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# PDC may become innocent victim of shift in state funding formula

## Proposed change would pit regional programs against each other

BY MIKE WARREN  
EDITOR

*Part I of II*  
MARSHFIELD – The Marshfield-based PDC Orenda Center is at a crossroads.

“With the state and federal funding cuts, PDC is facing a significant shortfall of money starting October 1st,” said

Executive Director Renee Schulz, during our March 20 visit. “There’s a lot being done to try to have some fixes at a federal and state level, but nothing that has been proposed or has gone through at this point is going to come close to covering the gap of what we are projected to be losing, so

See PDC page 7

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# City encouraging residents to sign up for No Mow May

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Did you know you don't have to mow your lawn in May if you live within the city limits?

No Mow May is an initiative that encourages gardeners and homeowners to let their lawns grow wild in the interest

of biodiversity and supporting important pollinator populations.

Many wildflowers bloom during May, providing a vital source of nectar and pollen for pollinators. By allowing these flowers to grow and avoiding mowing the lawn, people can help provide a much-needed refuge for these important pollinator species. So, to aid pollination, the City of Marshfield is suspending the enforcement of Chapter 11 Sec. 11-06 (Weed Control), encouraging those interested in participating to sign up online at <https://no-mow-may-cityofmarshfield.hub.arcgis.com/>. Signing up provides the city with a list of properties supporting the No Mow May initiative. The enforcement of Chapter 11 Sec. 11-06 (Weed Control) will begin again on June 1. Sign up at <https://no-mow-may-cityofmarshfield.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Mowing tips after No Mow May in promoting a healthy lawn:

Adjust your mower to the highest setting and make the first pass to reduce the grass height. After you have reduced



The goal of No Mow May is to provide early-season forage for native pollinators by reducing our mowing intensity during a month when foraging resources are limited.  
**MMC Stock photo**

the grass height to a more manageable length, change the mower setting by lowering the height of the blade before making a second pass.

Do not cut more than one-third of the grass blade at a time in a single mowing. For example, if your grass is six inches tall, do not remove more than two inches of length. This helps prevent root stress and promotes turf vigor. If your grass is tall, try mowing once during the last week of May and then again before June 4 to avoid stressing your turf grass.

Reminder: Do not mow or blow grass clippings into the street. Grass and leaves in the street can travel with rainwater into the city stormwater sewers. Many stormwater facilities flow directly into our local rivers without pretreatment, and the added nutrients can cause algal blooms and other detrimental effects. Debris in the street can also be dangerous for drivers, especially motorcycles and bicycles.

Overall, No Mow May is a simple yet effective way for people to positively impact the environment and help support the vital ecosystem services provided by pollinators.

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~~~~~  
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# On the Road with Alice

## The buzz on pollinators

BY ASHLEY HAGENOW  
WISCONSIN'S 76TH ALICE IN DAIRYLAND

On a nice, warm spring day, head outside and take a moment to slow down. Feel the warmth from the sun, listen to the wind through the trees or the birds chirping, smell the fresh flowers, and look for the bees, butterflies, and other pollinators visiting your space. It is estimated that "about 75 percent of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators," according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and spring is the perfect time to discover how you can support them.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) states "a pollinator is any animal that visits flowering plants and transfers pollen from flower to flower, thus aiding plant reproduction." Other pollinators in North America include hummingbirds, flies, beetles, wasps, and even bats in some places. Some of these animals, like the butterflies, pollinate other plants on accident when searching for nectar, while bees purposefully collect pollen as a protein source for their young, making them very effective pollinators. Wisconsin's pollinator-dependent crops account for over \$275 million in annual production. These crops include apples, cranberries, cherries, green beans, pickling cucumbers, and fresh market fruits and vegetables.

If you would like to help pollinators in your yard or community, here are a few tips from a variety of Wisconsin-based resources like the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and DATCP, who have more tips available on their websites.

- Give water and shelter. Pollinators need water to drink and safe places to rest, avoid bad weather, and spend the winter. You can provide brush and leaf piles, leave areas of longer grass or patches of bare earth, and provide water, such as a bird bath.

- Plant a variety of flowers that bloom at different times during the year, especially native varieties, in many different colors. Bees can't see red, so they are attracted to blue, white, and yellow flowers. Butterflies are drawn to orange, red, and yellow.

- If needing to use pesticides, be sure to thoroughly read and follow the label directions, avoid spraying onto flowering plants or other areas popular to pollinators, and rotate pesticide types, helping to avoid pesticide resistance.

It is almost swarm season for our most familiar pollinator, the honeybee. When a colony outgrows its



The Wisconsin Honey Producers and the Wisconsin Honey Queen are great resources for honeybees and honey in Wisconsin. Submitted photo

home, about half of the bees, along with a new queen, will leave in search of a new home, creating their own colony. The "swarm" and its queen will gather in a space outside of the hive like a tree, bush, or other structure, while scout bees go and look for a new home. Although a giant pile of honeybees may be frightening at first, these swarms are typically quite docile and pose no threat to you or your family. If a swarm comes to you, visit wihoney.org/find-local-honey to find a beekeeper who can come collect the swarm and give them a new home.

As I have traveled across Wisconsin visiting different classrooms in our state, I love sharing more about our valuable pollinators, such as honeybees, who help us to grow a diverse group of foods that Wisconsin agriculture is known for. Honeybees, and many other species of pollinators, help to keep agriculture in Wisconsin strong and vibrant.

Agriculture in Wisconsin, and across the world, would look a lot different without our pollinators' help. Visit your local University of Wisconsin Extension Agency office, talk to a local beekeeper, or reach out to DATCP's Apiary Program for more information on how you can help our pollinators thrive.

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### Columbus High School Scholarship Endowment Fund

When Melvin Hintz passed away he left a portion of his estate to the Marshfield Area Community Foundation to start a designated fund to assist students with tuition



at Columbus Catholic High School. This endowed fund never dips into the principal so Columbus High School knows they will receive a check each year to help support tuition scholarships. If you'd like to donate to this fund please go to [www.marshfield.foundation](http://www.marshfield.foundation) and click the DONATE NOW button and do a search for this fund.

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# OBITUARIES



## FRANCES EDITH (GOELTZ) NEITZEL

Frances, age 97, died peacefully on April 10, 2024, at Marshfield Health Services, where she had resided since September. During her final days she was visited by family members and good friend Diane Herron.

Frances with an "e" was how she introduced herself. She was born to Frank and Mae (Bradley) Goeltz at home in Colby, Wisconsin on September 15, 1926. Frances with an "e" graduated from Colby High School on May 9, 1944.

She married the love of her life Delbert, (Bill) William Neitzel on May 24, 1944, at her parents' house in Colby. As time passed, Frances with an "e" became Fran or Frannie to family and friends.

Bill left for WWII on Jan 24, 1945, until August 25, 1946. During that time, Fran and newborn Jacqueline lived with her parents. Fran worked at the Colby Drug Store. Her favorite job was making strawberry sodas. Which she enjoyed consuming rather than making later in life. When Bill returned from service, they started and operated Bill's Electric in which Fran was the bookkeeper while raising her children and serving the community. Their family grew from three to seven with the addition of Carol Jean, Emery (Pete) William, Bill Frank, and Merrie Louise.

Fran was generous with her time and talent. She was a leader for the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. Fran taught Sunday School and Bible Study for the Colby Methodist Church. She was also a member of the Eastern Star. Fran was a hospice volunteer in Winter/Phillips area after retirement. She was quick to volunteer whenever the need or opportunity arose. She made afghans for all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Pushed by the expanding business and family, they moved to Hwy N outside Colby into homes they built. In 1974 Fran and Bill purchased Joe's Appliance Store and Fran became Chief Sales Officer and her duties for the business grew. Fran enjoyed playing board games, cards, scrabble, and socializing with family and friends in her spare time. She was a good cook and always prepared your favorite dish or treat. You never left hungry or thirsty. She created many lasting friendships while in Colby.

Bill and Fran successfully operated Bill's Electric until retirement. They retired to the Northwoods in Winter, Wisconsin to a house they built in 1987. Fran was skeptical at first, however, she found her Colby friends loved visiting her and new Winter friends liked socializing and playing cards as well. Her life was more relaxed, and she even had time to go fishing. She was able to do everything she enjoyed.

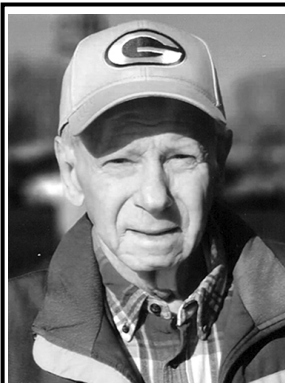
When Bill passed away in 2015, Fran moved to Marshfield where she found even more friends at Parkview, Craig and Merrie's home and an assisted living facility. She was one of the ladies who walked through the Marshfield Clinic's Pharmacy drive-through.

