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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 ■ VOLUME 41 ■ ISSUE 11 ■ 715.384.4440 ■ MARSHFIELD, WI

Columbus Catholic Schools sends 16 musicians to State Solo & Ensemble Competition

FOR CITY TIMES
 MARSHFIELD – During the WSMA (Wisconsin State Music Association) District Solo & Ensemble Competition on Feb. 21, 2025 (hosted at Columbus Catholic High/Middle School), 16 Columbus events were able to move onto the state competition which will be held Saturday May 3, 2025 at UW-Stevens Point at the College of Letters and Science.

- CCS band events who will be going to state include:**
1. Flute Choir
 2. Mariachi Band
 3. Mary Keding, Jazz Brass Improvisation Solo
 4. Brass Choir
 5. Hawaiian Combo
 6. Creative Jazz Combo
 7. Jazz Ensemble Open Class
 8. African Drums

9. Native American Combo
 10. Jackson Bernitt, Bb Tenor Saxophone Solo
 11. Appalachian Combo
- CCS choir events who will be going to state include:**
1. Ella Kadolph, Music Theater – Soprano/Alto Solo – AND – Ella Kadolph, Soprano Solo



Ella Kadolph is a Sophomore at Columbus Catholic High School and a member of the CCHS Concert Choir. She will be going to the State Solo & Ensemble Festival with two of her events.

See SOLO page 5

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Timeless Tales presents an evening of local history and culture with On Wisconsin!

BY KATIE SCHIMKE

MARSHFIELD – Hosted by the Friends of Marshfield Public Library, the community enjoyed an evening of art, literature, and food on March 8. Local author John Armbruster read a portion of his novel, *Tailspin*. *Tailspin* follows the story of World War II tail gunner Gene Moran who falls four miles through the sky without a parachute and survives, who is then

captured by the Germans where he endures a 600 mile death march across Europe. Nearly seventy years later, a young history teacher named John works to bring Gene's story to the page nearly seventy years after it happened. Hub City Jazz performed during the event, featuring songs such as On Wisconsin!, Go! Pack! Go!, The Girl from East Neenah, and more.



Hub City Jazz



John Armbruster, reading from his novel Tailspin.



Bailey Conner and Campbell Cutlan.

PHOTO BY KRIS LEONHARDT

Wood County Master Gardener Association to host arborist Steve Hollar

FOR CITY TIMES
MARSHFIELD – Wood County Master Gardener Association's (WCMGA) first meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 25, at 6 p.m. will host Arborist Steve Hollar of ArborVantage Tree Service in Milladore who will talk on Tree and Shrub Care. This event is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Pittsville Community Center, 5291 3rd Ave, Pittsville.

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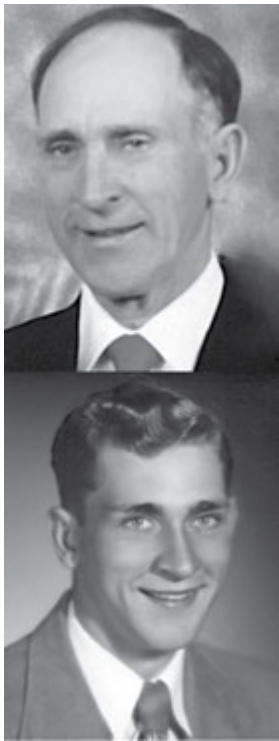
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| OBITUARIES |



MARK D. LOBNER
Mark D. Lobner, age 65, of Sierra Vista, AZ, passed away on February 17, 2025, in Tucson, AZ.
Mark was born on June 3, 1959, in Marshfield, WI to Roman and Henrietta Lobner. He graduated from Auburndale High School in 1977.
Mark received his bachelor's degree from UW-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI, and his Masters of Arts degree from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX. He joined the army in 1984 and made that his career for the next 21 years. Mark held many titles in the army including Division Senior Interrogator, Platoon Sergeant, and Active Component/Reserve Component Interrogation Training NCO. The military gave Mark many opportunities to tour the world, and he was able to visit much of Europe including France, Germany, and Russia. Some of his many duty stations included Germany, California, Texas, Georgia, and Arizona. Mark retired in 2005 with the rank of Sergeant First Class. After his military retirement, Mark went on to teach for the military as both a foreign language and interrogation instructor.
Mark had a real gift for languages and was fluent in German, Russian, Arabic, and French. Anyone who knew Mark knew that he had the gift of gab and could talk for hours about so many subjects. He also greatly enjoyed reading and would immerse himself in books on many different topics. Mark took great pride in being well-dressed and his collection of suits and ties was a wonder to behold.
Mark is survived by his partner of over 20 years, Roberto Leon (San Jose, CA), and his siblings Teresa Fuller (DeKalb, IL), Al (Alita) Lobner (Milladore), Ralph (Kathy) Lobner (DeForest), Mary (John) Spindler (Rozellville), Tim (Bonnie) Lobner (Colorado Springs, CO), Diane (Mark) Sorvald (Colorado Springs, CO), Lisa (Gary) Wolf (Plover), Joe (Lisa) Lobner (Auburndale), Russ (Shannon) Lobner (Plover), Eric (Christy) Lobner (Columbus) and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roman and Henrietta Lobner.
A Mass of Christian Burial for Mark will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, July 18, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Auburndale, with visitation from 9:00 am until the time of service. Burial will be held in the parish cemetery.
Condolences may be sent online at www.rembsfh.com



