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How's LIFE in Marathon County?

Take the LIFE Survey to share your thoughts.

FOR MMC

We invite all residents of Marathon County to participate in the LIFE Survey, a quick and simple way to share your thoughts about our community. The survey provides a snapshot of our local strengths and challenges, helping us to better understand the needs of our residents.

If you live in Marathon County, we want to hear from you. The survey takes just 5-10 minutes to complete and is open from March 1 to May 31, 2025. It's available in multiple languages and your feedback helps us celebrate our wins and highlights the great things

already happening in our community.

Your answers play an important role in shaping decisions that affect our community. The LIFE Survey not only recognizes our achievements but also helps us identify important issues that need attention. You deserve a voice in the future of your community.

Help us make sure that everyone has the chance to share their thoughts. We encourage you to spread the word with friends and family about the LIFE Survey.

To take the survey visit marathoncountypulse.org (Direct link: https://marathonwi.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5xy6WQzqpwx4)

and improve the quality of life in Marathon County. By gathering insights from community members, we aim to create actionable plans for a better future for all residents. Your support in sharing this important opportunity with the community is greatly appreciated!

Your community.

Your voice.

marathoncountypulse.org

Tell us about LIFE in Marathon County.

MCPL Mosinee to host craft & social hour for cat lovers

FOR MMC

If you love cats, you're invited to the Marathon County Public Library's Mosinee Branch, located at 123 Main St., Mosinee, for a feline-themed social hour! The event will be held on March 18 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Patrons will have several options for easy, no-sew cat toys they can make,



See MCPL page 4

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MCPL Athens to offer class on navigating Social Security benefits



FOR MMC
Adults wanting to learn more information about Social Security benefits are invited to an informative class at the Marathon County Public Library's Athens Branch (203 Alfred St., Athens.) This program will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on March 13.

Navigating Social

Security benefits can be challenging and preparing for retirement can leave you feeling overwhelmed and with a lot of questions. This program is designed to provide answers and help

you gather the information you need to make the best choice for you. We will also discuss less commonly known benefits like family benefits, survivor's benefits, and ex-spousal

benefits. This event is free and open to the public, registration is required. For more information and to register, call 715-257-7292.

Tariff-ied?

LOUANN SCHULFER

When I send the agenda for our meeting to my clients in advance of our upcoming review of their investment portfolio and financial plan, I ask them in the e-mail if anything else is on their mind. I had a client who recently replied saying he wants to talk about the impact that tariffs could have on his planned spending. The retirement light at the end of his working tunnel is getting excitingly close: just about ten months out. At the turn of his next chapter, he plans to buy a new vehicle and camper to enjoy his full-time freedom. He cited a figure that he'd heard of a potential 25% tariff on steel and foreign made vehicles. To that point, he asked "But maybe it makes sense to purchase them a year early with all the tariff talk?"

Ah, if only we had that crystal ball! Let's consider some of the many factors that play into our decision making.

Let's say that tariffs are imposed. If his purchases were US made, or with parts already in our country, then the price increases may not be so out of the ordinary. However, if his merchandise were subject to tariffs, the producer, the importer and the currency markets will likely absorb some of the hit. We've seen the shift that supply chains can make and likely would again in reaction to a new tariff. Therefore, if there was an imposition of a 25% tariff, the impact to the end consumer would not be as

great: likely it would be a smaller percentage of that, maybe 5 - 10%. Then, there is also the supply-demand factor. If demand goes down, prices generally follow.

With the purchases, we'd be smart to factor in additional associated costs, such as the extra year of insurance, registration, storage and other maintenance, as well as an added year of depreciation and potentially foregoing the new bells and whistles that come with a year-

newer product. Allocating the money to the new purchases rather than his investment portfolio would also miss out on a year of investment performance.

I'm glad he asked the question, because when it comes to that potential scenario, the tariff may not be so terrifying.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

This Week's Specials • **This Week's Specials** • **This Week's Specials**

- Original Philly Beef Sandwich Slices**, 10 lbs. **\$38⁶⁵**
- Crystal Cove Cooked Shrimp** 2 lbs. **\$13⁹⁵**
- Hillshire Farm Smoked Cheddarwurst**, 13.5 oz. (Case of 12, \$29.15) **\$2⁶⁵**
- Jennie-O Oven Roasted Chicken Breast**, 6.6 lbs. **\$9⁹⁵**
- Jamestown Smoked Pork Chops**, **\$1⁹⁵/lb.**
- Crinkle Cut Fries** 28 oz. **\$2⁹⁵**
- Alexia Organic Sweet Potato Fries** 15 oz. (Case of 12, \$15.95) **\$1⁴⁵**
- Pillsbury Original Crescent Rolls**, 8 oz. (Case of 12, \$19.25) **\$1⁷⁵**
- Pillsbury Monster Cookie Dough** 1 lb. (Case of 12, \$21.45) **\$1⁹⁵**
- Blumenkase Cheese** 3.75 lbs..... **\$10⁶⁵**