Fran will be sadly missed by her children; Carol "Jeannie", Pete (Mary), Bill (Jan), and Merrie (Craig); 12 grandchildren: Joy (Paul), Kim (Dave), Sean (Susan), Shane (Sara), Jen (Gary), Beth (Scott), Keith (Lindsey), Autumn (Tom), Brad (Fran), Chelsea, Matt (Maddison), and Mercedes (Dawson); 15 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren, and a daughter-in-law, Carol Peickert.

She is preceded in death by her husband Bill (the love of her life), her parents, her daughter Jacqueline Peickert, Jackie's husband Lowell, sibling Frank Goeltz, her sister and brother in laws and a great granddaughter Abigail Giza.

Frances' Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Zion Community Church in Marshfield, Wisconsin at 11:00 AM. The family will welcome friends and visitors starting at 9:30 AM. A fellowship and lunch will follow at the Marshfield Eagles Club.

The family wishes to thank the Marshfield Health Services and Heartland Hospice personnel for the care and compassion provided Frances while under their care.



## RICHARD W. GRUBOFSKI

Richard W. Grubofski, age 80, passed away on Friday, April 19, 2024, at his home in Marshfield.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at Buchanan/Rembs Funeral Home, Pittsville, with Rev. Gary Markworth officiating. Burial will be in Mound Cemetery, Pittsville, where military rites will be conducted by the American Legion, Post 153, of Pittsville. The visitation will be from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Monday, April 29, 2024, and from 10:00 am until service time on Tuesday, all at Buchanan/Remb Funeral Home, Pittsville.

Richard was born on August 6, 1943, in Pittsville, Wisconsin, to Otto and Mary (Kreitlow) Grubofski. He attended Good Cheer Country School in Pittsville through the 8th grade. He then attended Pittsville High School and later obtained his G.E.D. while serving in the United States Army. He served in the Army from 1965 until 1967 and served a one-year tour in Vietnam. After his honorable discharge he worked for the Port Edwards paper mill, Trierweiler Construction and then joined the N.D.T. out of Kansas City as a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers-Iron Ship Builders-Blacksmith-Forgers and Helpers. They were known as Traveling Boilermakers. Richard worked 38 years as a Traveling Boilermaker working in many states and for several companies. Richard started out as a bullgang-welder then as a Field Supervisor.

Richard liked watching the Packers, going to the casino, playing the lottery, shooting pool, and going cruising in his corvette.

He is survived by his daughter, Tabitha Nordman of Reno, NV and siblings, Carl Grubofski of Belvedere, IL, Fred Grubofski of Pittsville, Larry Grubofski of Wisconsin Rapids, Otto (Mary) Grubofski of Wisconsin Rapids, John Grubofski of Marshfield, and Ida Flewellen of Marshfield.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers Clarence and Wally Grubofski and sisters, Bertha Drackley, Lorraine "Susie" Sladek, and Laura Brue.

The family would like to thank the Ultrasound team at the Marshfield Clinic and Compassus Hospice for all their help. Condolences may be sent online to [www.rembsfh.com](http://www.rembsfh.com)

## Cornerstone Church planning expansion project



This rendering shows some of the expansion plans of Cornerstone Community Church, 1417 W. McMillan St., on Marshfield's northwest side. **Station 19 Architects image**

### FOR HUB CITY TIMES

**MARSHFIELD** -- A Marshfield church that also serves the surrounding communities is looking to remodel and expand its facilities.

Cornerstone Community Church, located at 1417 W. McMillan Street, held its BluePrints Sunday celebration on April 7, which was a time of looking back at the church's 24-year history while unveiling its plans for the future.

The church is currently in the midst of a capital fundraising campaign to raise money for the project. The

See **EXPANSION** page 17

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Lawmakers urged to pass Fight Act

Congress is considering an important bill, not only to stop malicious cruelty, but to make our communities safer. The FIGHT Act, S. 1529, by Senator John Kennedy, R-La., and H.R. 2742, by Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., would bolster federal enforcement efforts to crack down on the scourges of illegal dogfighting and cockfighting.

Already, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin has cosponsored FIGHT; I hope Senator Ron Johnson does, too. U.S. Representatives Derek Van Orden, R-Prairie du Chien, Glenn Grothman, R-Glenbeulah, and Scott Fitzgerald, R-Clyman, have cosponsored the House bill, and Rep. Tom Tiffany, who represents us in the U.S. House, should join them. It's the right thing to do.

Dogfighting and cockfighting are barbaric and often bound up with a wide range of criminal practices. U.S.-based cockfighters consort with Mexican cartels and Filipino organized crime syndicates, with those two nations actively trading fighting animals with U.S.-based traffickers. The smuggling of cockfighting birds from Mexico was the cause of 10 of 15 outbreaks of virulent Newcastle Disease to hit the United States in recent decades, with just three outbreaks costing U.S. taxpayers more than \$1 billion.

There are 500 organizations and agencies that endorse the FIGHT Act - from the National District Attorneys Association to the Iowa Sheriffs' Association to the United Egg Producers. The National Chicken Council, the trade association for commercial chicken producer-processors - as long ago as 2004 - had urged Congress "to pass a bill to crack down on cockfighting" and called it an "inhumane practice that presents a continuing threat to the health of commercial flocks."

Please, Sen. Johnson and Rep. Tiffany, swing behind these important bills to protect agriculture from bird flu and other disease threats, to stop the favored recreation of drug cartels, and to stop a form of inexcusable animal cruelty.

Brian Giles  
Marshfield

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

# The Journey Over The Destination

Dear Reader,

Recently I reread a poem entitled "Ithaca" by the Greek writer P.J. Cavafy. He writes about traveling to the island of Ithaca which was made famous by Homer's Odyssey. He describes the journey as something magical, something that conjures up adventures beyond the body... perhaps to the soul.



*"...Hope your road is a long one, full of adventure, full of discovery.*

*"...Hope your road is a long one, May there be many summer mornings when, with what pleasure, what joy, you are entering harbors you are seeing for the first time;*

*... But don't hurry the journey at all. Better that it lasts for years, so you're old by the time you reach the island, wealthy with all you gained on the way, not expecting Ithaca to make you rich.*

*Ithaca gave you the marvelous journey. Without her you wouldn't have set out. She has nothing left to give you now. ...Wise as you will have become, so full of experience, you'll have understood by then what these Ithacas mean."*

The message is the importance of the journey over the destination. We don't normally see it that way because we are always striving apart from the day at hand, looking beyond the corners to where we are headed. Perhaps we need to pause and ponder the here, here, not the there, over there.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
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# Honoring Marshfield's 150th

# Marshfield 150 for 150: Kathleen Rulka

### NOMINATED BY EILEEN KELZ

When Kathleen Rulka moved to Marshfield in 2007 to marry Brian Ewert, she brought with her a wealth of talents and passions that would soon benefit the Marshfield Community. As part of the transition to Marshfield, she retired from her profession as a Marriage and Family Therapist and interfaith chaplain at an Eau Claire hospital. The focus of her work had been as an end-of-life counselor in palliative and hospice care. Upon moving, she didn't skip a beat with her involvement and commitment to her community. Alongside her professional calling, her other passion has been involvement with the arts.

To Kathleen, the arts is so much more than watching or experiencing something fascinating or beautiful, it is a way of bringing the community together in meaningful ways. Kathleen is a talented potter and sculptor and has her own in-home studio, Egnace Ceramic & Glass Studio. She has a sculpture in a permanent exhibit at the Lucille Tack Center for the Arts. She has also promoted community art by serving on boards with arts organizations in Marshfield. What Kathleen finds most fulfilling is to donate her time and talent to local charities to strengthen our community.

Through her artistic and organizing skills she collaborated with Tim Bergelin, Peter Dyke and Chris Egger to bring a potters' studio to Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts. She and Bergelin also collaborate in creating bowls for the annual Empty Bowls event to feed the hungry. They bring together the talents of high school students, local teachers, and the community at large. They have held pop-up studios and other community events to involve those of varying levels of experience.

In addition, Kathleen contributed her artistic talents to creating goblets for the annual Madrigal Dinner in the Spencer School District. In 2017, three weeks before the event, it was discovered the box of goblets had dropped and all but one goblet was destroyed. Kathleen created a full set of replacement goblets in time for the dinner. She also created 200 communion chalices for Wesley United Methodist Church for the re-opening ceremony of the new church after the old building burned down.

