this form, to the address below: **The Salvation Army Langlade County** 1616 Clermont Street, Antigo, Wisconsin 54409 715-623-1313

Get your Bone-In & Boneless Christmas Hams at

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Peroutka's Meat Processing

Hwy 64 • East of Hwy 45 • 715-623-2227 Hours: Monday – Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-1

Page 8

ANTIGO TIMES



ANIWA

Zion Evangelical Lutheran

Church 238145 Star Rd. Aniwa, WI 54408 715-845-2014 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm Wed., Dec 25th 10am

ANTIGO

Antigo Community Church

Corner of 3rd Ave. & Deleglise St. 723 Deleglise St. Antigo, WI 54409 715-627-2805 Tues., Dec. 24th 6pm

Antigo United Methodist Church

2034 W. 5th Ave. Antigo, WI 54409 715-623-3802 Tues., Dec. 24th 5:30pm

Calvary Lutheran Church

310 S. Superior St. Antigo, WI 54409 715-623-3102 Tues., Dec. 24th 6pm

Faith United Church of Christ

628 Clermont St. Antigo, WI 54409 715-623-5717 Tues., Dec. 24th Candlelight Service 5:30pm

First Baptist Church 414 Eckart St. Antigo, WI 54409 715-623-2150 Tues., Dec. 24th 5pm Homestead Fellowship 710 Center St. Antigo, WI 54409 715-623-5093 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm

Peace Lutheran Church

& School 300 Lincoln St. Antigo, WI 54409 715-623-2200 www.peaceantigo.org Tues., Dec. 24th 3pm, 5pm & 7pm Weds., Dec. 25th 9am

BIRNAMWOOD

St. John Lutheran Church W17680 Church Rd Birnamwood, WI 54414 715-449-3778 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church N9035 US Hwy 45 Birnamwood, WI 54414 715-449-2101 Tues., Dec. 24th 7pm Weds., Dec. 25th

CRANDON

St. Joseph Catholic Church 208 N. Park Ave. Crandon, WI 54520 715-478-3396 Tues., Dec. 24th 6pm Weds., Dec. 25th 8:30am

DEERBROOK

St. Matthew Lutheran Church N5674 Cty Rd E Deerbrook, WI 54424 715-627-7989 Tues., Dec. 24th 6:30pm Weds., Dec. 25th 9am **ELCHO**

St. Luke Lutheran Church

N11341 Antigo St. Elcho, WI 54428 715-275-3152 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm Weds., Dec. 25th 10:45am

<u>HATLEY</u>

St. Florian Parish 500 Church Ln. Hatley, WI 54440 715-446-3085 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm & 9pm Weds., Dec. 25th 10:30am

St. Ladislaus Church-Bevent 6455 St. Hwy 153 Hatley, WI 54440 715-446-3060 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm Weds., Dec. 25th

10:10am

ΜΑΠΟΟΝ

St. John's Lutheran Church

304 Flint Ave., Mattoon, WI 54166 715-489-3471 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm Weds., Dec. 25th 9am

POLAR

St. Peter Lutheran Church N2891 Co. Rd S Antigo, WI 54409 715-623-6921 Tues., Dec. 24th 4pm & 7pm

WHITE LAKE

Four Corners Assembly of God N3891 Cty Rd P White Lake, WI 54491 715-882-3021 Tues., Dec. 24th 6pm St. James & Stanislaus Catholic Parish 235 Bissell St. White Lake, WI 54491 715-882-2551 Tues., Dec. 24th 7pm Vigil Weds., Jan. 1st 9am

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

138 Bissell St. White Lake, WI 54491 715-882-3111 Tues., Dec. 24th Children's Program 4pm, Service 6pm Weds., Dec. 25th 10am Tues., Dec. 31st 7pm New Years Service







Monday, December 16, 2024

ANTIGO TIMES





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Deadline: Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. | Phone: 715-350-6866 | Email: nwinkler@mmclocal.com