RICHARD GEORGE BREU
Richard George Breu, 93, passed peacefully on March 9 at the Aster Retirement Community in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Richard was born in Marshfield in 1931 to Walter and Frances (Kolbeck) Breu. He grew up on a dairy farm and was educated in Auburndale. He married Lorraine Schill at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Auburndale on May 20, 1952. Richard was drafted in 1953 and served in the United States Army as a clerk typist in a medical depot. After service in 1955, he and Lorraine became dairy farmers in Auburndale until they retired in 1983. The arrival of each of their four daughters was special, and he treasured his role as a father. Later, they moved to Marshfield and enjoyed family gatherings and playing cards with friends. Richard was an involved community member, loved his family, and had a variety of outdoor interests.
He will be missed most of all by his loving family, wife Lorraine and four daughters: Marla Hartley of Neillsville, and her children Ashley (Spencer) Hokanson and Brandon Hartley both of Minneapolis, Janice (Dale) Ladd of Neillsville, and their children Travis Ladd, Matthew Ladd, and Shannon Ladd, Sandra (Jerry) Stargardt of Marshfield, and their children Tyler (Kendra) Stargardt of Minneapolis and Tiffany (Jake) Lenz of Marshfield, Tricia (Bill) Forbes of Wausau, and their children Morgan and Ethan, and two great-grandchildren Jace and Ava.
Richard has joined family in heaven including his parents Walter and Frances Breu, in laws, Edward and Margaret Schill, his brother Wally A. Breu, brother-in-laws Marvin Schill, James Kraus, Art Schill, and sister-in-law Janet Schill.
Richard is also survived by four sister-in-laws and three brother-in-laws: Joan Breu of Hubertus, Irene Kraus of Janesville, Bernice (Ronald) McDermott of Milton, and Carol (Dan) Mancl of Wisconsin Rapids, Albert (Frances) Schill of Marshfield, Kenneth (Annette) Schill of Stratford, and LeRoy Schill of Hurley.
A mass of christian burial occurred on Saturday, March 15 at St. Mary's Church, 5856 Main Street, Auburndale.



WANDA EDNA SHUPE
Wanda Edna Shupe, age 83, Marshfield, passed away peacefully at her home on December 15, 2024.
Wanda was born on February 22, 1941, in Marshfield to Alfred and Edna (Mews) Kohl. On November 28, 1959, she was united in marriage to Bruce Shupe. They had one son, Dean.
In her early years, she enjoyed cooking, knitting, sewing, and spending time at Hultman Lake where she and Bruce had a camper parked for many years. She began collecting antiques specializing in Carnival Glass and Red Wing pottery, and many miles were traveled to antique shops and Red Wing Collectors' conventions. After Dean graduated from high school in 1978, she decided to work outside the home and obtained a Medical Assistant diploma from Mid-State Technical College. She worked as a certified medical assistant at Marshfield Clinic Oncology Department for 26 years. In her retirement years, she enjoyed Sheepshead card club with the gang and watch wildlife in the backyard.
She is survived by her husband, Bruce, son, Dean (Colleen), three grandchildren, Kristy (Nick Ludwiczak) Peterson, Kara (Matt) Houck, and Joshua (Rachael) Shupe, seven great-grandchildren and one on the way. She is also leaving behind dear friends, Holly Zopfi and Gayle Kronberger.
She was preceded in death by her parents and great grandson, Vincent Kohl Houck.
The family wishes to express their thanks to Compassus Home Hospice for the compassionate care during Wanda's decline.
A Celebration of Life will be held at Rembs Celebration Center, 250 S. Oak Ave., Marshfield, Wisconsin, on Saturday, April 5, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Meal will be served at 1:00 p.m.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS), Marshfield House of the Dove, or Marshfield Clinic Cancer Care Research Center.