Her most publicly-visible project is the incredible Tribute Wall in the atrium of the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. For this formidable project she designed tribute tiles to recognize donations totaling \$170,000. Under her skilled guidance, collaborating with a tile setter, contractor and volunteers, she saw the tribute successfully completed and installed.

Just for fun, Kathleen organized yarn bombings around Marshfield with a group of creative women. This included gathering a multitude of afghans crocheted by the late Margaret Peterson, to dress the Clyde Wynia Dragon on Veterans Parkway.

Kathleen's generosity extends well beyond the arts. She and her husband worked to raise funds to help pay off the mortgage of the PDC Orenda Center so that the hundreds of families served by this organization could be guaranteed shelter. They generously matched the funds that they raised. In addition, every December they work to close the

gap of sponsors for the United Way Nutrition on Weekends program to alleviate food insecurity for area students.

As a continuation of her professional experience as a mental health therapist and a chaplain, Kathleen leads and coordinates several efforts to enhance mental and spiritual well-being. Twice per month she leads the Dove Meditation and Mindfulness Group started decades ago by Don Beyer. Inspired by the work of Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, she volunteers with the Wisconsin Prison Mindfulness Initiative to help incarcerated people learn skills that help them live with thoughtfulness in their environment and reintegrate successfully into communities.

Although she is retired, when called upon, Kathleen still responds to help families who are experiencing the loss of a loved one or who themselves are facing the completion of their life. As a retired interfaith chaplain, she has officiated at memorial services and supports families through their grief.

Kathleen has been part of a team of leaders for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marshfield, organizing the gatherings of the Fellowship twice a month. She has also volunteered on the medical team for refugee resettlement.

As avid gardeners, Kathleen's and Brian's extensive garden was featured for the Marshfield Area Respite Center Garden Walk, an annual fundraising event. Their garden covers their entire yard and provides a rich no-mow habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Kathleen and Brian believe in loving action to support our community, the arts, the environment, and political action. As Kathleen reflects, "People are sometimes disheartened by the media that is focused on dividing us rather than uniting us. Brian and I believe people have more similarities than they have differences. The questions that guide us are, 'How do we strengthen our community through conversations and shared problem solving? How do we extend kindness to our neighbors? How do we reduce food insecurity for children? How do we support and ensure safety and provide opportunity for our youth? How do we provide shelter for those escaping domestic violence? How do we live our values forward? How do we seek opportunity, liberty, and justice for all?'"

"It is an honor to serve our community. I was taught to serve others by watching my father, as the owner of a pharmacy, make sure babies had formula and injured

workers had medications even when they couldn't pay him. Holding others in a place of care and compassion helps to make the world a better place. Brian and I believe that caring for the well-being of others is where we can all begin."



## Historical Preservation Month: Out & About

We are pleased to bring back a special limited column to help celebrate Historic Preservation Month, which is during May. The column will start with this issue and run into the first part of June only. As with previous columns that ran during the last two years, this column will contain a picture and clue, however these will be of some feature related to some of the historical assets in Marshfield. Again, as with the previous columns, you will be able to guess the location and send it in via email or drop it off on the second floor of the Marshfield Public Library by Monday noon.



One weekly winner will be drawn from the correct answers submitted for that week. There will also be one grand prize winner, chosen from all the correct answers at the end of the contest the beginning of June. So, start your engines to find the answers and have fun.

Here is the first picture and clue:

An easily recognized symbol of the USA, along with

See **OUT & ABOUT** page 6

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| SPORTS |

# Marshfield hosts Wood County track & field meet

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**

MARSHFIELD – Marshfield hosted the Wood County track and field meet April 23.

In boys' results, Marshfield had six first-place finishes. Ethan Knecht finished first in the shot put and discus. Joshua Peters was first in the 110-meter hurdles. Owen Hoerneman took first in the 800-meter run. Thomas Cashmer finished first in the 1,600-meter run. Marshfield also took first in the 800-meter relay.

Columbus had one first-place finish. Isaac Scheer won the 3,200-meter run. Auburndale's William Akins won the pole vault, while Trevor Trowbridge won the 300-hurdles.

In girls' competition, the Tigers registered ten first-place finishes. Among them, Devyn LeMoine won the pole vault. Gracie Ridgway took first in the high jump, while Ayana Bosum won the long jump. Ashley Grancorvitz grabbed first-place finishes in the triple jump and the 100-meter hurdles. Ella Allar was first in the 300-meter hurdles. Natalie Scharenbroch won the 1,600-meter run. The Tigers also took first in the 400, 800 and 3,200-meter relays.

Pittsville's Reese Grimm won the 800-meter run. Auburndale took first in the 1,600-meter relay.



Wood County athletes battled with sunshine, high winds, hail, and rain throughout the night at Heiting Stadium, as Marshfield High School hosted the Wood County Invitational. Teams which competed included Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln, Columbus Catholic, Auburndale, Pittsville, Nekoosa, Port Edwards, and Wisconsin Rapids Assumption. Marshfield girls (pictured) won 10 events. **Submitted photo**

## MHS HOFer dead at 85

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**

MARSHFIELD -- Marshfield Tigers Athletic Hall of Fame member Neil Fleming died April 3 at House of the Dove, Marshfield. He was 85.

Fleming played football and ran track at Marshfield High School in the mid-1950s. He lettered for the Tigers football team each year between 1954 and 1956, and was an all-conference first team selection, and all-state honorable mention in 1956. That season, Fleming rushed for 916 yards and eight touchdowns for the Tigers, and ran for 229 yards in one game against Merrill.

Fleming also lettered in track for two

years, and was part of the Marshfield team that won the state championship in the 220-sprint medley relay at the 1957 WIAA state meet.

Fleming then went to the University of Miami, where he was captain of the freshman football team in 1957. He transferred to Wisconsin and played for the Badgers in 1960 and 1961. Fleming served for many years as manager of USDA Rural Development in Medford.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be designated to Wounded Warrior Project and Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS).



Sophomore Neil Fleming, Marshfield, smashes across the Alumni goal line in the fourth quarter of the 1960 UW Varsity-Alumni football game in Madison.

Arthur Vinje/Wisconsin Historical Society photo

### AUCTION SATURDAY, MAY 11 • 10:00 A.M. LUNCH BY OUR MAKER'S ACRES

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### OUT & ABOUT from page 5

many other feathered friends, can be found right here in Marshfield. But the biggest surprise is a collection of the largest kind statewide. It isn't the well known Schoenebeck exhibition, it is the work of John M. Stierle. Where can you find this majestic bird?

Your task is to tell us the location of what is pictured. You will have one chance each week to either email us your entry at outandaboutmarshfieldhpm2024@gmail.com or put your entry in the box at the information desk on the second floor of the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. Your entry must include 1) your name, 2) contact info (email or phone number) and 3) address of where the building, structure is located. Deadline for each week's entries will be the following Monday at noon. No entries for the previous week will be accepted after that time.

## High Water coming soon

**FOR HUB CITY TIMES**

PITTSVILLE -- Around these parts, April showers bring more than flowers, they bring bluegrass. For your enjoyment, Art Stevenson & High Water will be performing Saturday, May 11 at the Pittsville School Auditorium. This 7 p.m. show on Mother's Day weekend will be a great opportunity to treat someone special to a night out with the impressive acoustic sounds of the premier central Wisconsin blue grass ensemble.

The quartet features Bruce King on mandolin and his talented son, Bruce Royal, on the upright bass. The elder Bruce is a scholar of Bill Monroe's compositions and knows dozens of



Art Stevenson & High Water will perform May 11 in Pittsville. **Submitted photo**

mandolin instrumentals. An excellent harmony singer, he often sings tenor in the vocal arrangements. The younger Bruce brings several years of experience after playing bass with other Wisconsin bluegrass groups. He joined High Water when Stephanie Stevenson retired from performing with the demanding instrument. Along with his hard-driving bass groove, Bruce Royal sings lead and harmony in delightful vocal arrangements the band is so well known for.

The banjo is handled by the magical picking of award-winning Dale Reichert. He also sings baritone and bass vocals, and plays the Dobro. Dale is an absolute wonder to watch as he weaves through each arrangement. He has a long history of bluegrass work with groups in Ohio, Kentucky, and Minnesota and he now resides near Custer.

and harmonica, Art Stevenson – who incidentally is a central Wisconsin local living near Babcock – has played in bluegrass bands since the late 1970s. He learned bluegrass guitar after attending the Mole Lake Bluegrass Festival in 1976, and he has played harmonica since early childhood. Art organized this group in 1993. He is a powerful lead singer on traditional bluegrass, early country, and western ballads, and plays a driving rhythm guitar. His harmonica renditions of fiddle tunes like Orange Blossom Special always bring the house down.

