

# Neighbors

of the Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise

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MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

ONE SECTION | 12 PAGES



Don Slama, pictured here pulling his Fast & Furious John Deere tractor at the 2021 Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull, translated his lifelong love of tractor pulls into a charity organization. Each year in August, Slama's Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull raises money that is used throughout the year to help those in need in the Hillsboro area. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

## Charity Tractor Pull to air on major networks

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

On August 13 and 14, the Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull returned to Hillsboro Firemen's Memorial Park for three sessions of trucks and tractors competing to see who could pull the farthest. The event, which is put on through the Lucas Oil Pro Pulling League, attracts hundreds of pullers from all over the country—and the world—

to Hillsboro for the weekend.

Each session is filmed for those viewing at home, unable to attend the pulls in person. And this year, in a first for the event, these filmed sessions will be broadcasted on major networks such as CBS.

On Saturday, September 11, beginning at 1:00P.M., viewers can tune into CBS to watch the filmed pulls that took place here in Hillsboro on August 13 and 14. For those of you who won't be able

to watch on September 11, never fear: the sessions will be aired once again on Sunday, September 19, beginning at 3:30P.M. on NBCSN.

Organizers for the Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull have expressed their excitement in having the pull aired on these major networks. Such inclusion is a good sign that the pull has grown enough to attract greater attention moving forward, which organizers hope will translate into even greater events in the future.

## Area communities plan for American Rescue funding

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

On March 11, 2021, nearly a full year since the onset of COVID-19, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law. The act called for \$1.9 trillion in funding to help combat the impacts of the pandemic, with the majority of direct federal aid earmarked for counties and municipalities across the U.S.

Funding offered by this program is slated for distribution in two rounds, with the first round having taken place earlier this summer and the second set to take place next year. Funding amounts provided to recipients is broken down into entitled and non-entitled groups, and guidance on how the funding can be used is still be released.

Hillsboro will be receiving roughly \$145,800 in total funding, broken down into two payments of \$72,901.65, the first of which has already been received. City Administrator Josh Finch has indicated that the city plans to invest the funds into water, sewer, and storm sewer projects, including updates and repairs. However, due to the still-developing guidelines regarding the funding, the city is currently holding off on investing the funds.

Wonewoc is slated to received a total of \$82,000, and have received their first payment of \$41,000. Village Administrator Lee Kucher remarked on the quick turnaround

in receiving the funds, which he credits to the use of direct deposit. Much like Hillsboro, Wonewoc is currently holding on to the funding, though they do know what they would like to use the funds for. The village is currently in the processing of applying for grant funding to build a new wastewater treatment facility, and Kucher has indicated that the \$82,000 will be put towards the village's part of the project costs.

Union Center is expecting \$20,000 total, and have received the first half of the promised funding. Village Clerk Robin Laubscher and Village President Alan Scott have indicated that they would like to put the funding to use repairing the village streets, and perhaps in replacing old fire hydrants. According to Scott, the streets of Union Center haven't seen much in the way of updates and repairs since the 1960s, and several of the village fire hydrants have begun to show their age.

Elroy will be receiving \$136,383.13 in total funding from the American Rescue Plan, and have currently received their first payment of \$68,191.56. City officials passed resolution #1122 during their Tuesday, August 10 meeting, dictating that the funds would be put towards investments into city parks and outdoor recreation projects. Such investments include extending the

**'FUNDING'** cont. pg. 5

## Wonewoc holds public hearing on future of wastewater facility

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

On Monday, August 30, the Wonewoc Village Board held a public hearing regarding a proposed plan to reconstruct the village's wastewater treatment facility. Initially, the village was looking into upgrading the existing facility—however, as engineers at MSA examined the facility, they quickly discovered some complicating factors.

The facility currently treating Wonewoc's wastewater is 40 years old, and the equipment will need to be replaced in order to meet current guidelines and regulations. In addition, peak flows currently exceed existing capacity requirements under NR110, the

“rulebook” used by MSA and other engineering firms when handling wastewater treatment facilities.

By January 2024, new limits on phosphorus will be enacted, and Wonewoc's existing facility will be unable to meet these new limits. And finally, the current facility is located inside the floodplain.