7264

7272

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715-644-5726 (1/6)

(#269146)12/16)nw

905-4665 (12/16)

GOLDEN RETREIVER



WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT JOB POSTING

LEAD CUSTODIAN/CLEANING POSITION AT WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Full-time, year round position with competitive full health/dental and benefit package Starting rate \$16.21 with periodic wage increases. After 24 months \$20.14/hour Hours are 1st shift: 5:00am-1:30pm

Start Date: January 15, 2025

General Responsibilities

- · Oversee the work of other custodial staff to ensure their assigned area has been cleaned properly. Keep lunchroom clean during and after lunches
- Daily clean assigned rooms, hallways, offices, entrances and bathrooms.
- Empty trash receptacle and collect recycling.
 Maintain security by locking doors, closing windows, turning
- off lights. Assist teacher needs; such as moving desks, and replenishing
- soap, paper towels and other supplies. Occasionally assist with snow and ice removal
- Maintain good public relations by demonstrating a positive and willing attitude in dealing with staff and the community.
- Any other duty as requested by supervisor or administration.

Successful candidates must be self motivated and have the ability to follow written and oral instructions as well as the ability to give written and oral instructions.

To apply: Send completed district support staff application to Jill Resch in the District Office at 400 West Grand Avenue, Wittenberg WI 54499, or email application to jeresch@wittbirn.k12.wi.us

Application Deadline: January 2, 2024

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

NONDISCHIMINATION POLICY The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District does not discriminate in the employment of professional staff on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, national origin, age, sex, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, othernship status, veteran status, or military service. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Megan Marchs, Pupil Services Director, 400 West Grand Ave, Wittenberg WI 54499, 715-253-2213 ext. 1108 or mmarcks@wittbirn.k12.wi.us



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MILLERS PRECIOUS PUPS Has Absolutely Adorable Westies, Beautiful Petite Yorkies And Cross/Bred Black Scotties. All Are Smart, Gentle And Loving. Shots-Vet Exam-Manner Training Begun. \$995-\$1,500 Cash. 715-850-2535

Miniature Australian Shepherd puppies. Registered, Blue Merles and Black Tris, Ready now shots/dewormed/, vet checked, born 10/12/24. \$500-\$700. 715-819-0865. No texts.

POLMARANIAN PUP! Shots Vet Ck'd \$600 call 715-654-5149 (12/23)

POMPSKI PUPPIES \$600. Ready 12/30. Cute friendly Call After 3pm 715-773-1643 (12/23)

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REG CAVALIER PUPS .. DOB 10/16 Ready 12/11 \$850. Vet ck'd, vaccinated, DEW. 715-669-7306 Ask for Karen (12/16)

TEDDY BEAR PUPS \$375 also BICHON POODLE \$325 All Shots DEW. Vet ck'd 715-669-3607 Lic.# 268475 (12/16) pm

TEDDY BEAR PUPS! \$600. SHELTIE PUPS \$600., POODLE PUPS \$250., C/T 715-316-2617 (12/16)mk



WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT JOB POSTING

SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN/ **CLEANING POSITION AT** WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD





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CAVAPOO PUPS \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)12/16)m

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FIND IT. In the Classifieds It's the key source for information you're seeking about job opportunities, homes for sale, pets, garage sales, automobiles and more.



7284

7292

 Begin shopping early. Start scouring ads and looking for deals prior to Thanksgiving or Black Friday. Keep a running list of gift ideas and when the price is right, purchase those items.

Price check «pertect gifts.» If you've spotted the perfect gift for someone but it's beyond budget, see if you can find a better price elsewhere, says Better Money Habits. There are apps that allow users to scan barcodes and check items across various retailers. Many stores also have price-match policies that can save shoppers monev · Look for deals all of the time. Many people get hung up on perceived deep discounts from Black Friday and Cyber Monday offers. However, industry experts say there often isn't a huge difference in markdowns between these promotions and those during other sales. Some retailers even increase prices on goods only to mark them down



7272 Lots and Acreage For Sale

For Sale 15.44 Acres, West of Appleton, WI On School Rd, Exc, Building site, priced to sell.