These impressive musicians are as fun to watch as they are fabulous to listen to. Don't miss Art Stevenson & High Water, a superbly-talented band - their repertoire will

See **HIGH WATER** *page 17*

Guitarist, singer,

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**PDC**  
*from page 1*

that really is the big story and wanting to make our community aware of what the reality is, what we're facing and how that could directly impact community members starting the beginning of next year."

PDC is funded through the Department of Children and Families at the state level, funding that has been provided for a half-century.

Schulz says there was always a funding formula in place, which was more of an allocation to domestic abuse programs across Wisconsin. Now, the state is changing the way it doles out the funding, which is headed toward more of a competitive grant cycle. Schulz says much of that focus has been shifted to making sure that communities with large underserved and BIPOC (black, indigenous, and other people of color) populations would receive more money, mainly due to the higher percentage of need in those communities.

And because of the shift from annual allocations to a competitive grant situation, money has started going to regions of the state, and regionally, local programs such as PDC were competing against one another for state dollars.

As a result, the northern region of the state had a significantly smaller pot of money than what had been allocated in the past and neighboring programs were now competing for those funds. Under that shift, one center in Wisconsin's northern region was funded and it wasn't the PDC Orenda Center.

"So, from the state Department of Children and Families, beginning Jan. 1 of '25, PDC will be receiving a decrease in our state funding of a hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars from what we have been receiving from the Department of Children and Families. It would've gone into effect earlier than that," said Schulz. "They (the state) were using some leftover ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) dollars to try to fill in the gaps and to give us a little bit extra

to support shelter services, but all of that will be gone as of January 1st."

PDC's state allocation had been \$226,000, meaning it's looking at a new state funding amount of \$100,000.

"It's fifty-thousand for our Wood County services and fifty-thousand for our Clark County services, and nothing for our shelter," said Schulz. "At a federal level, the monies that are allocated to states for them to distribute to local programs, dollars go into this crime victim pot of money at the federal level through... it's kind of like the corporate fines and forfeitures. That has been kind of an unstable pot of money for some time, and it has finally gotten to the point where - because of the instability of funds - the amount of money that's there to allocate to states, to then allocate to other victim service agencies, has decreased significantly."

So how is that impacting the Personal Development Center?

For years, PDC has received \$600,000 annually under the current method of federal dollars being passed through the state Justice Department via the VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) grant program.

"Because of how much that pot of money has dwindled and the amount that the state is getting, what that is resulting in for victim service programs in the state is a significant decrease, so rather than us receiving six-hundred-thousand dollars annually, come October 1st of this year, the maximum amount that we would be able to receive in a grant is two-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars. And that is also on a (statewide) competitive basis, so we are unsure if we will actually receive that full two-hundred-fifty-thousand or if it will be an amount less than that.

"So, when you take both of those together, we're looking at about a four-hundred-fifty-thousand-dollar decrease in revenue for the agency beginning October 1st of this year and then January 1st of 2025."



PDC's annual budget is \$1.4 million, and so organizers are staring a loss of \$450,000 right in the face.

And none of those dollars are used to support the physical shelter. They go to PDC's advocacy and outreach programs.

"Things are looking pretty bleak," Schulz told us. "The reality of what things are going to look like we really don't know for sure."

The PDC's Board of Directors is well aware of the pending situation

"The board is very committed to making sure we do absolutely everything we can to keep our services in Marshfield and at the level that we are providing them, and made the decision at that point that we are keeping everything status quo. We are not going to reduce anything at this point."

Meanwhile, the board has been working on fund-development initiatives, including the return of the agency's popular Sheltering Hearts fundraiser in February.

"Our annual meeting this year really focused on bringing awareness to what the reality is moving forward," said Schulz. "The reality moving forward - if we are not able to fill in this large hole in our budget - is that we know that there are going to be staff that we are going to have to let go and programs and services that we are going to have to pull back on or discontinue altogether, and

of need is already difficult to keep up with under the shelter's current budget.

"Now you take four-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars a year out of that budget and clearly our community members are

going to feel the impact of that," Schulz added. "We are at a crossroads."

*Next week: Tough decisions hang in the balance for the domestic abuse and sexual assault advocacy agency*

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

# COLUMBUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS



Welcome to Columbus Catholic Schools! To learn more, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Angie Loucks, Director of Marketing and Communications at 715-387-1177 ext. 3318 or [loucks.angela@columbusdons.org](mailto:loucks.angela@columbusdons.org); or visit our website at [www.columbuscatholicschools.org](http://www.columbuscatholicschools.org).

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On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the Columbus Catholic High School Mission Club will be hosting a Blood Drive through Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin. The Blood Drive will be from 8am to 1pm at the Our Lady of Peace Intermediate School gymnasium located at 1300 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Marshfield.

"There's always a shortage of blood donors," said Mr. Iwanski, CCHS Mission Club Advisor and CCHS Theology Teacher. "For us, though, it's personal. We have had one teacher and two students in the past seven years get diagnosed

### St. John the Baptist Primary School

On April 8, 2024 the world experienced a solar eclipse and Columbus Catholic Schools was no different! Our schools prepared by ordering special viewing glasses for each student to borrow and took time to step outside to experience history - even if there wasn't much to



Second grade students in Mrs. Alt's class at St. John the Baptist Primary School learned about - and experienced - the solar eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Our Lady of Peace Intermediate School

On April 11th, Our Lady of Peace fourth grade students took their annual trip to Wisconsin's state capital! Their first stop was a self-guided tour of the Veteran's Museum, where they learned about Wisconsin's role in all our nation's conflicts and even had their own dog tags made. The weather was beautiful, so they ate their lunch on the capitol lawn.

Next, they split into smaller groups and took turns touring: the Wisconsin Historical Museum's temporary site, where they explored significant artifacts and made their "own" exhibits; and the state capital where they saw the Supreme Court, Senate, and Assembly Chambers. This year, they also had the unique opportunity of visiting State Representative Donna Rozar's office. There was plenty of time for photos and shopping!

"The study of Wisconsin history is a typical curricular topic for fourth grade social studies," said fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Herman.

with cancer who relied on blood donors during their treatments. Those individuals are three great reasons to take the time to donate blood!"

Is this Blood Drive open to the public? "Absolutely!" said Mr. Iwanski. "We encourage the public to call ahead and schedule an appointment to be a priority donor. Just call 877-232-4376." And on May 8<sup>th</sup> each donor can "donate and splash away!" Each donor will receive one outdoor water park ticket to Mt. Olympus (while supplies last) and will be entered for a chance to win \$1,000 in gift cards to a waterpark resort!

see in Marshfield due to the overcast conditions! Occasionally the clouds parted briefly and students could be heard shouting, "There it is! I see it!"

At St. John the Baptist Primary School, Mrs. Alt's second grade class participated in several activities to prepare for and learn about the eclipse. They read books about the solar eclipse and did an activity from MysteryScience.com called "Why does it get dark during a solar eclipse?" During the activity they learned about how shadows are made when light is blocked... and how the moon makes a really BIG shadow! They were given the option to create a solar eclipse viewer (pinhole projector) out of paper at home. They also watched a live stream of the eclipse on NASA's website and discussed safe ways to view the eclipse. Finally, they stepped outside to put their knowledge to work! Afterwards, some of the students commented, "It was the best!" "I can't believe I saw it!" and "I hope to see it again someday!"



Fourth grade students (and teachers) from Our Lady of Peace Intermediate School pause for a photo in front of the Wisconsin State Capitol on April 11, 2024.

"Students at Our Lady of Peace use the textbook, Wisconsin, Our State, Our Story, published by the Wisconsin State Historical Society Press. The tour guides at all three sites were super-impressed with our students' knowledge of Wisconsin history. Our trip to Madison is truly a special culminating activity that involves several topics discussed throughout the year!"

### Columbus Catholic High School



Pictured here is the 2024 Peru Mission Team, taken after the 2024 Language Camp in April.

Every two years the Columbus Catholic High School Spanish students, and the Peru Mission Team, have an opportunity to travel to the Casa Hogar Orphanage (located in Lurin, Peru) for 10 days to do service projects and put their language skills to the test!

For 2024, we have 16 Mission Team members traveling to Peru from August 3-12, 2024. There will be five Spanish students and 11 adults, including two alum and Spanish Teacher Señora Kennedy. Let's wish them good luck and safe travels. Thank you for making a difference!

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A weekly feature highlighting school news from around the area!

# MARSHFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



Marshfield High School student leaders and advisors from clubs G.S.A and A.C.E worked together to host a Community Clothing Drive, focusing on paying it forward to those in need in a sustainable and affordable way! This was an incredible way to give back to the community and to help others! All donations received will be kept in the Marshfield community.