NR110 requires wastewater treatment facilities to be located in areas that are not likely to face flooding. The current wastewater treatment facility in Wonewoc flooded during the 2018 floods in late August and early September, and MSA head engineer Tom Fitzwilliams informed the village board that future flooding events impacting the current site are “not a matter of if, but when.”

Dry land access to the facility is

also a requirement, and while the facility itself sits on a relatively small island of land just above the floodplain, the access road leading to it is firmly within the floodplain. Financial analysis conducted on the project indicates that the existing facility would not meet the requirements for a dry land access waiver, which means updates to the existing site would not receive approval from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) without the construction of a bridge to access it.

Fitzwilliams and other MSA engineers involved with the project presented three possible routes the village could take, and made their recommendation as to which one would be most advisable. The first two options involved either

modifying the existing structures or adding on to them. The first option, which would simply modify what is already there, is not feasible due to the peak flows currently seen at the facility. The second would not receive funding, as any attempts to expand would move the facility further into the floodplain.

The third option, and MSA's recommendation, would be for the village to build a new facility outside of the floodplain. MSA has identified a potential site location along Washington Street, which would pull the facility out of the floodplain and provide ample room to build a facility capable of properly handling current peak flows.

The scope of upgrades that would be included with this option are extensive: the installation of a new

packaged Activated Sludge process, new chemical phosphorus removal process, new UV disinfection system, a new UV disinfection system, and a new standby generator. Upgrades to the electrical system will also be needed. The project costs are estimated at \$10 million, meaning that the village must secure substantial grant funding.

Village officials began the process of applying for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development in late May of this year, requesting a 75% grant (\$7.5 million) from the USDA National Office. Both the village and MSA are anticipating to hear back from the USDA in September, and will be submitting the proposed

**'HEARING'** cont. pg. 5

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# Royall High School to host EMS training course

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

Recently, there have been renewed efforts among emergency personnel to encourage applicants to consider entering into the emergency response field. Shortages of personnel in both fire departments and ambulance services are unfortunately nothing new, with reports on such shortages dating back to well before the onset of COVID-19.

Local fire departments and ambulance services are often volunteer-driven, especially in small rural communities. A lack of volunteers, therefore, can critically hamper the ability of these vital services to adequately serve and address the needs of their communities.

For emergency medical services in particular, the loss of volunteers can often result in the elimination of EMS in a community. The lack of volunteers stepping up to become EMTs can be attributed to a number of factors, perhaps most commonly to issues with the commitment being an EMT requires as well as the cost of receiving the necessary education to become one.

In an effort to help alleviate the problem, the Western Technical College (WTC) will be holding an EMS course at Royall High School this fall. The course will enable students to earn the basic certifications necessary to sit for the state exam once they complete the course. Upon completing the exam, those who pass will be able to work in their local EMS departments.

This course is open to the public as well, though community members who wish to take part will have to pay the course fee on their own, which is roughly \$900. Students taking the course will have their program fees subsidized by their school district.

Western Technical College initiated this program roughly three years ago, testing it out at Arcadia High School. Since then, the college has offered the program at local schools to help bolster interest and engagement in the EMS field.

Originally, this course was scheduled to take place in Mauston, however WTC found enough interest in local districts to allow for the program to be held at Royall High School, which serves as more of a central point than Mauston's WTC campus. Officials from WTC approached Royall about relocating the program, and after finding that the school would fit the standards required by the course and the college, it was agreed to relocate the course to Royall.

Students can sign up for the course by contacting their respective school districts, while community members interested in taking the course are encouraged to contact the program's coordinator, Tyler Ludeking, either by phone at (608) 789-6232 or by email at [ludekingt@westerntc.edu](mailto:ludekingt@westerntc.edu).

The course is scheduled to take place beginning on Tuesday, September 7, and will go until Friday, December 17. It will be a blended course, with both in-person and online instruction. In person classes will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00A.M. until 9:30A.M. On Tuesdays and Fridays, the course will move to an online format, though it will still take place from 8:00A.M. until 9:30AM.

Students must hold a valid driver's license in order to take part in the onsite experience aspect of the course, and those taking the exam must be age 18 or older by their testing date. For more information on this course, please contact Tyler Ludeking.