SOLO
from page 1

2. Trinity Brunzo, Soprano Solo
3. Jenny Schneider, Alto Solo
Since this year's Solo & Ensemble Competition was hosted at Columbus Catholic High/Middle School, middle school students also had the opportunity to compete.
Middle school event that will be going to state:
1. Ava Keding & Caspar Kroening, Class A Duet
"To say I am proud of all my students is an understatement," said Ashley Nikolai, the Columbus Catholic Middle/High School Concert Choir Director. "I look forward to another wonderful performance for those advancing to state in May! Great job band and choir students!"
"I am so pleased to have such success with great kids and musicians at my last Solo/Ensemble at Columbus," said Mr. Zimmerman, the CCHS Concert Band Director.
Middle School Band Director, Danielle Wolf, said "For many middle school students, this was their first experience at solo and ensemble, and I am incredibly proud of how they embraced the challenge. I am very excited to see how they continue to grow as musicians in the years to come."

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Mid-State to host fourth annual Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo

FOR CITY TIMES
WISCONSIN RAPIDS
– Mid-State Technical College will host the fourth annual Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo on Wednesday, April 30, at the Wisconsin Rapids Campus from 10a.m. to 3p.m.
The in-person expo is the result of a partnership with UW-Madison Extension, Wisconsin Potato Vegetable Growers Association, regional watershed groups, nonprofit organizations, Wood County Land and Water Conservation staff and agricultural and natural resource specialists.
The Farm Profitability Expo is designed to encourage profitable farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs and increasing a farmer's return on investment.
Attendees will learn about best-management practices farmers can use to take advantage of what nature has to offer and increase self-sufficiency on the farm, such as regenerative management, managed grazing, cover and companion crops and no-till farming. They will also explore the specific barriers central Wisconsin farmers are experiencing when adopting best management practices through discussion with fellow farmers who have implemented these practices.
This event is free to participants due to funding provided by Wood County Land and Water Conservation. Certified Crop Adviser's (CCA) credits will be offered to all attendees. Registration is required by Thursday, April 24. Learn more and register at mstc.edu/farm-expo.

ADRC offering caregiver class

FOR CITY TIMES
MARSHFIELD – The ADRC is offering another "Managing Caregiver Stress Workshop" in Marshfield at the 2nd Street Community Center on Tuesday, April 8 from 2:00pm - 3:00pm.
This is a free workshop intended for those caring for a family member or close friend. The workshop is not designed for professional caregivers as it does not address workplace stressors. If someone is interested but they are not able to attend the in-person workshop, there is a virtual option from 5:00 - 6:00pm on the same day.
Registration is required by calling the ADRC at 888-486-9545.

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Jerry Harvey receives National Recognition

BY DANIELLE SNEDEKER

MARSHFIELD – Jerry Harvey, a well seasoned turkey hunter, received national recognition this year at the 49th annual National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) convention with a conservation award. Since 1997, Jerry has contributed as a member of the NWTf State Chapter Board of Directors. For over 35 years, his passion and dedication to the midwestern bird has kept Jerry heavily involved in the community. Through volunteer work and wearing many hats, Jerry helped start organizations such as the Wisconsin Marshfield Area Gobblers. Currently, he serves as treasurer, banquet chair, and president of the city’s chapter.

“I’ve reached the top as far as I can go.” Jerry said. “I’ve been passionate about turkeys since I was 15. Grabbed one of my grandpa’s magazines, started hunting with my father, and then it was me and my older brother and life long friend, Gary. We would trade hunting on farms and walk back and forth.” Some of Jerry’s proudest accolades involve the youth around the city of Marshfield. When Jerry paved the way for



Landowner Appreciation Days, he served as chairman for a few years. On a national scale, Jerry collaborated with the JAKES coordinator to launch the Extreme JAKES magazine. The JAKES program is known for their art contest. At the beginning of Jerry’s time with the JAKES program, there were only 72 participants. “We went to the WIAA office to get a book of all the schools in Wisconsin, and invited all of the art departments to get involved with the contest,” Jerry said. “All the way up to

650 entries statewide. And when we sent the art work to a national level, we had 16-17 winners our first year! Out of 18 spots.” Jerry continued to volunteer for the contest until it was terminated in 2008. His generosity moved forward as chairman of the Wisconsin State Raffle Committee, where he advocated for the High School Outdoor Clay Target League to get involved. Jerry was successful, selling a net worth of \$2,700 in tickets and over \$8,000 in 2024. Half of the proceeds



went to the schools need for sports supplies. “They’re expanding every year,” Jerry emphasized. “Another thing that sticks in my mind is the hunting I get to do with Gary. He has a game farm in Marshfield. I don’t know how it started or got put together, but we take handicapped hunters out pheasant hunting. A lot of them are handicapped veterans. And let me tell you, we have a blast!” Jerry and Gary have been taking veterans out hunting for six years now. “To get these women and men out there to harvest a bird. . .you wouldn’t believe how it makes you feel. It’s totally amazing.” Apart from the award sitting on Jerry’s counter, his most recent accomplishment is the Wisconsin Wall



of Fame. There are now 25 inductees on the wall. “We tried to pick the people that have done so much to restore the wild turkey to Wisconsin. The leaders and people that were involved put about 1.5 million into conservation every two years,” Jerry said. Finally, when asked if he

was planning on displaying his award somewhere special in his home, Jerry said. “It has its place in the corner curial cabinet, once I get done braggin’ about it!” Jerry jokes. At 80 years old, Jerry plans on staying involved in the community and is ready for the upcoming turkey season.