Marshfield High School students in Future Health Professionals have returned from a very successful State Leadership Conference. Among the 23 Marshfield High School students that attended, 8 students qualified for the International Leadership Conference (ILC) in competitive events with an additional 9 students qualifying in recognition events! A picture of students who have qualified in their given competitive events include Rahul D. in Medical Law and Ethics; Emma D. and Hailey K. in Health Career Display; Delaney V. in Research Poster Display; Henry J., Kai R., Peter T., and Aran T. in HOSA BOWL, and Amelia K. being awarded the bronze Barbra James Service Award for her generous amount of volunteer hours served in the health field. The International Leadership Conference will be held in Houston, Texas, at the end of June!



Marshfield FCCLA members showcased their talents and dedication at the State Leadership Conference in April, an event aimed at fostering personal growth and leadership through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Among the notable achievements, Evalyn O. and Karsyn M. earned Silver Awards in the Chapter Service Portfolio category, while Audrey L., Paige S., and Gage S. impressed with their Chapter Service Project Display, also receiving Silver Awards. Olivia G. showcased her culinary skills, earning a Silver Award in Culinary Arts. Chaz H. and Lauren B. were recognized for their efforts in Promoting and Publicizing FCCLA, also receiving Silver Awards. Additionally, Riley C. and Araceli R. received recognition for their Fleece Blankets for the Hannah Center project. Sophia M. and Presly F. secured a spot at Nationals with a Gold Award in Sports Nutrition, demonstrating their commitment to excellence. Furthermore, Dani M. achieved the highest honor, earning the Top Gold Award in Children's Literature with a perfect score, a testament to her exceptional talent and dedication. Congratulations to all the competitors for their outstanding achievements!

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On April 8th and 9th, 10 Marshfield High School members from the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) chapter competed in the state competition in Green Bay, WI. FBLA is a student organization which helps students prepare for the business world through service activities, experiences, and competitions in business-related fields. After competing in the Regionals 19 members qualified for the state competition with 10 being able to attend the event where they networked with students and business professionals while competing in their event. Examples of competitions were presentation events where they analyzed and present findings on a current corporation's financial statements to using graphic design to create a corporate branding package. In the end, Marshfield had an outstanding showing with 3 students qualifying for Nationals this summer in Orlando. Ben S. qualifying in Cyber Security, Evan W. qualifying in UX Design and Saket K qualifying in Financial Math.



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## LAST YEARS WINNERS

### BEST BURGER

- 1. Nutz Deep II
- 2. Lumberyard Bar & Grill
- 3. T-Bones

### BEST CAR DEALERSHIP

- 1. Wheelers Chevrolet GMC
- 2. Gross Buick of Marshfield
- 3. Associated Sales & Leasing

### BEST COFFEE SHOP

- 1. Coffee Cabin
- 2. Daily Grind
- 3. Uptown Coffee Company

### BEST DOWNTOWN HOBBY SHOPPING

- 1. Thimbleberry Books
- 2. Good Day Sunshine Records
- 3. Dave's Guitars

### BEST DOWNTOWN SHOPPING

- 1. 2-1/2 Cups Cupcakery & Bake Shop
- 2. Kailey's Kandles
- 3. Victory Apparel

### BEST EVERYDAY FOOD TRUCK

- 1. Stone Press Food Truck
- 2. Kat's Sweet Escape
- 3. Kambray's Mobile Restaurant & Catering



# BEST OF MARSHFIELD AREA

## BEST ETHNIC FOOD

1. El Mezcal
2. Casa Amigos II
3. J-Rolls

## BEST FISH FRY

1. Nutz Deep II
2. Buck-A-Neer Supper Club
3. Lumberyard Bar & Grill

## BEST HISTORIC ATTRACTION

1. World's Largest Round Barn
2. Upham Mansion
3. War Room & World History

## BEST FESTIVAL

1. Maple Fall Fest
2. Hub City Days
3. Central Wisconsin State Fair

## BEST FLORAL & PLANTS

1. Mill Creek Gardens
2. Hefko Floral Company
3. Schalow's Nursery

## BEST HOMETOWN CAFÉ

1. Melody Gardens
2. The Kitchen Table
3. Sunrise Restaurant & Bar

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# BEST OF MARSHFIELD AREA



Nominated for Best of Marshfield 2024  
in the  
**Hobby Shopping category!**

## The Dragon's Roost LLC

1304B South Central Avenue, Marshfield, WI 54449

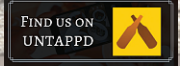
### 715-207-6116

[www.facebook.com/TheDragonsRoostllc](http://www.facebook.com/TheDragonsRoostllc)

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373250

**Nominated in 4 Categories for  
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BEST HOTEL RESTAURANT  
BEST SPECIALTY BEER ON TAP**



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We are a small Ma and Pa shop that has been gaming together as a family for years.

We have dreamed about opening a small store for years and we wanted a safe place where kids and families could come hang out and have a great time.

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We are nominated for Best of Marshfield 2024 in the

**Best Hobby Shopping category...**

*We would appreciate your vote!*

#### OUR PRODUCTS

We offer a wide variety of products for all of your hobby needs. Whether you are into TTRPG, TCG, or board games, we have it here.

We also carry a large collection of Manga and art work from local artists. This is a place for nerds by nerds!

37463

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# BEST OF MARSHFIELD AREA

## BEST HOTEL / MOTEL

1. Hotel Marshfield
2. Woodfield Inn & Suites
3. Hampton Inn & Suites

## BEST HOTEL RESTAURANT

1. Lumberyard Bar & Grill
2. Libby McNeill's Food & Drink

## BEST INTERACTIVE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

1. Escape Room Marshfield
2. Board & Brush
3. Club Haus

## BEST LIVE MUSIC

1. Wenzel Family Plaza
2. Libby McNeill's at Hotel Marshfield
3. Chestnut Center for the Arts

## BEST Outdoor Recreation Area

1. North Wood County Park
2. Powers Bluff County Park
3. George W. Mead Wildlife Area

## BEST PLACE TO IMPRESS

1. Royal Tokyo
2. Buck-a-Neer
3. Blue Heron Brewpub

**Shop Local!**



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# BEST OF MARSHFIELD AREA

## BEST SPECIALTY PIZZA

- 1. Scotty's Pizza & Chicken
- 2. Real Pizza - Blue Heron BrewPub
- 3. Marshfield Country Club

## BEST SWEET TREATS

- 1. Weber's Farm Store
- 2. 2-1/2 Cups Cupcakery & Bake Shop
- 3. Hub City Ice Cream Company

## BEST TRAILS FOR WALKING/BIKING

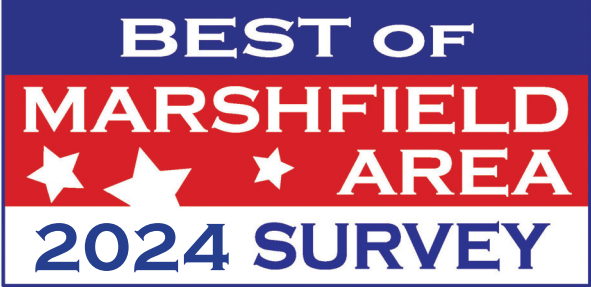
- 1. Hamus Nature Preserve Trail
- 2. Wildwood Connector Trail
- 3. Downtown Jurustic Trail