Yoplait Raspberry Yogurt with Chocolate, 6 oz., case of 12 .. **\$3⁹⁵**

Planters Honey Roasted Peanuts 1 oz. pks/18 pks (144 pks, \$29.00) **\$4²⁵**

Snyder's Cheddar Pretzel Pieces 6 oz. (Case of 12, \$17.05) **\$1⁵⁵**

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CLUES ACROSS

- Unsheared sheep
- Rock TV channel
- Streetcar
- Concerning
- Expression of recognition
- Greek goddess of youth
- An iPad is one
- Adult beverage
- Manning and Wallach are two
- Makes a petty verbal attack
- Tyrior Lannister's nickname
- Pointed ends of pens
- Wristwatches
- Body part
- Made a mistake
- Adjusted
- Turkish honorific title
- Yell
- Historic Alabama city
- Cub
- Type of sea bass dish
- To call (archaic)
- Unfortunate
- Separate oneself from others
- Hero sandwiches
- Former OSS
- Open spaces in a forest
- Innermost brain membranes
- Fortune
- Hunting expedition
- Doomed queen Boleyn
- Peyton's little brother
- Type of wrap
- Scottish tax
- Soviet Socialist Republic

- An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

- Works of body art
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- A desert in Asia
- Eat greedily
- Doomed French queen
- Beat
- One who survives on blood
- As a consequence
- Counted on
- Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science
- Unclean
- One who does not drink
- Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
- __ student, learns healing
- Bacterial skin infection
- Expresses surprise
- What one says on a wedding day

- Crony
- Where you entered the world (abbr.)
- Unit of length
- Side that is sheltered from the wind
- More (Spanish)
- Autonomic nervous system
- Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
- Statements that something is untrue
- Greek alphabet letter
- Suspends from above
- Popular types of cigars
- Girls
- U.S. philosopher and logician
- Nocturnal hooved animal
- Relaxing spaces
- From a distance
- Form of Persian
- Amounts of time
- Trigonometric function

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Lenten

Dining Guide

Fish Fry, Seafood and MORE!



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Check out our Facebook page for our weekly Friday specials!

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Side Options: German & American Potato Salad, Baked Potato (after 4pm), Brew Pub Fries & Cottage Cheese.
Check out our FACEBOOK for more specials!

Treu's Tic Toc
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Wausau Eagles Club #251
1703 S 3rd Ave., Wausau
715-845-4795
Fish Fry Hours:
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Wednesdays: Lightly Breaded Haddock, Jumbo Tiger Shrimp, Fish & Shrimp Combo and Fish Tacos.
Fridays: Haddock (Lightly Breaded, Beer Battered & Baked) Pan Fried Walleye, Perch, Jumbo Tiger Shrimp, Fish & Shrimp Combos, Smelt, Haddock & Walleye Sandwiches and Soup of the day.
Check out our FACEBOOK for more specials

This page will run weekly through April 16th.
If you would like to be included for only \$45/wk.
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Springing Forward and Maintaining Healthy Sleep During Daylight Saving Time

Sleep is foundational to our physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

ASPIRUS HEALTH

As we prepare to “spring forward” on Sunday, March 9, it’s a great time to highlight the importance of healthy sleep habits—not just for adjusting to Daylight Saving Time (DST) but for overall well-being.

Losing even one hour of sleep can disrupt our internal clocks, leaving us feeling sluggish, irritable, and unfocused. Research shows that people tend to lose about 40 minutes of sleep in the transition from standard time to DST, especially on the Monday following the change.

Sleep Awareness Week (March 9–15) serves as a reminder that consistent, high-quality sleep is essential for physical and mental health. While the time change can be disruptive, there are ways to minimize its effects.

“Practice good sleep hygiene,” says Rebecca Wagner, Aspirus Polysomnographic Technologist. “Don’t try to take naps to make up for the sleep loss, avoid rigorous activity before bed and limit your screen time before bed.”

For those who struggle with persistent sleep difficulties, a professional sleep study might provide answers. Sleep studies at Aspirus monitor vital signs, oxygen levels, and sleep patterns to diagnose conditions like sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome, REM sleep behavior disorders, insomnia, and narcolepsy.

“Sleep is foundational to our physical, mental, and emotional well-being,” says Wagner. “Insufficient sleep can lead to memory problems, increased anxiety, depression, and additional strain on bodily functions.”

Aspirus Health encourages individuals to take proactive steps in maintaining healthy sleep habits to ensure a smooth transition into DST and to support long-term sleep health.

For more information about sleep health and services available at Aspirus, visit aspirus.org/sleep-medicine.