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The Hillsboro Tigers Athletic Booster Club have been selling tickets to their Fall Raffle and steak dinner event over the past few weeks, and on Saturday, August 28, ticket holders were able to enjoy a fun evening at the Rockton Bar. Additional raffles were arranged for the evening, including 50/50 raffles, to help raise money to support the Hillsboro athletics program. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

## Hillsboro Tigers Athletic Booster Club celebrate over \$50k in donations

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

Started in 2015 by Jill and Bob Stekel, the Hillsboro Tigers Athletic Booster Club has raised and funded \$50,606.19 to Hillsboro's school athletic programs. From small items such as basketballs and singlets for wrestlers to weight room equipment and batting cages, the Booster Club has been working to support Hillsboro's student athletes over the past six years.

The Stekels invested \$300 out of pocket to get the club up and going, recruiting roughly ten local families with kids in school to get the ball rolling. At the time, school sports were becoming increasing pay-to-play, which limited the opportunities students could take advantage of in the sports programs. Currently, the Stekels have one child still in school, who plays on the school's football, basketball, and baseball teams.

Over the past six years, the Booster Club has hosted a variety of events to help raise money to support the school's athletic teams, such as the yearly Tiger Alumni Boys Basketball and Golf Outings,

Donkey Basketball, fall banquets, and calendar raffles.

The Booster Club hosted its annual Fall Raffle event on Saturday, August 28, at the Rockton Bar. Those who purchased a ticket for the raffle were able to enjoy a steak feed and open bar during the evening, as well as take part in a few smaller raffles.

The next event, following the Fall Raffle, will be the annual Golf Outing at Spring Valley Golf Course. The outing will take place on Saturday, September 11, and will feature a scramble format. Teams of four will tee off at 2:00P.M., and there will be a meal and drinks afterwards. Some raffles will be going on during the event, as well.

Stekel has also indicated that the Booster Club will be continuing its live streaming of HHS sporting events, covering as many as they are able to and including both home and away games. You can find them on YouTube as Hillsboro Tigers Athletic Booster Club HTABC, which includes a link to their secondary change when two sporting events are going on at the same time.

This year, the Booster Club will

be selling advertising opportunities as part of the livestreams. The ads will run during breaks and pauses in the games, and during half-time. Advertisers who pay \$500 for ad space will have their ad run during every live-streamed event in a specific season, while those who pay \$1,000 will have their ad run during each live-streamed event over the whole school year. Donations of less than \$500 will be accepted for one-time event ads.

For more information on the Booster Club, its upcoming events, or its livestream advertising, please contact Jill Stekel at (608) 553-3536 or at [j.stekel@gmail.com](mailto:j.stekel@gmail.com).

## Vernon County Reads at the Hillsboro Public Library

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

The Hillsboro Public Library is one of six Vernon County libraries to be taking part in the annual Vernon County Reads program. This program, offered in partnership with the Driftless Writing Center, highlights an author and provides increased access to their works, enabling residents to read them. As part of the program, participating libraries host group discussions of the highlighted author and their works.

This year, Vernon County Reads is focusing on Rhinelander native Victoria Houston and her nineteen-book Loon Lake mystery series. The series is set in the fictional Wisconsin town of Loon Lake, and details the adventures of Police Chief Lew Ferris, who solves mysteries with retired dentist Dr. Paul "Doc" Osborne in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

Houston's works have been featured in a story making the front page of the January 20, 2004 edition of The Wall Street Journal, and on NPR's Talk of the Nation with Neal Conan, airing on February 2,

2006. Both of these can be found by visiting [www.victoriahouston.com](http://www.victoriahouston.com).

As a participating library, the Hillsboro Public Library will be hosting a preliminary author discussion on Houston's Loon Lake series on Thursday, September 23, beginning at 6:30P.M. This discussion is set to take place at Hillsboro Community Center, and attendees will be treated to light refreshments, a gift for all participants, and a raffle. Carpooling options to the program's finale event will also be discussed.

