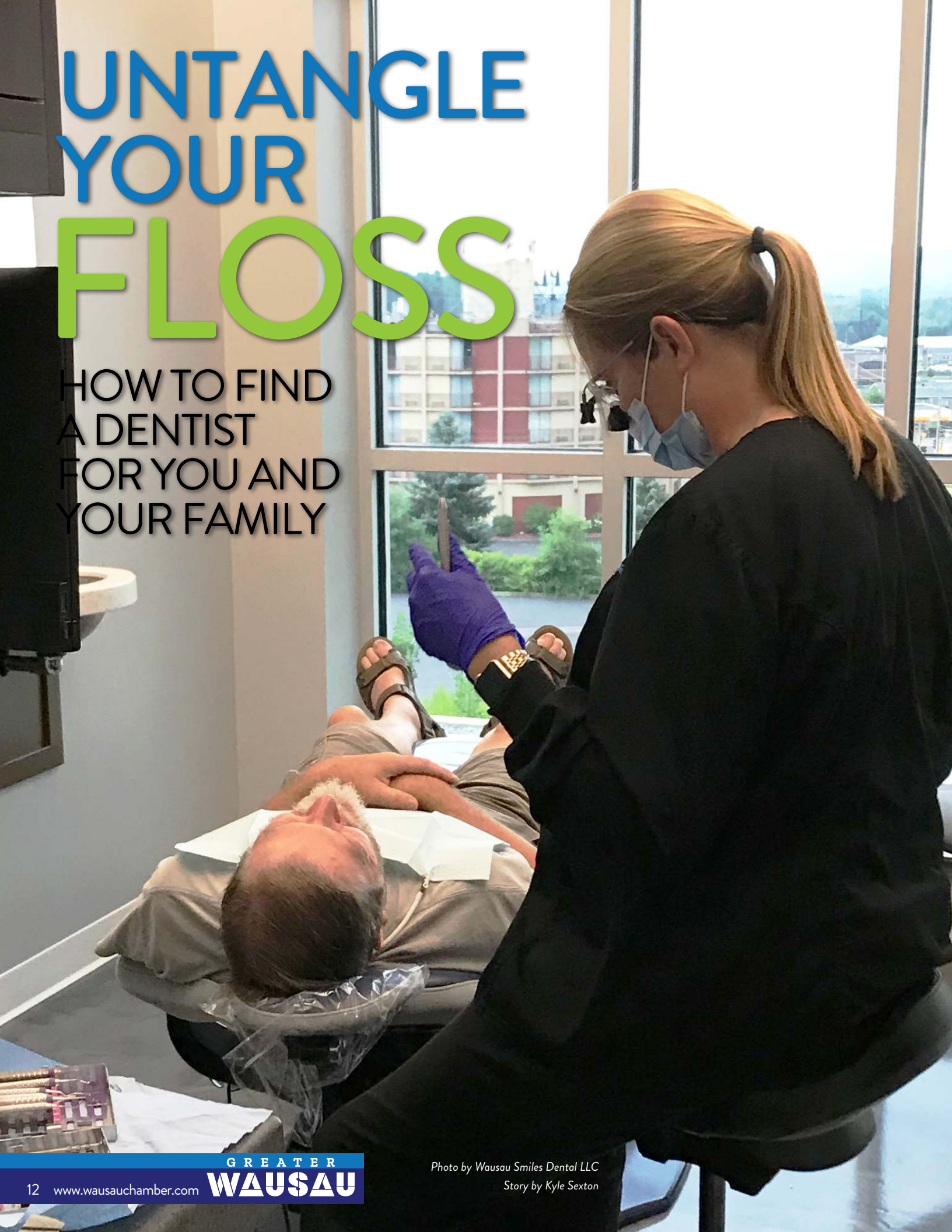


UNTANGLE YOUR FLOSS

HOW TO FIND
A DENTIST
FOR YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY



If you've just moved, choosing the right dentist can feel overwhelming. Before you get your floss in a wad, take a look at our tips for choosing a great dentist.

CHECK YOUR INSURANCE

If you have dental insurance, then finding out which dentists are in your network should be your first order of business. Most insurance companies provide this information on their website. If you can't locate this information, then a quick call to your provider will give you the information you need. This will narrow your search considerably, making it easier to quickly find a dentist.

ASK FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Once you've narrowed your search, seek out recommendations. If you're searching for a dentist because you've relocated, then your current dentist may be able to recommend a dentist that is near your new home. If you know people in the area, then ask around; oftentimes, you'll hear the names of one or two dentist offices that people have had consistently good experiences with.

LOOK AT TREATMENTS OFFERED

Some dentists also have training in orthodontics, while others specialize in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Other dentists have received extra training beyond dental school to provide pediatric

care, and still others specialize in periodontics. Consider the unique needs that you and the members of your household have, and look for a dentist that offers the specialized care that you need.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION AND OFFICE HOURS

No matter how wonderful the dentist is, if they're located 45 minutes away from your home or workplace, then keeping regular appointments will be a challenge. The same goes for office hours. Look for a dentist that is conveniently located and has office hours that will accommodate your busy schedule.

PERSONAL COMFORT

One of the primary things to consider when you choose a dentist is how comfortable you feel with that person. Do you feel free to talk about your symptoms and ask questions? Do you feel as though the dentist rushes through your check-ups rather than taking time to hear and understand your concerns? If you are receiving a procedure like a filling or a root canal, do you feel comfortable expressing your anxiety or asking for more pain medicine? While some discomfort with certain procedures may be inevitable, your dentist should provide attentive and empathetic care.

Choosing a dentist can feel like a daunting task, but by taking these things into consideration, you can pick one that will fit your needs and lifestyle.

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TALENT:

How workforce shortages affect your kids

BY KYLE SEXTON

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The talent challenges facing businesses in central Wisconsin cross a variety of industries. As our world has moved firmly into the digital age, more and more businesses are looking to hire employees who have digital skills, including web design, digital marketing, social media and more. However, many businesses are finding that there just aren't enough job applicants in general and specifically a lack of candidates who possess the required skills, resulting in a talent shortage.

If you have children, of course you want them to have the best possible chance of success in their future careers. Particularly in the digital space, it is important not to rely solely on formal education to develop the skills needed to be successful in the modern business world. Although schools in the Wausau area are tailoring their curriculum to match the workforce needs of the region, students may need to take it upon themselves to learn these crucial digital skills.

Encourage your children to expand their knowledge outside of traditional outlets. The more experiences you can expose them to, the greater their chances of discovering where their passions lie. Take the time to sit down with each of your children individually to discuss their goals for the future. Then, you can

advise them on which skills will be most desirable to employers.

Of course, finding employment is not the only goal of getting an education, but it will help your kids find a way to get paid for doing what they love. Encourage your kids to think outside the box in terms of career opportunities and courses of study. When your child finds what he or she is truly passionate about, you'll know which avenues of education make the most sense and which areas may need to be studied independently.

Talent shortages are not uncommon across the nation. The current workforce must act quickly to adjust to the latest trends, and those just entering the industry are in the best position to make the most of the latest developments. Because they won't be bogged down by the way things were done in the past, your children can focus on driving future development and growth.

If your children are grown, encourage them to take some time to further their education with the most in-demand skills in today's market. This is often a better choice than trying to force-fit themselves into a job that isn't quite right.

Although we may never be able to eliminate the skills gap entirely, our children have the chance to minimize it as best they can.

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