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Mid-State Technical College hosts Farm Tour and Wisconsin Technical College System Ag Day Celebration

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – Mid-State Technical College hosted this year’s Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Ag Day Celebration in conjunction with its annual Farm Tour on Tuesday, March 11. Participants experienced a day dedicated to celebrating agriculture in Wisconsin while exploring the latest technology and agricultural practices designed to enhance farming operations. The event was attended by local and state leaders, educators, students, industry representatives, farmers and professionals.

“This event is about so much more than recognizing agriculture’s impact,” said Dr. Alex Lendved, dean of Mid-State’s Marshfield Campus and School of Applied Technology. “It’s about fostering partnerships, sharing ideas and ensuring that future generations continue to grow and thrive in this industry.”

The day started with a breakfast in honor of the WTCS Ag Day Celebration at the American Legion in Marshfield. Attendees heard from special guest speakers, including a welcome from Marshfield City Mayor Lois TeStrake and remarks from WTCS President Layla Merrifield, Mid-State President Dr. Shelly Mondeik and State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Assistant Deputy Secretary Mike Strigel.

“Agriculture is very much the backbone of our district as well as the backbone of Wisconsin, in many ways,” said Mid-State President Dr. Shelly Mondeik. “Our farmers and our ag businesses make life

possible for all of us. It’s an honor for our college to not only be able to support agriculture but to be able to offer agricultural programming and, today, to advocate for it as well.”

According to DATCP Assistant Deputy Secretary Strigel, agriculture in Wisconsin is a \$116 billion dollar industry with one in 10 jobs being directly tied to agriculture. Strigel further noted that “10 percent of Wisconsin farmers are considered young and emerging,” much higher than the national average.

Layla Merrifield, WTCS president, connected those numbers to the evolving support Wisconsin’s technical colleges provide to meet the changing needs of farmers. “Today’s programs are teaching things like drone piloting, iPad apps and artificial intelligence, and our ag programs produce hundreds of graduates every year that fill many available positions statewide



From left: Alex Lendved, Mid-State Technical College dean of the Marshfield Campus and School of Applied Technology; Lois TeStrake, Marshfield city mayor; Layla Merrifield, WTCS president; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State president; Mike Strigel, State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) assistant deputy secretary; and Mark Tyler, WTCS Board president.

to support this industry,” she said. “The evolution of these demands will continue as the ag industry continues to lead us in developing

new production methods and technologies that will help lead the world.”

Following the Ag Day breakfast, attendees toured

and learned from two farming operations. The tour focused on the use of modern technology to enhance efficiency as well as cow comfort and longevity at Romadka View Holsteins, a fifth-generation farm in Granton, Wis., owned and

operated by Mark and Kelli Elmhurst. Another larger dairy operation on the tour, Heeg Brothers Dairy, LLC, in Colby, Wis., featured expansion through new buildings and increased herd size.



Layla Merrifield, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) president, addresses attendees at the WTCS Ag Day celebration hosted by Mid-State Technical College, March 11, at the American Legion Post 54 in Marshfield.

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

GREENWOOD AREA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL NEWS

Greenwood High School Greenhouse

It is time to think spring! The Greenwood Agriculture Department and FFA Chapter will be hosting a spring plant sale. Agriculture students and FFA members will work tirelessly to grow beautiful hanging baskets, bedding plants

and vegetables for all of your garden needs! Be sure to follow the school website and Facebook page as well as TRG publications for more information regarding sale times and locations.

The Greenwood Spanish Club is planning a cultural trip in March. The plan is to visit two places. The first is Eagle Eye Farm, near River Falls. They have llamas, alpacas, porcupines, and more to see, learn about, and interact with. Llamas and alpacas originated from the Andes Mountains in South American countries. Llamas and alpacas are central to Incan culture, and are often featured in festivals and ceremonies. Llamas are larger than alpacas and have been used for transporting items over mountainous terrain. Whereas the alpaca wool is softer and hypoallergenic, which is used in clothes and fabric. Llamas spit more than alpacas. It happens mostly when they show their dominance or when they feel threatened. (Tips: Avoid making loud noises around them. Signs that a llama will spit: flatten their ears back, puff air, and/or raise their nose up.)

After visiting the farm, the group will see a MLS Soccer

Game, Minnesota United FC. Sports serve as an opportunity to find common ground between races, origins, and cultures. Soccer is the number one sport in Spanish speaking countries (as well as many other countries). Major League Soccer first played in 1996 with ten teams. Now in 2025, there will be 30 teams competing.