7466

For Sale 15.44 Acres, West of Appleton, WI On School Rd. Exc. Building site, priced to sell. Jeremy 920-878-0288 or Herb 920-878-0005 No Answer, try again later. (12/16)

Motorcycles 7502

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BUYING OR SELLING Classifieds can work for you.

TIPS from page 7

a firm budget. Avoid the temptation of impulse buys, which can make it easy to go over budget.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sub Bate of \$17,68 per hour

Hours will generally be 2pm-10pm (flexible) on a per call basis

General Responsibilities:

- Daily clean assigned rooms, hallways, offices, entrances and bathrooms.
- · Empty trash receptacle and collect recycling.
- · Maintain security by locking doors, closing windows, and turning off lights.
- · Assist teacher needs; such as moving desks, and replenishing soap, paper towels and other supplies.
- · Occasionally assist with snow and ice removal.
- Maintain good public relations by demonstrating a positive and willing attitude in dealing with staff and the community.
- Any other duty as requested by supervisor or administration.

Successful candidates must be self motivated and have the ability to work independently

To apply: Send completed district application to Jill Resch in the District Office at 400 West Grand Avenue, Wittenberg WI 54499, or email application to jeresch@wittbirn.k12.wi.us. Applications can be found on our website, or picked up from any WB school building.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Wittenberg-Birmanwood School District does not discriminate in the employment of professional staff on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, national origin, age, sex, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, or military service. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Megan Marcks, Pupil Services Director, 400 West Grand Ave, Wittenberg WI 54499, 715-253-2213 ext. 1108 or mmarcks@wittbirn.k12.wi.us

See **TIPS** page 11



130568

Page 11

Healthy Lifestyles



FOR MMC

Routine exercise is one of the pillars of a healthy lifestyle. Daily physical activity can help fend off a host of issues that can adversely affect quality of life and longterm health. But exercise carries the possibility of injury, and avoiding injuries involves both recognition of that risk and knowledge of what can be done to avoid issues that can sideline individuals looking to physical activity as a means to staying healthy.

Shoulder injuries

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases notes that exercises and sports that involve repetitive motion can contribute to various shoulder injuries. For example, an impingement can occur when the top of the shoulder blade applies pressure to the soft tissue beneath as the arm is lifted. Swimming is a highly effective and beneficial exercise, but the NIAMS notes it can increase the risk for impingement.

The Cleveland Clinic notes that shoulder impingements may be classified as rotator cuff tendinitis, shoulder bursitis or acromion deformity, while adding that impingements are estimated to be responsible for around half of all instances of shoulder pain. Shoulder impingement prevention strategies include warming up and cooling down prior to exercising. Such an approach can loosen muscles and prepare them for exercise. In addition, the Cleveland Clinic advises wearing the right attire for exercise and urges individuals to stop exercising the moment they feel pain. If pain persists, visit a health

Common exercise injuries and how to avoid them

care provider before exercising again.

Elbow injuries

Elbow injuries also are common among individuals who engage in activities that require repetitive use. Such injuries may include tennis elbow, which is caused by the development of small tears in the tendons of the elbow that can wear them down and result in painful inflammation, and golfer's elbow, which begins with pain in the inner part of the elbow but can spread to the forearm and wrist.

The names of such injuries suggest tennis players and golfers are particularly vulnerable to them, but various physical therapy experts note that repetitive

activities such as weightlifting can contribute to these conditions as well. Orthopedic professionals emphasize the importance of stretching arm and hand muscles regularly to reduce the risk of elbow injuries. In addition, avoiding overuse, which can happen when physically active individuals do not incorporate off days into their workout regimens, can help to reduce risk for elbow injuries.