## BEST VISITOR ATTRACTION

- 1. Rotary Winter Wonderland
- 2. Wildwood Park & Zoo
- 3. Jurustic Park

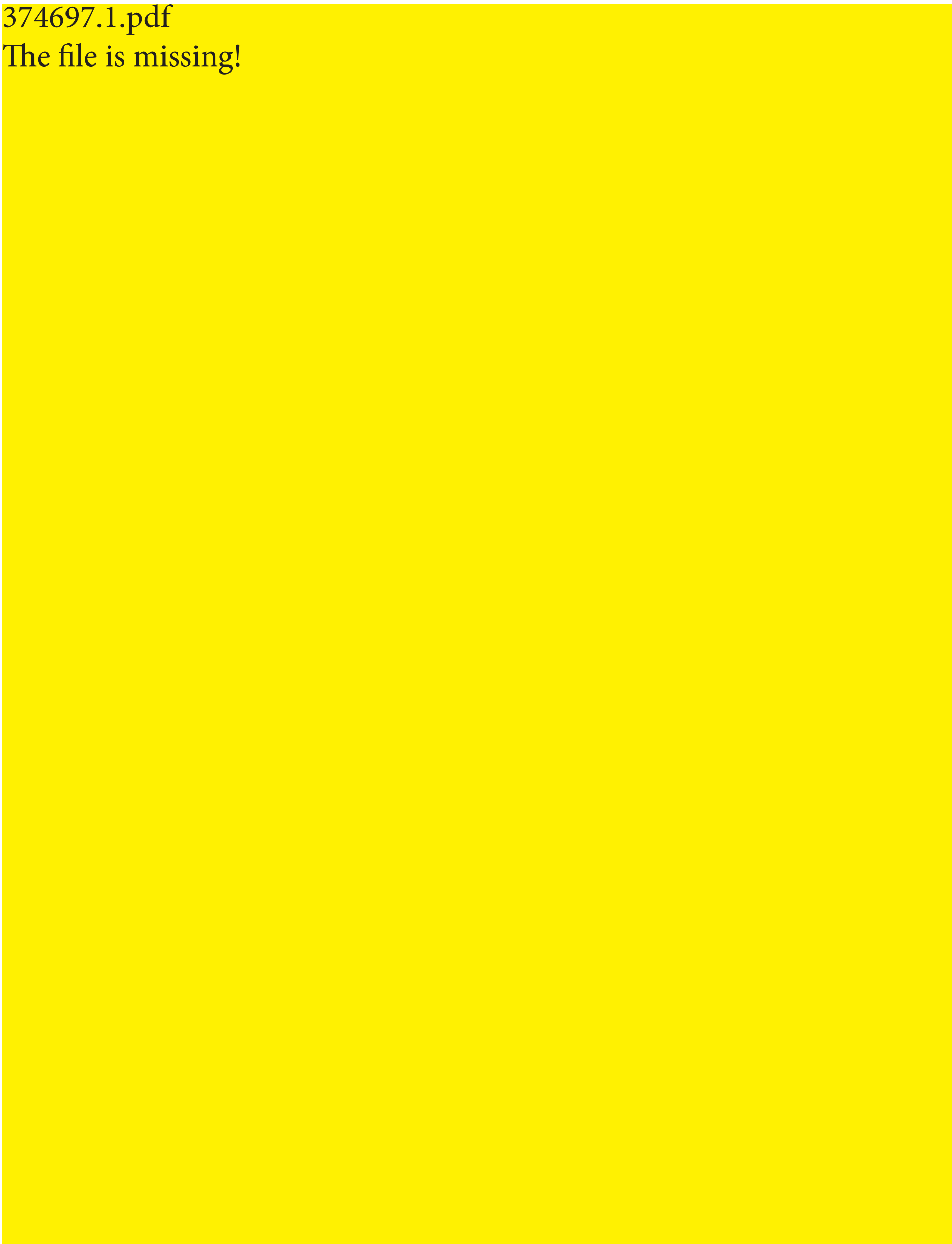
## BEST BARTENDER OR SERVER

- 1. Carla Osinski-T-Bones
- 2. Ariel Gorst-Buck-A-Neer
- 3. Katie Schultz-Nutz Deep II



**REMEMBER TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES.**

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# CLASSIFIEDS

**Announcements 7005**

**Iggy's Auction**

**Attention: Accepting Consignments**  
**Father's Day Online Firearms Auction**  
**Consignement Deadline: May 20th**  
 Auction: June 2 - June 16  
 Handguns, Rifles, Shot Guns, Antique Firearms, Ammo, ...  
 Call (715)305-2475 or visit [www.iggysauction.com](http://www.iggysauction.com) for the Details & Consign Now!

**Iggy's Auction**

**Attention: Accepting Consignments**  
**Online Equipment Auction**  
**Consignement Deadline: May 20th**  
 Auction: May 29 - June 5  
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 Join us on Facebook at the real "Rummaging Around Stratford Official Group"

**Rummage Sales This Week 7200**

**MARSHFIELD, 1810 N. Hume, Apt. 3, Garden Ridge Apartments.**  
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**Marshfield:** Friday, 5/3-Saturday, 5/4, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Household items, wine supplies, tools, heaters, sporting goods, cleaning supplies & misc. 8964 Klondike Dr

**Stratford:** Thursday, 5/2, 7 a.m.- 5 p.m., Friday, 5/3, 7 a.m.- 5 p.m., Saturday, 5/4, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. Household items/decor, chainsaws, lawnmowers, high chairs, cribs, baby items, holiday decorations, women's scrubs, kid's clothes and toys, books. 129034 Balsam Rd

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**MACCI unveils shovel-ready industrial park**  
Well-situated site earns state certification

BY MIKE WARREN EDITOR

MARSHFIELD – A 123-acre parcel of land on Marshfield's southeast side is open for businesses, and thanks to a statewide certification program, developers across the country are hearing about it.

As the newest member of the Certified In Wisconsin Program, Marshfield's Yellowstone Industrial Park is ready for development. In conjunction with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry on April 1 broke ground on the certified site, bordered by Yellowstone Drive on the south, Galvin Avenue just to the west and Stadt Road to the east.

"WEDC is the final seal of approval on this moment, but none of this would happen without the efforts of the City of Marshfield, Wood County, the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Marshfield Utilities, it's really all of you coming together to demonstrate the opportunity to have this shovel-ready site," said WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes, during groundbreaking ceremonies. "And what it says is that you are ready for more industry to come to Marshfield, that you want to make that happen, that you've been incredibly proactive in making that happen, and so I just want to congratulate you on that because there's so many different pieces that we need to put together for economic development to really be successful," Hughes continued. "We talk about all the things that we need to do, including educating our workforce, making sure that they're ready and available, removing barriers to the workforce getting here to be able to work, it means talking about quality of life and making sure that folks in Marshfield have housing and transportation and childcare and all those pieces of the puzzle."

The Yellowstone Industrial Park encompasses 123 acres and 101 of them are developable. The site – behind PCA, Quality Tank Solutions, and UW-Madison Soil & Forage Analysis Lab – is less than two miles from four-lane U.S. Highway 10 and just 30 miles from Interstate 39, and is also served by the Canadian National Railway Company.

"Look back there everyone and just envision what's going to happen," said Mayor Lois TeStrake. "Something great again happening in the city of Marshfield."

To become certified, Yellowstone Industrial Park and program officials invested in completing due diligence studies including a wetlands report; a geotechnical report; an endangered resources review; and archaeological, architectural, and historical reviews. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment has also been completed.

"Looking back a few years ago we began to realize that we were running out of bigger lots in the industrial park," said City Administrator Steve Barg. "We still had some land for development, but we didn't have larger parcels. So we worked out to purchase a-hundred-twenty acres from UW. That was closed in June of 2022. Now we can meet the land needs of people looking for larger projects. That opens the door to real possibilities here in the city of Marshfield that

See MACCI page 19

**EXPANSION**  
from page 4

campaign theme is, "BluePrints: Building Generations on a Foundation of Faith."

The project calls for renovating the interior and exterior of its kid's wing, adding a multipurpose area for student ministry and other special events, and expanding its office space.

Senior Pastor Andy Kvernen says the need for the project was brought on by steady growth in Sunday morning attendance, kids and youth ministries, along with overall demand for the building's amenities throughout the week.

"With persistent and continued growth comes some significant challenges," Kvernen said. "We're feeling a space and facilities pinch in a variety of areas that this project seeks to address."

The congregation's leadership has already raised over 40 percent of the total cost of the project through some advanced commitments, with additional commitments expected from the remainder of the church before the end of April.

Cornerstone Church was founded in 2000 by families that were looking to start an Evangelical Free Church in the area. It met at Grant Elementary School for two years before purchasing its current property in 2002.

A major addition was completed in 2008, which includes a 500-seat auditorium, nursery area and administrative wing.

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**HIGH WATER**  
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**BURNETT TRANSIT**



# Environment drives dairy farmers' health

## Marshfield Clinic Research Institute study focused in central Wisconsin

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MARSHFIELD -- Central Wisconsin dairy farmers shared many of the same microscopic organisms as their cows that may lead to greater protection against illnesses like allergic rhinitis, asthma, eczema and diarrheal diseases, according to a study led by Marshfield Clinic Research Institute.

“This study helps us begin to understand the biological pathways by which the farm environment impacts workers' health.”

**Dr. Jeffrey Vanwormer,**

Director of the Center of Clinical Epidemiology and Population Health

Marshfield Clinic Health System researchers collaborated with the Washington University School of Medicine to publish one of the largest studies of its kind in the April issue of *Nature Microbiology* on the health of dairy workers, from occupational exposure to cow and manure-related microbiome, or the collection of all microbes, such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and their genes that naturally live in human body or an environment.

The published study, “Longitudinal dynamics of farmer and livestock nasal and fecal microbiome and resistomes,” shows that farming is associated with microbiomes containing livestock-associated microbes. This is most apparent in the nasal bacterial community, with farmers harboring a richer and more diverse nasal community than non-farmers. Similarly, in the gut microbial communities, researchers identified more shared microbial lineages

between cows and farmers from the same farms. Additionally, they found that shared microbes are associated with antibiotic resistance genes.