Greenwood and Loyal Schools Proudly Present

BRINGING DOWN the HOUSE

By "Bill" Wagner

DIRECTED BY: ERIC ADAMS AND STEPHANIE GLASER

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: KELSEY HOVERSON

Greenwood High School

April 4, 2025 - 7:00 PM | April 5, 2025 - 7:00 PM

April 6, 2025 - 8:30 PM

Produced in special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Janesville, Wisconsin

The 1st and 3rd grade reading buddies enjoy working on reading projects together each week!



Help us save a life! The Greenwood FFA Spring Blood Drive will be March 21, 2025 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the High School East Gym. If you would like to schedule an appointment to donate blood at this drive please call the American Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767. Appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are welcome!

Reading with flexible seating... even if that means stealing the teachers chair!

The 2nd grade class learned about the advantages of different building materials and working as a team with a tower building competition.

Students in Mrs Jaenke's Parents and Children class earned the Infant and Toddler state certification through DPI along with college credit.

Members of Educators Rising attended the annual Leadership Conference at UWSP. They listened to keynote speakers, attended breakout sessions, and collaborated with many other members from other schools during this event.

4K has been learning about teeth; animal and human. They discussed how teeth are used, how we take care of our teeth, foods that are good for our teeth and those that aren't as good as well as how the dentist helps us take care of our teeth. They concluded by making apple smiles for a snack.

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

LOYAL AREA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL NEWS



Title 1 Family Night

On Monday, March 3 students and their families were invited to our annual Family Night. This year the elementary students participated in Camp Learn-A-Lot by engaging in fun activities and games. Camping Bingo, reading by flash-light, fishing for sight words, and Lego challenges were some of the activities that everyone enjoyed. The middle school students joined with their families on Escape to Adventure by working through Escape Room games to earn gift cards! They went on an adventure in the library trying to find answers to their riddles and puzzles. We had over 100 participants for the night, and Mrs. Odeen's high school classes prepared take home picnics for all the families who attended. We had some amazing high school students volunteer to help with our activities, and Mrs. Heiting did an incredible job organizing the escape games. Everyone was able to take books and games home to practice their skill and to have fun family activities to do together. We look forward to seeing our students and families grow in their love for reading and math!

Mrs. Geiger
Mrs. Lind
Mrs. Smith





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| POLICE CALLS |

On March 7 a caller in Wisconsin Rapids notified police that a semi-truck was fully engulfed in flames.

On March 7 a caller from Seneca reported that a neighbor's dog had killed four of their goats.

On March 7 Wood County Sheriff's Department received a call that a child was out of control and screaming and kicking.

On March 7 a Grand Rapids caller reported a "strange" car in a driveway for the second time in a week, the caller stated that it was making them feel unsafe.

On March 7 a caller in Marshfield reported hearing "banging" outside their residence. No one was found but there were footprints found around the residence, however it is not known if the footprints were there prior to this event or not.

On March 8 a Grand Rapids caller reported hearing a loud bang followed by losing all the power in their residence.

On March 8 a caller from Milladore reported underage drinking. The caller described finding broken bottles and stated they would be talking to other parents about the incident.

On March 8 in Nekoosa a caller notified

police that a boy, who was unknown to the callers, threatened to rape their grandson.

On March 8 in Sigel, a caller notified police that an individual was in St. John's Cemetery and voicing intentions of committing suicide.

On March 9 in Marshfield a caller described being attacked by dogs and was bitten on both arms.

On March 9 a caller in Rudolph notified police that there was an injured bald eagle on the side of the road that was not capable of flying.

On March 10 a caller from Grand Rapids described that a baby had swallowed the top cap of a bottle but was breathing.

On March 10 a welfare check was requested in Biron. A male was seen walking on a dock with a string tied around a rock.

On March 11 a caller from Nekoosa requested assistance in helping get a child out of a locked car. The car was running but the key and keyfob would not work to open the vehicle, while the child remained inside.



LINNEA J. MATTHIESEN



MARTY WELTER OF MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

New poll finds tie between Schimel and Crawford

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – New polling released by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) shows the candidates for the Wisconsin Supreme Court tied among likely voters for the April 1 election.

The polling, conducted between March 9-10, shows a 47-47 split between former Attorney General Brad Schimel and Judge Susan Crawford. Five percent of voters are yet undecided in the race.

“Like many Wisconsin statewide elections, this race is very close and will come down to the wire,” shared WMC Vice President of Government Relations Scott Manley. “This is a winnable race for either candidate right now, and will simply boil down to whichever side does a better job of getting out their voters. It really cannot be overstated how much is on the line.”