Knee injuries

The NIAMS notes that the joints are particularly susceptible to injury since so much is asked of them, particularly during physical activities. So its no surprise that knee injuries join issues affecting the shoulders and elbows among the concerns physically active individuals must be aware of. According to the NIAMS, a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) can occur when the knee is overextended or twisted, while runners knee affects runners, hikers and cyclists and causes pain or tenderness under the kneecap or at the front of the knee.

Torn ACLs might be most associated with physically active individuals who play sports like soccer and basketball, but improper form while lifting weights also can put stress on the knee, potentially leading to a tear in the ligament. Johns Hopkins Medicine recommends various strategies to individuals hoping to reduce their risk for runners knee, including stretching before and after physical activity and running leaning forward with knees bent.

Physical activity is vital to long-term health, but

individuals must be aware of injuries that can arise during physical activity and what can be done to prevent them.



Over-the-counter & prescription remedies
Pain relievers & fever reducers
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Humidifiers & foot baths
Heating & cooling pads
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Prescription delivery available within city limits
536 5th Avenue, Antigo • 715-623-2631

TIPS from page 10

for Black Friday to make it appear that there is a discount. Only by knowing the average price for items can you know if a sale is legitimate.

• Sign up for store rewards. If you don't want





your regular email inbox inundated with offers, set up a separate email account for in-store and online shopping. Then you can sign up for the rewards programs at checkout. Utilize the coupon codes and advertisements for sales to save money without having your primary email data shared with other marketers.

• Track spending carefully. If you don't know how much you're spending, then you cannot possibly stick to a budget. After each purchase, keep a running tally of all holiday spending to see how far you are from the finish line.

The holidays can be expensive, but with smart budgeting and dedication to savvy shopping, its possible to stay out of financial trouble.

ANTIGO TIMES

TREES from page 4

cutting your own, don't worry–Francis Tree's staff will cut it for you, and even help secure it to your vehicle for you. Beyond trees, they also offer holiday gifts, handmade wreaths, pre-cut trees, and more. It's the perfect spot to bring the whole family–pets included!

Happ's Christmas Tree Farm Wild Rose, WI

Happ's Christmas Tree Farm in Wild Rose, Wisconsin, is known for its incredibly long-lasting trees–some customers have had them last until Easter! With over 35 years in business, this 40-acre farm offers a wide variety of trees including Black Hills Spruce, Douglas fir, Balsam fir, Fraser fir, White Pine, and Concolor fir. On weekends, Happ's adds a festive touch with hayrides, and they'll even take a photo of you with your freshly cut tree and send it to you afterward! In addition to trees, they sell boughs, roping, and wreaths to ensure you have all of the necessary holiday decor.

Steigerwaldt Tree Farms Tomahawk, WI

Last but not least is Steigerwaldt Tree Farms in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. If you're looking for a quick and easy tree-buying process, this is the place for you! With over 2,500 acres in five different counties of Wisconsin, Steigerwaldt Tree Farms makes finding your perfect tree a breeze. The farm grows Fraser fir, Balsam fir, and Black Hill Spruce trees, all nurtured by professional foresters and ISA Certified Arborists. This third-generation farm has been a trusted name in wholesale trees and wreaths since 1957. Steigerwaldt Tree Farms also offers delivery, so you can enjoy the beauty of a fresh tree without leaving the comfort of your own home.

If you're ready to start a new holiday tradition, or even continue an old one, these Wisconsin tree farms have you covered!

Megan Christian hosts the nation's longestrunning tourism TV show, Discover Wisconsin. Watch the show on Saturdays at 10 a.m. on Fanduel Sports Network (formerly Bally Sports Wisconsin) or online at DiscoverWisconsin. com. Follow Discover Wisconsin on Facebook (facebook.com/discoverwisconsin), Instagram (instagram.com/discoverwisconsin), and TikTok (tiktok.com/discoverwisconsin).