“Overall, our study demonstrates the interconnectedness of human and animal microbiomes,” said Sanjay Shukla, Ph.D., director of the Center for Precision Medicine Research at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute. “It is increasing evident that billions of microbes that inhabit the human gut, which includes the stomach, intestines and colon, have tremendous opportunity to influence the health of a person.”

### A worldwide impact examined in central Wisconsin

Globally, half a billion people are employed in animal agriculture and are directly exposed to associated microorganisms. The extent to which such exposures affect resident human microbiomes is unclear.

The goal of the study was to investigate the effect of dairy microbiome environment on the gastrointestinal and flu-like related health issues of dairy farmers. Researchers conducted a longitudinal profiling of the nasal and fecal microbiomes of 66 dairy farmers and 166 dairy cows from 37 central Wisconsin dairy farms, ranging in size from 24 to 1,700 milking cows over a year-long period. The farmers' microbiomes were compared to matched healthy human subject controls from the same zip codes whom researchers collected their stool and nasal swab samples every three months over a three-year period.

This in-depth study showed that the farmer nasal microbiome, although distinct, was very similar to the nasal microbiome of cows, but very different from the non-farmer control subjects. This similarity was observed even though the cow nasal microbiome was richer in diversity. Also, there was a shared microbiome architecture between the cows



A recent Marshfield Clinic study based in central Wisconsin shows health-related similarities between farmers and their cows.

Courtesy of Marshfield Agricultural Research Station

and the farmers, even from different dairy farms, suggesting selection of a unique microbiota in dairy environments. The sharing of the microbes in nasal passages was due to the occupational exposure of the dairy environment. Not surprisingly, there was a higher sharing of bacterial lineages within a farm between the dairy farmers and cows than a different farm, suggesting the effect of cohabitation and the livestock driving the sharing.

Dairy farmers' nasal microbiome samples were enriched with bacteria belonging to families Lactobacillaceae, Aerococcaceae and Enterococcaceae, which are known to provide a barrier to sinus infections.

An earlier study by the same group published in *PloS One* journal (PMID: 28850578) had shown that dairy farmers had lower burden of bacteria belonging to staphylococci often associated with serious hospital-associated infections.

The effect on the gut microbiome was different. The study showed selection of a host-driven gut microbiome in cows versus humans. A cow's gut microbiome was much more diverse than the dairy farmers and non-farmers, reflecting more of the host-specific effect. A related study by the same group published in the *Journal of Agromedicine* (PMID: 37128886) on the same cohort of dairy farmers and non-dairy farmers had shown that former group reported fewer gastrointestinal-related symptoms over the study period. Specifically, the gut of the farmers had relatively more *Coprococcus eutactus* and *Roseburia faecis*, the lack of which is associated diarrheal diseases. It is likely that effect of microbiome on the farmer's gut was at the functional level rather than at a higher taxonomic composition level.

The study also showed the presence of a high number of antibiotic resistant genes in both cow's and farmer's and non-

farmer's gut, but the data suggests that dairy farming occupation had little effect on the restructuring of the farmer's gut resistomes. A resistome is a collection of microbial genes that resists antibiotics, posing challenges in treating infections. Understanding the resistome is important in the battle against antibiotic resistance.

The study, naturally, led the researchers to pose additional questions that must be answered, including how occupational exposures interact with other environmental factors to shape farmer microbiomes.

“Future studies are warranted to determine whether and how diet and antibiotics facilitate the acquisition, maintenance or amplification of farm- and livestock-associated microbes, as well as their antibiotic resistance genes,” Shukla said. “Ultimately, such a comprehensive understanding of how human-animal interfaces shape the resident human microbiomes could give rise to novel strategies for mitigating the risks of animal agriculture on farmers and broader public health.”

The study was led by the Dr. Sanjay Shukla, director of the Center for Precision Medicine Research at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute and Dr. Gautam Dantas, Conan professor of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine at the Washington University of School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. Co-investigators of the study included Dr. Casper Bendixsen, director of the National Farm Medicine Center and Epidemiologist Dr. Jeffrey Vanwormer, director of the Center of Clinical Epidemiology and Population Health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health funded the study.

“This project is one of the most unique collaborations in which I've participated,” Bendixsen said. “Starting from handshakes with farmers to a major publication is very rewarding. Importantly, as U.S. farms consolidate, grow fewer, and grow less diverse, the time to explore these complex environments for health problems and solutions is now.”

All investigators express a sense of gratitude to all the research coordinators, programmers, laboratory personnel and most importantly forward-thinking dairy farmers and dairy farm owners of central Wisconsin for participating in this important research and promoting this study, including during the difficult times of the COVID pandemic. All questions about the study can be sent to Sanjay Shukla at shukla.sanjay@marshfieldresearch.org.

“We know that people who work on farms have some unique health characteristics, both good and bad, but we do not fully understand why,” VanWormer said. “This study helps us begin to understand the biological pathways by which the farm environment impacts workers' health.”

### MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

## ‘Field of Dreams’ and the magic of baseball

BY JALEN MAKI  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

“If you build it, he will come.”

If Ray Kinsella, Kevin Costner's character in the stellar 1991 sports fantasy drama *Field of Dreams*, was even semi-normal, he would've been on a dead sprint back to his house the second he started hearing otherworldly whispers in his cornfield. Thank goodness he handled the situation in a weirdly chill manner, because if he'd have called a priest instead, the events of the movie probably never would've happened, and we'd be bereft of one of the most unique and touching sports movies ever made.

*Field of Dreams* focuses on Ray, a family man and die-hard baseball fan grappling with his difficult relationship with his late, former-ballplayer dad, John. Baseball was the one thing the two could see eye-to-eye on, but Ray, a child of the 60s, resented his father for “getting old,” left home after a falling out, and never got the chance to make

amends before his father's death.

One night, Ray is walking in the cornfield on his Iowa farm when he hears a voice say, “If you build it, he will come.” Ray's understandably baffled, but after concluding that the voice is telling him to build a baseball field, he levels a portion of his crop and, with the support of his wife, Annie, follows the instructions he was given.

In the months after the field is finished, Ray waits for the aforementioned “he” to arrive, but nothing happens, to his disappointment. Finally, on one summer night, his daughter, Karen, spots a man outside. Ray, ever the optimist, doesn't call the police or grab some sort of weapon (you'd think the guy's got an old Louisville Slugger lying around somewhere) – he just heads out there to see what's up. And what's up is the legendary “Shoeless” Joe Jackson (played by the late, great Ray Liotta) poking around on the diamond.

See **BASEBALL** page 20

## Colorful Costa Rica November 2024



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**MACCI**  
from page 17

we couldn't accommodate previously. Also, developers and site selectors know that we are shovel-ready," Barg added. "We are ready to go."

"As we stand here today, let us not merely focus on the physical act of breaking ground, but let us also celebrate the achievements thus far and eagerly embrace the boundless opportunities that lie ahead," said Marshfield Utilities General Manager Nick Kumm. "With the right vision and determination, this land and others in our area hold the potential to become beacons of prosperity and progress for our community. Let us envision this land as our very own Field of Dreams."

The state certification removes many of the ambiguities, pitfalls, and delays that can confront developers during the siting and planning process – something Marshfield was missing out on, according to MACCI Business Development Director Karen Olson.

"This is something as an economic developer you dream of," Olson said. "[Three things] first got me interested in doing this process. First one was all the communities around us had certified sites, but not Marshfield. That's not acceptable. Second thing was, we've been talking for years about having a site selector come to our community and critique what we are doing well, what should we be doing,

what aren't we doing so well and what type of businesses could we attract here. And the third thing that I really looked at is, once we would get these sites certified, the state would do all kinds of marketing for us and we could market it as well, so it's a win-win for all of us."

"Businesses and investors want certainty," Sec. Hughes added. "The Certified In Wisconsin Program offers businesses peace of mind because it ensures that an array of concerns have been evaluated and addressed, making sites ready for immediate development. That assurance makes Yellowstone Industrial Park a prime development site."

For site selectors and developers, Olson told us certified site designation serves as a pre-qualification, indicating that a property's title is clear, that it possesses sufficient utilities and other infrastructure for industrial use, and that it is properly zoned and has adequate transportation access for such uses, among other criteria.

"They don't want to wait a year for you to look at all the things that you need to look at," Olson said. "The state often gets RFIs (Requests for Information) from companies, and they're looking for twenty or thirty acres at a time, and prior to this land we didn't have that anymore, not for industrial development, so now we can play that game again and be available for companies looking to maybe come to Marshfield."