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The Alexander House
celebrates photography
exhibit opening March 28

FOR CITY TIMES

WOOD COUNTY – The Alexander House will celebrate an opening reception on Friday, March 28, 2025,

from 5 to 8 p.m. to open a new photography exhibit by members of the Focal Point Camera Club and PSA Wisconsin Chapter.

Meet the artists, enjoy refreshments, and explore the exhibit in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The exhibition will be on view through May 6, 2025, with gallery hours on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.

The Focal Point Camera Club is made up of a group of photographers who meet to share and enhance their photography skills. Members consist of area professionals, advanced amateurs and those just beginning their journey into photography. Members photograph a wide range of subjects including nature, birds and animals, scenics, macro, portraiture, sports and more.

The Focal Point Camera Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month from Sept. through May. Meetings start at 6:30pm and are mostly held over Zoom. New Members are always welcome and may attend 2 meetings at no charge.

Each month offers a program or critique session and one inter club contest each year.

PSA (Photographic Society of America) is a worldwide non-profit organization for anyone with an interest in photography.

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Domtar announces startup of new PCC Plant at Nekoosa Mill

FOR CITY TIMES
WOOD COUNTY – In 2020, the PCC plant that supplied multiple Wisconsin paper mills, including Domtar’s Rothschild and Nekoosa facilities, closed. PCC is a vital component of paper, comprising up to 25 percent of the final sheet content. As a result, PCC previously sourced approximately 10 miles from the Nekoosa mill required shipping from a supplier located 200 miles away in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The high water content of PCC when shipped over this distance meant the cost to transfer

the product exceeded the value of the ingredient itself. Domtar and Omya researched constructing a four-story PCC plant at the Nekoosa mill. Studies by Omya and AFRY, an engineering consulting firm serving the pulp and paper industry, confirmed Nekoosa as a viable location for such a plant, offering proper carbon dioxide content, secondary CO2 supply options, favorable logistics and sufficient product storage capability. In July 2022, the companies agreed to build a 27,500 dry-ton-per-year Omya-designed, -owned and -operated PCC plant within

the Nekoosa mill’s existing footprint. The plant would supply PCC to the Nekoosa and Rothschild mills, in addition to external customers. Central procurement was instrumental through the entire project, ensuring a reliable PCC supply chain to the mills while facilitating collaborative capital project development, approval and execution. Construction was complete by July 2024, and the PCC plant became operational in September 2024. “This investment demonstrates our commitment to supporting the paper industry by providing sustainable, high-quality solutions that enhance production efficiency and reduce environmental impact,” says Marty Sheehan, Omya’s North American sales director. “We are dedicated to innovation and partnerships



Left to right: Andrew Smith (Finance Director), Steve Henry (President of Paper and Packaging), Bill Edwards (Senior Vice President of Pulp, Paper, and Packaging Operations), Mike Verhulst (Senior Project Manager), Greg Linscott (Vice President of Manufacturing)

that drive the future of paper manufacturing.” “By executing this high-ROI, three-year project with a strategic partner, Nekoosa now has an unlimited supply of PCC on-site that allows for flexibility in our papermaking schedules and effective grade

development,” says Jason McCauley, Nekoosa mill general manager.

PUBLISHER’S LETTER

Luck O’ The Irish

Dear Reader,
Another Saint Patrick’s Day is upon us, and for one day, everyone—Irish or not—joins in the celebration. On this day, we revel in the so-called “luck of the Irish” and pass it along to everyone we meet.
But what is luck, really? Some see it as pure serendipity—good fortune striking at random, being in the right place at the right time. Luck, in this sense, feels fleeting, unpredictable, something that happens to you rather than something you create.
Yet, there’s another kind of luck—the kind that isn’t random at all. It’s the luck that comes from hard work integrity, and a commitment to doing what’s right. This kind of luck isn’t just stumbled upon; it’s earned. It’s built through perseverance, through lifting others up rather than stepping over them. It’s the luck that carries not just the fortunate individual but those around them as well.
Of course, there’s also another version of luck—the kind that comes at the expense of others. The luck of those who cut corners, take advantage, and push others down to climb higher. But that kind of luck is hollow, fleeting, and never truly fulfilling.
So this Saint Patrick’s Day, may you find yourself on the right side of luck—the kind that brings joy, kindness, and goodwill to all. May your blessings be many, your troubles be few, and your heart be as full as a pint of Guinness.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher
Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.



