

THE DUNN COUNTY News

UW-Stout students collaborate in project for senior living home

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Budget-friendly weeknight menu features pasta

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BBB Tip: Give the gift of making memories this holiday season

WISCONSIN BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Stuck staring at your gift list? Experience-based gifts are a thoughtful way to create lasting memories, and BBB has tips to help you shop smart and give with confidence this holiday season.

Meaningful gifts don't have to come in a box. With concerns that product prices will rise this season due to tariffs, consumers may be looking for different gift options. Gifting "experiences" can be an excellent way for your recipient to create memories that last longer than material goods. These

gifts are often surprises and a great way to save money.

What sort of 'experiences' are we talking about?

■ Give the gift of a local adventure. Think about where your gift recipient lives. Do an online search for some fun activities or locations in the area. Consider looking at theatres, concert venues, or sporting venues and purchasing tickets to an upcoming event or show. You can even top off the gift

with an additional surprise dinner reservation and a gift card to the restaurant.

■ Learning can be fun, too! Many cities have restaurants that offer cooking classes and wine tastings, or unique small businesses that provide art workshops and DIY-type classes. If your gift recipient is a crafty, hands-on person, this gift will surely be a hit!

■ Family gifts for the year ahead. If you're shopping for a family with children, consider looking at memberships to local zoos, museums, nature centers, or aquar-

iums. These memberships can last a few months or up to a full year, meaning your gift can keep giving well past the holiday season!

■ Wrap up wellness and relaxation. Spa gift cards, yoga passes, a fitness class pass, or a subscription to a meditation app are all great options for someone who loves to relax and rejuvenate.

■ For the charitable one. If you have someone in your life who is passionate

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UW-STOUT HOSPITALITY STUDENTS PLAN STEMM STUDENT EXPO



UW-STOUT, CONTRIBUTED

Professor Kristal Gerdes' Hospitality Convention/Meeting Planning class meets with event staff at the Memorial Student Center Great Hall, where the STEMM Student Expo will be held.

DUNN COUNTY NEWS STAFF editor@dunnconnect.com

One of the University of Wisconsin-Stout's College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Management's biggest events of the year is being planned and executed by hospitality students.

The STEMM Student Expo will showcase more than 250 students' research in nearly 100 projects across a dozen fields of study. The expo, held from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, in the Memorial Student Center Great Hall and ballrooms, will welcome more than 200 guests,

including faculty, staff, community members and industry professionals. It is open to the public.

The event has been running for more than 12 years, but this is the first year it is being coordinated by university students in Professor Kristal Gerdes' Hospitality Convention/Meeting Planning class.

"This is the hands-on, minds-on aspect of the polytechnic experience," said Gerdes, chair of the hospitality and technology innovation department. "The students get to plan and execute the whole event. It's an opportunity for them to build their resumes and is a springboard

for their careers. With this being the first year we're taking charge of the expo, it's a learning process. But we're creating a base for future expos, and with the hospitality students' help, the event will grow."

U.S.A.R., United Solutions of Automation and Robotics, will have a Stokes Robotics' SHEP Quadruped Robot on exhibit at the STEMM Student Expo. The lightweight robotic dog highlights the capabilities and possibilities of different quadruped technologies. U.S.A.R. is a Wisconsin-based distributor of a variety of

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Register now for UW's pesticide applicator training, certification

CHIPPEWA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

The University of Wisconsin's Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Certification Program has announced updates to its training and certification process for 2026. In-person training sessions and testing opportunities will be available in January, February and March across Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire counties.

All participants must purchase a training manual before attending any training or taking the certification exam. Manuals are available only through the UW Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) state office in Madison and not at local Extension offices. Manuals cost \$43 and include a unique PAT Number required for certification. Orders can be placed online at <https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/collection/private/17>. Delivery takes five to 10 days, with rush shipping available for an additional fee.

Training options

Participants must choose one of the following training options after purchasing a manual:

1. Online video training

This self-paced option covers the same material as in-person sessions and is available for the General Farm category. Participants have 14 days to complete the training once started. You will receive one completion certificate that must be shown to the test proctor to be graded at 50%. A completion certificate must be presented to the test proctor. You will need to take the Exam in person at a participating County Extension Office or online with Pearson VUE (see item 4.). You can register here and need to have purchased the manual: Registration is available at: https://uwmadison.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4DVfjmVBmP1ZRA

2. Live training/review sessions

These one-day sessions provide a general review of the manual content and conclude with the certification exam. Registration is required and space is limited. Cost is \$10.00 per session. All sessions begin at 9 a.m.:

- Jan. 22, Dunn County Government Center, Menomonie
- Feb. 4, CDR Farms, Bloomer
- Feb. 26, Extension Eau Claire County, Altoona
- March 17, Chippewa Valley Dairy Supply, Stanley

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Chippewa Valley Technical College, UW-Stout expand transfer opportunities

ALYSSA VAN DUYSSE Chippewa Valley Technical College

Chippewa Valley Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Stout strengthened their long-standing partnership by signing a series of new articulation agreements during CVTC's Reaffirmation Day, Nov. 20.

These agreements create transfer pathways for students in seven CVTC programs to pursue bachelor's degrees at UW-Stout.

The newly signed agreements

include pathways from the following CVTC programs to UW-Stout's Bachelor of Science in Biology:

- CVTC A.A.S. Dental Hygienist – UW-Stout B.S. Biology;
- CVTC Practical Nursing (LPN) – UW-Stout B.S. Biology;
- CVTC A.A.S. Medical Laboratory Technician – UW-Stout B.S. Biology;
- CVTC A.A.S. Diagnostic Medical Sonography – UW-Stout B.S. Biology;
- CVTC A.A.S. Physical Ther-

apist Assistant – UW-Stout B.S. Biology;

■ WTCS Statewide A.D.N. Nursing – UW-Stout B.S. Biology.

In addition, students completing the CVTC Associate of Science degree now have a direct transfer pathway into UW-Stout's Bachelor of Science in Dietetics.

"These agreements were put in place to provide continued options for students who want to pursue a

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CVTC, CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Sunem Beaton-Garcia, president of Chippewa Valley Technical College, left, and Dr. Katherine Frank, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout, sign agreements that will make it easier for students to transfer from CVTC to UW-Stout.

ON THE WEB

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