The Vernon County Reads program will conclude on Thursday, October 7, with an in-person presentation by Victoria Houston at 7:00P.M. in the Westby Area Performing Arts Center. Admission to both events is free of charge, and tickets for Houston's presentation can be reserved online or at the door. Copies of Houston's books will be available for purchase at the book signing immediately following the program.

If you are interested in taking part in the Vernon County Reads program, contact the Hillsboro Public Library at (608) 489-2192.

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ELROY *Calendar of Events*

SEPTEMBER 9	Royall Varsity Volleyball Quad At Bangor 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 10	Royall Ms Football Necedah At Royall 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	Royall Var Football New Lisbon @ Royall 7PM. Royall Homecoming Royall Class Of 1961 Class Reunion @ The Lodge In Mauston 4PM Social, 5PM Meal Royall Homecoming Dance Elroy Vendor Fair At Elroy Fairgrounds 8A -2P Apple Dumpling Day & Races At Schultz Park- Elroy Fairgrounds
SEPTEMBER 13	Royall Jv Football At New Lisbon 5 PM Royall Ms Volleyball @ Royall Wonewoc Vs Royall/New Lisbon 6/7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 14	Royall Varsity Volleyball At Hillsboro 5:45/7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 16	Royall Ms & Var Cross Country @ Necedah Royall Ms Football New Lisbon Ms @ Royall 5 PM Royall Volleyball Bangor @ Royall 5:45/7:15P
SEPTEMBER 17	Royall Varsity Football At Onalaska Luther 7P
SEPTEMBER 18	Royall Ms & Varsity Cross Country @ Brookwood 9 AM
SEPTEMBER 20	Royall Jv Football Onalaska At Royall 5 PM Royall Volleyball Bangor @ Royall 5:45/7:15P
SEPTEMBER 21	Royall Ms Football At Ithaca Ms 5 PM Royall Ms & Varsity Cross Country @ Westby 4 PM
SEPTEMBER 22	Royall Varsity Football Bangor At Royall 7 PM
SEPTEMBER 23	Royall Ms Football At Wonewoc Ms 5 PM Royall Volleyball Cashton @ Royall 5:45/7:15 Royall Ms Volleyball @ New Lisbon Vs Royall/Viroqua 5/7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	Royall Ms Cross Country @ Reedsburg 4:15P Royall Varsity Volleyall @Westfield 9 AM Royall Jv/C Volleyball Tournament @ Jag Tbd
SEPTEMBER 27	Royall Jv Football At Bangor 5 PM Royall Volleyball @ New Lisbon 5:45/7:15PM Royall Ms Volleyball @ Royall Vs Hillsboro / Wonewoc 5/7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 28	Royall Ms Football At Riverdale Ms 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 30	Royall Ms Football Bangor Ms @Royall Ms 5P Roayll Volleyball @Hillsboro 5:45/7:15 PM
OCTOBER 1	Royall Varsity Football At Brookwood 7 PM Royall Ms Cross Country @ Cashton 4:30PM
OCTOBER 2	Elroy Fire Department Steak & Chicken Feed Royall Varsity Cross Country @ Reedsburg 9:30 AM
OCTOBER 4	Royall Jv Football Brookwood At Royall 5 PM Royall Ms Volleyball @ Necedah 6/7:00 PM Royall Ms @Necedah 6/7:00 PM
OCTOBER 5	Royall Volleyball @Bangor 5:45/7:15 PM Royall Ms Volleyball @ Brookwood 5/6:00PM Royall Cross Country Varsity @ Tomah 4 PM
OCTOBER 7	Royall Ms Football At Brookwood Ms 5 PM Royall Volleyball @ Cashton 5:45/7:15 PM Royall Ms Volleyball @ Royall 5/7:00 PM
OCTOBER 8	Royall Varsity Football @ Cashton 7 PM
OCTOBER 9	Royall Cross Country Varsity @ Riverdale 9AM Royall Ms Cross Country @ Riverdale 10:30A
OCTOBER 11	Royall Jv Football Cashton @ Royall 5 PM Royall Volleyball Jv/C Quad @ New Lisbon 4:30 PM Royall Var Volleyball Quad @ Brookwood 5PM
OCTOBER 14	Royall Ms Volleyball @ Bangor 6/7:00 PM Royall Ms Football Cashton Ms At Royall Ms 5 PM Royall Volleyball Necedah @ Royall 5:45/7:15 PM Royall Ms Volleyball @ Wonewoc 6/7:00 PM
OCTOBER 15	Royall Varsity Football De Soto @ Royall 7PM
OCTOBER 16	Royall Varsity Conf @ Bangor Tbd
OCTOBER 18	Royall Ms Football @Hillsboro 5 PM
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# City Council clears St. Paul’s for possible daycare facility project