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The Unified School District of Marshfield is seeking request for proposal for LED Lighting 2025 Project. Interested candidates may request a qualification form by emailing **Aaron Heeg (Director of Buildings & Grounds) at heega@marshfieldschools.org** Qualification forms must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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Alex Hewett joins CWCC Board of Directors

FOR CITY TIMES
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Central Wisconsin Cultural Center (CWCC) announced that Alex Hewett has joined the Board of Directors. CWCC Board President Jim Lucas states, “We are thrilled to have Alex join the Cultural Center as a new board member. He is a well-respected attorney who knows the area well and has a commitment to our local arts community. Alex’s original scratch-board art was featured in our CWCC gallery several years ago showcasing his highly detailed, creative work and bringing great awareness to a unique engraving technique. We look



Hewett

forward to his insight and involvement on the board.” Hewett is an attorney with Nash Law Group in Wisconsin Rapids. In his free time, he enjoys scratch-board art, wood block carving, and printmaking.

Hewett resides in Wisconsin Rapids with his wife Allison and their daughter. CWCC’s arts-focused services and programs foster creative experiences through exhibits, art classes, music, music lessons, and an artist gift shop as vital elements of individual and community wellbeing. CWCC is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and other hours for classes, events, and music, 2651 8th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. For additional information, visit CulturalCenterArts.com or call 715-421-4598.

CLARK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Blinky, the CCHS Pet of the Week! Blinky came to CCHS as a transfer from another shelter that became very overpopulated. Blinky is a 4 1/2 year-old mixed breed that is as sweet and sassy as can be! She weighs 55 pounds. Blinky is a little on the shy side with strangers, but once she’s comfortable around you she really lets that quirky personality of hers shine through! Blinky is a spayed female and is quite pretty with her short-haired tan and white coat and perky ears. She loves to pick up her toy and carry it around when she sees people. Blinky did come to CCHS being blind in her right eye. The eye had worsened and started to cause pain for Blinky, so it has now been removed. Blinky recovered from that surgery like a champ and she can now be called Blinky Winky!! Though Blinky can get along great with other dogs, we still recommend that she is the only pet in the household as she can overstimulate easily. With any rescue dog, training and socialization is incredibly important to the success of the dog. If you’re looking for a new best friend, please apply to adopt Blinky today!



Clark County Humane Society can be reached during open hours of 12-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday. Phone number: 715-743-4550. Email: petshelter@email.com Mailing Address: CCHS, P.O. Box 127, Neillsville, WI 54456 Located at W3926 State Hwy 73, Neillsville, WI 54456 To fill out an application for Blinky head to Clark County Humane Society’s website or the application can be found at <https://www.cchs-petshelter.org/dog-adoption-application>.

2025 Wisconsin Rapids community tree sale

FOR CITY TIMES
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – The Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Department is once again offering its Community Tree Sale. Order a tree for yourself of the community. Deadline for orders is Monday, April 14, with pickup in early May at the City Garage (1411 Chase Street)
Five tree varieties are being offered this year:
Pink Sparkles Crab – Soft pink flowers and light-green foliage. Produce long-lasting, vibrant red decorative fruit. The cherry red fruit lasts the entire winter. Best for sunny locations. 12-15’ H x 10-12’ W, 5 foot tree: \$45
Spring Snow – Upright oval tree with fragrant white flowers in spring and bright yellow foliage in fall. This is

the only fruitless crabapple, so there is no clean up. Best for sunny locations. 20-25’ H x 15-20’ W, 5 foot tree: \$45
Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple – Upright round habit with thick, leathery, glossy green foliage that turns orange, red, and yellow in fall. Vigorous, fast grower. Best for sunny locations. 50-70’ H x 35-45’ W, 8 foot tree: \$100
Japanese Tree Lilac – Sturdy, compact, and fragrant tree with creamy white flower plumes that can grow to be 10-12” long. Best for sunny locations. 20-25’ H x 15-20’ W, 8-10’ tree: \$100
Canadian Hemlock – A graceful evergreen tree with loose, open growth, slender and drooping branches. Does well in shade, part shade, and sunny locations. 35-50’ H x 25-35’ W, 18” tree: \$30



To Order: Contact Sue Winch - swinch9@gmail.com or the Parks Department: (715) 421-8240 / parksdepartment@wirapids.org 220 3rd Avenue South, Suite 3. Cash or check only, unless paying at Parks & Recreation Office. Payment is due at time of order. Please provide your email address and cell number at time of order to be informed of pickup details.



Pictured are Pink Sparkles Crab and Canadian Hemlock.

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Bargender named Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter

FOR CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD – Abbotsford High School senior Tatum Bargender has been named the Abbotsford Lions Club Student of the Quarter for the third quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

Bargender carries a class schedule which includes Trigonometry, World Literature and Composition, Digital Marketing, Family Living, Feeding the World, Food Science I, and Student Teacher Aide. Her co-curricular activities include National Honor Society, FBLA, BLAST, FFA, and Safe School Ambassadors. She has also participated on the Softball, Volleyball, and Basketball teams.