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9:30 PM	\$1,000 CASH
10:00 PM	LAWN MOWER
10:30 PM	\$1,500 CASH
11:00 PM	TRACTOR
11:30 PM	\$2,000 CASH
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FRIDAY & SATURDAY | 12PM - MIDNIGHT

HO-CHUNK GAMING

WITTENBERG

State Budget Bright Spots Abound in 2025, But Caution Also Warranted

Governor's ambitious budget includes major initiatives, but at sizable cost

MARK SOMMERHAUSER, WI POLICY FORUM, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR & RESEARCHER

As Wisconsin's next state budget debate begins, state finances appear stronger than at most points in the 21st century, buoyed by low unemployment and a balance in its main fund of more than \$4 billion.

Yet the near-term outlook suggests state finances may be nearing an inflection point, the Wisconsin Policy Forum's new state budget brief finds. The state's main fund is now spending more than it takes in, and its budget reserves, while sizable, are shrinking. Meanwhile, the Democratic governor and GOP Legislature are eying the state's reserves and offering tax and spending plans that would deplete it and potentially leave the state with future budget gaps.

Our budget brief focuses primarily on Evers' state budget proposal, which if enacted, would represent the largest percentage increase on record in state spending. It would boost state aid for K-12 schools and local governments, make the largest infusion of state dollars into the Universities of Wisconsin in a generation, provide state support for private child care, and address priorities such as broadband expansion and lead remediation.

To cover these commitments, the plan would reduce the state's general fund balance from nearly \$4.3 billion to \$646 million, though it would also leave roughly \$2 billion in the state's rainy day fund. The bill would also raise state taxes on net by more than \$2 billion over two years, while also including \$1 billion in measures to hold down local property taxes.

If adopted, Evers' plan would leave the state with a two-year structural deficit of roughly \$4 billion.

This would make it difficult to balance the 2027-29 budget, even if the economy remains strong and does not succumb to recent drops in the stock market and consumer sentiment.

"Some further use of the state's massive surplus is expected and welcome given the state's many challenges," the brief finds. "But taxpayers have good reason to watch both sides in this process carefully to ensure the final budget does not erode too many of the state's hard-won financial gains."

Record spending
Evers' budget proposal would increase spending -- both in the state's main fund and across all funds-- by the largest percentage on record. Appropriations from general purpose revenue (GPR), the state's primary and most flexible form of revenue, would total \$25.49 billion in the 12-month fiscal year ending in June 2026, a 19.2% jump over the prior year base budget.

Proposed expenditures across all state funds would rise by \$9.92 billion over base levels in 2026 to \$59.36 billion and then rise an additional \$254.7 million to \$59.6 billion in 2027. All funds spending, when compared to the base budget, would climb 20.3% over the two years.

Most of the added spending would go to K-12 education and the Department of Public Instruction (an additional \$3.4 billion over the two years), local governments and tax relief (a combined \$1.1 billion), and the Universities of Wisconsin (\$691.6 million). Large increases also would go to the Department of Children and Families, largely for child care (\$601.2 million), and the Department of Corrections to cover rising costs from employee raises and other factors (\$522.3 million).

New and major initiatives

The governor's capital budget is expected to propose transforming and modernizing the state prison system at a total cost of \$500 million. The plan would close Green Bay Correctional Institution, convert Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake into a medium-security prison for men, convert Waupun Correctional Institution into a medium-security "vocational village" prison, and move some youth at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake to a new facility in Dane County.

Another operating budget proposal aims to address growing concerns about the cost, access, and quality of child care. Evers' proposal would spend \$480 million over two years to fully reinstate the pandemic-era Child Care Counts program, which paid child care providers with the goal of expanding families' access to affordable care, increasing workers' pay, and improving the quality of care.

The governor's proposal includes policy shifts, as well as sizable funding for initiatives, many of which are one-time in nature. One key proposal would create a Public Intervenor Office, which the governor says would assist Wisconsinites in dealing with claims disputes with their health insurers.

The governor proposes a \$400 million one-time expenditure for grants to deploy high-speed broadband to hard-to-serve areas. His budget would provide \$100 million in one-time funding to remediate lead in schools, homes, and child care centers. It would spend \$145 million to help address the health risks of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS. And it would provide \$140 million to continue a grant program to address workforce challenges across the state.

Tax increases, cuts
To help finance its spending, the budget

would raise individual and corporate income taxes. The largest increase would be the creation of a bracket with a marginal rate of 9.8% for filers with taxable income over \$1 million, which would generate an estimated \$1.3 billion in revenue over

the next two years. These changes are unlikely to be passed by the Legislature, but if approved along with some tax cuts they would amount to a net general fund revenue increase of \$2.4 billion over two years.