School levies rise more rapidly, county levies slow down

NATASHA WINKLER

The full report can be found at: https:// wispolicyforum.org/research/schoollevies-rise-more-rapidly-county-leviesslow-down/

Summary of 2024 Wisconsin Property Tax Trends

Wisconsin residents are seeing notable changes in property tax levies on their December bills, with shifts influenced by state legislation, local referenda, and inflationary pressures. The property tax landscape is shaped by varying increases among schools, counties, technical colleges, and special districts.

Key Trends in Property Taxes

K-12 School Levies: Wisconsin's gross K-12 school property taxes have increased by 5.7%, the largest jump since 2009, totaling \$6.1 billion. This growth is driven by two key factors:

Per-Pupil Revenue Limits: The state's 2023-25 budget raised per-pupil revenue limits by \$325 for both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, following a two-year freeze during a period of high inflation. This increase contributed significantly to higher property tax levies.

School District Referenda: A record 169 school district referenda passed in 2024, with nearly 400 referenda approved since 2021. These measures allow districts to exceed state-imposed tax limits to address operational needs or fund capital projects. As a result, districts that passed referenda saw a 7.6% rise in levies compared to just 1% in districts without referenda.

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) accounted for the largest increase, with a 29.6% rise in levies, or \$94.7 million, following a \$252 million operating referendum passed earlier this year. The impacts of such referenda are significant, especially as state aid to MPS was reduced due to prior financial reporting errors.

County Property Taxes: County levies increased by 1.3%, the lowest yearover-year growth in a decade, totaling \$2.55 billion. Most counties implemented modest increases between 0% and 5%, while a few smaller counties saw rises exceeding 10%. Inflationary pressures and the effects of Wisconsin Act 12, which increased state aid to local governments, likely limited the need for larger levy hikes.

Technical College and Special District Levies: Levies for the state's technical colleges rose by 3.3%, totaling \$516 million. This increase is slightly smaller than last year's 4.9% growth. Special districts, such as those managing sanitation or lake services, saw a 4% increase to \$136.4 million. These levies remain a minor portion of overall property taxes, with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District accounting for 85% of special district levies statewide.

Balancing Growth and Taxpayer

POLICY FORUM

Concerns

Statewide, preliminary estimates suggest gross property taxes will rise by 4.0% in 2024, slightly lower than last year's 4.7% increase but above most recent years. However, the state's decision to increase the school levy tax credit by \$80 million helps offset these gross increases, reducing net bills for taxpayers.

Wisconsin's property tax trends reflect broader issues, including declining state and local taxes as a share of personal income. In 2022, Wisconsin ranked 35th nationally for state and local taxes relative to income, a sharp drop from 3rd in 2000. This decline aligns with reduced spending on public services, such as K-12 education, as a share of income.

Local referenda are filling funding gaps for schools but are creating disparities between districts that pass referenda and those that do not. These dynamics could exacerbate educational inequities and lead to ongoing debates about the balance between controlling property taxes and ensuring adequate school funding.

Looking Ahead

As Wisconsin lawmakers prepare for the 2025-27 state budget, they face the challenge of addressing these disparities while managing taxpayer concerns. Strategic decisions on state aid, revenue limits, and educational funding will be crucial to fostering fiscal equity across the state.

SURGERY from page 6

surgery to prevent falls, especially since balance can become more challenging with age," Dr. Mueller advises. However, he emphasizes that joint replacement surgery in older adults is typically very safe, provided the patient has appropriate support and follows recovery guidelines.

Joint replacement surgery,

whether in younger or older individuals, aims to restore quality of life by reducing pain and increasing mobility. For those considering the procedure, its essential to discuss with a healthcare provider to assess whether its the right option based on individual needs and health. As Dr. Mueller points out, "The primary goal is to give patients the ability to live their lives comfortably and safely, no matter their age."



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