Math teacher, Lori Kolar, highly recommended her for the Student-of-the-Quarter award. “Tatum is an exceptionally hard-working individual, consistently demonstrating a strong work ethic,” Kolar stated. “She approaches every task with a commendable level of diligence; her intelligence shines through as well as her ability to think critically and analyze complex problems. Her thoughtfulness enriches the classroom; she’s always willing to lend a helping hand. What truly distinguishes Tatum is her willingness to go above and beyond as a leader with a passion for making a positive impact in our community.”

Bargender’s volunteerism attests to her belief in community service. She has been actively involved by assisting at Red Cross Blood Drives, Booster



Bargender

Club concession stands, youth volleyball camps, and the special education classroom, helping coach youth softball, and participating in the Christmas Parade, the mock car accident for BLAST, and the community’s Earth Day cleanup.

When asked to identify an outstanding feature of the community, Tatum applauded the Abbotsford community and school district for “the diversity we offer which contributes to cultural

and social enrichment. By interacting with people from different backgrounds, we develop appreciation for other cultures and traditions which helps prevent stereotyping, increases economic benefits with a wide range of businesses to explore, and fosters a more inclusive environment. Diversity allows us to come together as a whole and better the well-being of those around us.”

When asked to define a major world problem, Bargender responded, “I would strive to find the cure for cancer, the second-leading cause of death in the world. Cancer takes a tremendous toll on an individual’s body and a wide variety of emotions on the patient as well as on family members of those affected. This disease is a world-wide struggle; I would love to help find a cure. I see myself working in a dynamic healthcare environment where I can apply my skills and make a difference in the lives of patients and their families.”

Tatum currently works as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Colonial Health and Rehabilitation Center in Colby. After graduation, she plans to attend UW-Eau Claire, pursuing a degree in nursing and ultimately becoming a registered nurse specializing in pediatric oncology.

She is the daughter of Ryan and Brooke Bargender, of Abbotsford.

HCE Supports Wisconsin Bookworms Project

BY CHRISTINE GOODNESS, WOOD COUNTY BOOKWORM COORDINATOR

WOOD COUNTY – Wood County Home and Community Education (HCE) has been a proud sponsor of the Wisconsin Bookworms program for over 26 years. It is an educational non-profit organization that provides free books and encourages early literacy reading. The program began in 1998 with innovative grant funding. Volunteers read books to early childhood children and distribute a copy of the book to the children along with an Educational activity sheet sponsored by UW Madison-Division of Extension. The program was designed to provide free books and an early reading experience to children from limited income families. Children can create their own in-home library.

Years of research show clearly that children are more likely to succeed in learning when families and communities actively support them. Reading is one

of the most important skills for a child to improve cognitive function, increase language and vocabulary for communication. It is important to help children develop their reading skills, so they can do well in school. When children learn to read, they have the key that opens the door to all the knowledge of the world.

Wood County Association for Home and Community Education (HCE) is a non-profit, educational and charitable organization that offers members opportunities to continue to grow, share and learn. Wood County HCE is reading to over 150 preschool children this year. Your \$25.00 donation will provide 8 free books to children in our county. Please consider a monetary donation to make a difference in a young child’s reading opportunity. Your donation can be sent to Christine Goodness Wood County Bookworms Coordinator at 1194 Kimball Ave., Nekoosa Wisconsin 54457. Checks can be made out to Wood County Bookworms.

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Planting & Tillage: IH 3 pt. 9 shank deep ripper; MF 43 13' S.D. grain drill; JD 970 13' cultimulcher; JD 220 18' center fold disk; JD 712 13' disk-chisel; JD 1350-1450 5x18 semi-mount plow; 8' breaking disk w/ serrated blades; JD 450 5x18 semi-mount plow;

Hay & Forage: JD 3950 chopper w/6' hay head & 2 row corn head; JD 930 impellar 12' disc-bine; NH trailer type 7' sickle mower; NH 851 round baler;

General Farm & Misc.: 1971 Chevy C50 gas truck w/12' steel grain box & hoist; H&S 370 tandem wooden manure spreader w/hyd. end gate; 5' rotary mower; Bush Hog steel dump gravity box w/gear; Killbros 385 gravity box w/wood ext. & Meyers 13 tn. gear; King Kutter 3 pt. 6' box blade w/front teeth; (2) 24' Loyal feed conveyors (9" & 11"); some scrap iron & scrap machinery

Firearms: Remington Model 7 260 Rem; Savage 111 338 Win; Remington 715 .243; Stoeger Coach .410; Mossberg Slugger 12 gau.; 1922 Springfield .22 LR; CVA Stag Horn;

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ABOVE: Marshfield's Girl's Gymnastics took 4th place as a team at the WIAA State Gymnastics Championships held on March 7 in Wisconsin Rapids.

BOTTOM LEFT: Alyvia Dietsche of Marshfield on the third place podium.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Alyvia Dietsche of Marshfield High School won third place at the WIAA State Gymnastics Championship for her performance on the uneven bars.



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