At the same time, the

governor proposes nearly \$1.1 billion over two years in new state aid intended to slow the growth of property tax levies. That includes more than \$375 million in state general aid to K-12 districts that effectively would force districts to

lower local property taxes. Another \$375 million would increase the state's school levy tax credit, thereby buying down local property taxes. The final \$339 million in state aid goes to counties and municipalities to reduce property taxes.

OBITUARIES

Blyton, Joyce Marie



Joyce Marie Blyton, a constant source of love and guidance, at 67, passed away on December 3, 2024 at her home in the Village of Spencer. Born to Harvey and Rose (Bauer) Blyton on January 26, 1957, in Wausau, Wisconsin, Joyce's life was a testament to her loving, independent, and curious nature. Her radiant spirit and unwavering determination touched many people, especially her coworkers and the children she worked so hard to help.

She was a proud graduate of Wittenberg-Biramwood High School. Her passion for learning, teaching and helping others led her to UW-Marathon County and then to UW-Stevens Point, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees. Joyce's calling as a Speech and Language Pathologist allowed her to make a significant impact on countless lives.

For nearly five decades, she dedicated herself to the well-being of others, especially those with special needs through her work with Wausau Hospital Neuro-Developmental Clinic, Marathon County Special Education, and Spencer Public Schools. She had a unique ability to help kids make improvements and reach goals due to her lifelong love of play. She was successful because she was always a big kid at heart.

Joyce's love for her community was matched only by her love of her family. She was married to John Gunderson, and from this albeit short lived union, they were blessed with a son, Aaron Gunderson of Spencer, who will forever hold his mother's memory in his heart. She is also survived by many cousins who she would speak of as if they were her siblings. Joyce's parents, Harvey and Rose Blyton, preceded her in death.

Joyce's zest for life was apparent in her many interests. She had a special place in her heart for children, always striving to make things better and guiding those around her with wisdom and persistence. Her gardening was a place where she found tranquility and joy passed down to her from her mother and reflecting her own nurturing soul. Joyce found comfort in the simple pleasures of watching movies and discussing them and the companionship of animals, which brought her immeasurable happiness. Oreo probably misses her most of all.

As we bid farewell to Joyce, we are reminded of the profound impact one person can have on the world. Her legacy of love, service, and dogged determination will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to have known her. In our lives we all strive to find our purpose and know that in her life Joyce found hers and knew what she was put on this earth to do and gave it everything she had every single opportunity.

Joyce's arrangements are entrusted to Life Tributes Funeral Home-Spencer. Memorial Services to celebrate her extraordinary life will be held from 3 PM to 6 PM on Friday, March 28, 2025 at Life Tributes Funeral Home, 901 South LaSalle Street, Spencer, WI 54479 and again from 3 PM to 6 PM on Friday, April 4, 2025 at Schmidt Schulta Funeral Home, 445 Main Street, Birnamwood, WI 54414, where family and friends will be able to share stories and memories about Joyce. To share a memory or offer condolences, please visit www.lifetributesfuneralhome.com.

Joyce's memory will live on in the hearts of all who loved her, and her spirit will continue to guide us, just as it did throughout her remarkable life. She touched many lives but was the mother to only one...and she is sorely missed.

This quotation was found on her desk, and it feels like a final message from her. "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Human Body Design

Dear Reader,

When we stop to think about the design of the human body, we might find ourselves wondering if it could have been crafted more efficiently. Consider the everyday processes of hydration and nutrition: why must we spend so much of our lives urinating or expelling waste from our bodies? Couldn't we have been designed to hydrate through the skin, or metabolize food directly into energy without the need for waste?



It's a curious thought experiment—imagining a body that functions without the need to "offload" its excesses, freeing us from the sometimes inconvenient realities of biological maintenance. Wouldn't it be wonderful to live unencumbered by these daily rituals, focusing solely on the higher pursuits of life?

Yet, when we reflect more deeply, we realize that the human body as it is designed is nothing short of miraculous. It's a complex, harmonious system where countless processes—digestion, circulation, respiration—work in synchrony to sustain us. These so-called inefficiencies might actually be part of the greater design, teaching us humility and grounding us in the rhythms of life. They remind us of our interconnectedness with nature and the delicate balance we inhabit.

Could there have been a "better" design? Perhaps. But then, would we be the same creatures we are now—resilient, adaptable, and marvelously imperfect? Perhaps the true genius of the human design lies not in its flawlessness, but in its resilience and ability to grow through imperfection.

PATRICK J. WOOD
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Healthy Eating: Discover the importance of balanced nutrition through

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interactive way.” – Jenna Trzebiatowski, 1st-Year Medical Student, Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin. Parents are encouraged to participate, and surveys will be available to gather insights on the learning experience. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to inspire the next generation of healthcare heroes!



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