Olson said no one is on the



Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Sec. Missy Hughes was in Marshfield April 1 to help local officials break ground on a 123-acre parcel on the city's southeast side which is now part of the state's Certified In Wisconsin Program, letting developers know the land is shovel-ready.

Mike Warren photo

hook just yet, but the city has had some interest in the certified site already, both locally and from outside Wisconsin. Marshfield is targeting industries including wood products, metal manufacturing, agriculture, and baseline food-related and health services—including research and genetics—as tenants for the site.

WEDC sponsors the Certified Sites Program to enhance the state's appeal to companies looking to invest. Working with WEDC, communities can obtain Certified Sites

designation for properties at a much lower cost than they would pay to pursue the designation on their own through an independent consultant. Each community demonstrates readiness through dedicating significant staff time and effort, and by investing in the due diligence studies required for certification. This demonstration of commitment is how site selectors and developers know these sites are serious about, and ready for, business expansion and attraction.

The Certified In Wisconsin Program began in 2012 with a goal of powering the development of commercial properties

statewide. Through the WEDC program, offered in partnership with Site Selection Group, communities can obtain site certification at a much lower cost than pursuing development-ready certification through private consultants.

Wisconsin has 15 available Certified Sites, and a total of 23 sites have been certified since the program began. Currently, 46 development projects are underway or completed on the sites, which together are expected to create more than 3,445 jobs and generate more than \$581 million in capital investment.

For more information on Wisconsin's currently available Certified Sites, visit [InWisconsin.com/certified](http://InWisconsin.com/certified).

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# Be Bear Aware: Take steps to avoid conflicts with black bears

## FOR HUB CITY TIMES

MADISON -- As the weather warms and people across the state begin spending more time outside, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages the public to be bear aware and take steps to prevent potential conflicts with black bears this spring.

Every spring, black bears emerge from their dens in search of food and potentially new territory. These explorations sometimes cause unexpected interactions between black bears and the public. Although black bears are much more common in the northern half of the state, southern Wisconsin has seen more black bear activity in recent years.

Bears are normally solitary forest animals, but their powerful sense of smell can lead them into urban areas in search of food, especially in the spring and fall.

To avoid potential conflicts, it's important to recognize what attracts black bears and take steps to reduce these attractants whenever possible. Black bears are known for returning to locations where they've found good food sources, so prevention is the best tactic.

Follow these steps at home to avoid attracting black bears:

Completely remove bird feeders, even during daytime hours – Bird feeders provide a high-density food source for black bears, so bears might frequent a bird feeder for several weeks to see if it is refilled. Areas around bird feeders also have accumulations of seeds that should be cleaned up when removing a feeder. Black bears are also active during throughout the day, so removing bird feeders only at night is not sufficient.

Reduce smells from trash and recycling containers – Black bears have keen noses and are attracted to all types of



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food waste. Rinsing food cans and bottles before throwing them away, as well as storing meat scraps in the fridge or freezer until garbage day, can reduce the intensity of odors emanating from your garbage and recycling containers. Storing containers in a closed building can also reduce access to food waste. Commercial dumpsters should also be locked whenever possible.

Limit the amount of time pets and pet food are left outside unattended – Black bears can be skittish, but they are highly food-motivated. They may also defend themselves or attack pets when provoked. Prevent potential conflicts by limiting how long pets are left alone outside or keep them on a leash when recreating. Pet food should not be left outside, as it may attract bears.

Be conscious of attractants in public spaces like grills

and picnic tables – Barbeque grills and picnic tables often have leftover food scraps or residues on them that can attract black bears. Clean surfaces after use in public spaces to reduce negative human-bear interactions.

Avoid feeding or interacting with black bears – Never feed a bear, whether intentionally or not. The risk of unexpected interactions increases when bears begin to associate people with food. If bears find a consistent food source around people or people actively feed a bear, the bear will make a habit of visiting the area or approaching people.

## Know what to do if you encounter a bear

If a bear is near your home or cabin, from a safe location, try to scare the bear away by making loud noises (like clanging pots and pans together) or throwing objects in the bear's direction. Black bears tend to avoid interactions with people if escape is possible, so make sure it has a clear escape route – never corner a bear. Do not turn your back to a bear or run away.

If you encounter a bear while in the woods, stay calm and do not run. Wave your arms and make loud noises to scare it away. Back away slowly and seek a safe location from where you can wait for the bear to leave. Never approach a bear. For your safety, do not attempt to break up a fight between a pet and a bear.

If unable to resolve a recurring issue with a nuisance bear, contact the USDA Wildlife Services toll-free line at 1-800-433-0663 for properties in southern Wisconsin or at 1-800-228-1368 for properties in northern Wisconsin.

For more information about avoiding unexpected interactions with black bears, visit the DNR's Black Bear Management webpage.

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Oddly, the only person more shocked at this scenario than Ray is Joe. Joe doesn't understand where he is exactly, but he knows *why* he's there. After being part of the infamous Black Sox, the Chicago White Sox team accused of throwing the 1919 World Series, Joe and seven of his teammates were banned from pro ball for life. But now, he's back where he belongs – the baseball field. Ray hits Joe some fly balls,

throws him a little BP, and all is great. The next day, some of Joe's old teammates show up from out of Ray's cornfield, and eventually former players from other teams are playing as Ray, Annie, and Karen watch the games.

Later on, the voice gives Ray another task: "Ease his pain." Ray believes that the voice is talking about Terrance Mann (James Earl Jones), a now-reclusive Civil Rights-era author and activist. Terrance once wrote about a fictional character named John Kinsella – Ray's father's name – and he also once said during an interview that as a kid, he'd dreamed of one day playing for his beloved Brooklyn Dodgers. This convinces Ray to trust his instincts, which are telling him that he has to take Terrance, who lives in Boston, to a Red Sox game. Ray tracks Terrance down at his apartment, and in a fantastic scene, convinces Terrance to accompany him to Fenway Park.

A quick tangent: This is a movie where the ghosts of baseballers past emerge from a cornfield to get some innings in; the filmmakers obviously took a few liberties with the laws of our objective reality. But the most unbelievable thing in this movie happens not on Ray's ballfield, but at Fenway, where Ray and Terrance buy two hot dogs and two beers for seven (7) dollars. I implore you to go to a professional sporting event and see what seven bucks gets you. If you're lucky, the concessions guy might toss you a handful of loose Cracker Jack.

Anyway, the events that follow the Red Sox game are pure cinema magic, folks. Sure, baseball is at the center of *Field of Dreams*, but the film is really about life; how everyone has hopes, triumphs and failures, and how sometimes, you don't know that the most important moment of your life is happening until it brushes past you like a stranger in a crowd. Several characters, including Ray and Terrance, are struggling with past regrets – wrongs they wish they could right and days they wish they'd seized. Ray's field gives them a second chance. Does it matter how, or why? I don't think so. The great thing about *Field of Dreams* is that it doesn't stop to ponder these questions. It simply is what it is, and it asks the audience to buy in, just like the field itself

does. Only those who have faith in the mysterious workings of the field can see the players, and those who hold some sort of belief in the notions of forgiveness and redemption – and the spiritual power of baseball – are able feel the film's full emotional impact.

There's a case to be made that the lessons at the heart of the film could've been conveyed through another medium – cribbage, water polo, interpretative dance, etc. But those things simply lack the magic that baseball possesses in abundance. There's something about the game – its simplicity, its timelessness, its mythical history and legacy – that stretches across generations and can help people overcome their individual differences. Baseball connects us to our past, and it will endure, which is a comforting idea. Maybe someday soon, you'll turn on the radio, and you'll hear Bob Uecker calling a Brewers game, just like you had countless times before. And years from now, you'll tune in again, and this time you'll say to your grandchild, "I remember when Bob Uecker called Brewers games." Sure, it's just an offhand observation, but your grandchild might remember it, and maybe someday they'll tell their own grandchild how you, so long ago, were lucky enough to listen to Mr. Baseball himself on so many summer afternoons and evenings. And your memory will live on, even if it's just in that small, passing moment, because of the game of baseball. There's a beautiful hopefulness in that.

It is wild that *Field of Dreams* worked. On paper, it's completely ludicrous – I felt insane just typing the summary. But what is truly preposterous is how moving the final 20-or-so minutes are. Some people might scoff at the sheer unabashed corniness of it all, and I will tell you, you do not need that kind of negativity in your life. Sometimes we need to be reminded that there are some forces for good in the world, and second chances are possible. I like to believe those things are true everywhere – even in heaven, and Iowa.

*Jalen's columns, "Movies You Gotta See" and "The Free Play," can be found online at [www.medium.com/@jalenmaki](http://www.medium.com/@jalenmaki).*

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