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

Members of the St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wonewoc approached the Hillsboro City Council during the monthly Committee of a Whole meeting on August 10 regarding a potential purchase of property in the Hillsboro area.

The church is discussing plans to build a daycare facility in an effort to help provide more opportunities for area residents in need of daycare

## Elroy Vendor Affair to partner with Elroy Lions at Apple Dumpling Days

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

The Elroy Vendor Affair will be partnering with the Elroy Lions Club for this year’s Apple Dumping Days festivities. Local artists, craftspeople, services, and small and home businesses are encouraged to come out and show off their wears and services.

The idea behind the Elroy Vendor Affair came from Jared Johns of DJ J-Rod Music Service and Johns Cosmetics, Gifts, Goodies, and Moore. Johns hopes to help local businesses in and around Elroy with the opportunity to continue displaying and selling their goods in a socially distanced and outdoor event.

The Elroy Vendor Affair offers local businesses the opportunity to come out and network with each other, as well as enabling the community to put a face to the business. You can learn more about the initiative by visiting the Elroy Vendor Affair on Facebook.

Johns is one of the event’s sponsors, along with the Elroy Home and Auto Store, the Lifestyle Engineer – Life Coaching Services, and the Elroy Lions Club. The success of last year inspired Johns to continue the event and help it grow into something greater, which led Johns to teaming up with Apple Dumpling Day.

Apple Dumpling Day is a race for marathoners, half-marathoners, and 2Kers, and even includes a children’s race. As part of the festivities, the Elroy Lions Club will be providing food, drinks, and apple dumplings during the event. To learn more about the event, and to sign up for the race, please visit [www.appledumplingdayraces.com/registration](http://www.appledumplingdayraces.com/registration).

Businesses looking to participate in the event should contact Kelly by email at [kellyl@kellylupton.com](mailto:kellyl@kellylupton.com) or Jared Johns by email at [djjrod.wi@gmail.com](mailto:djjrod.wi@gmail.com).

The Elroy Vendor Affair and Apple Dumpling Day is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 11, beginning at 8:00A.M. and going until 2:00P.M. at the Elroy Fairgrounds. This event is free for the public to attend.

options for their young children. Representatives of the church, including Annalies Brander, who is slated to become director for the facility should it be approved and constructed, were looking to price a 2.79-acre of land up in Tinker’s Bluff.

A conceptual drawing of the proposed facility was designed specifically to suit that piece of property. The church had settled on the property after examining multiple possible candidates, believing that the acreage would provide the desired space to build such a facility and establish an outdoor area for young children to enjoy.

The daycare would be state licensed and open to the public, accepting children from families not belonging to the church as well as those who are part of the congregation. Plans for the facility currently cap the student population at 148 in total, with allotments made for children ranging from infancy to preschool-age.

After some discussion, the City Council agreed to offer St. Paul’s the land at \$5,000, provided that the facility be built and open for business by fall of 2023. Should the building not be completed and ready for students by that point, the price

will increase to \$10,000.

St. Paul’s will be discussing the pricing and the plans to build the facility at their upcoming voter meeting on November 7.



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## FUNDING

(Continued from Front Page)

bike trail and developing safer connections between the 400 Trail and local parks, as well as working to make the city's Baraboo River access more accessible to all members of the public.

While all four communities know how they want to utilize the funding, city and village officials are hesitant to fully commit to spending the money until further guidance is released from the federal government. Funding supplied by the American Rescue Plan has a two-year expiration date, with unused funds slated to be returned once the allotted time frame is up.

## HEARING

(Continued from Front Page)

facility plan to the DNR this month as well.

Initial investigations by MSA into the environmental impacts of the proposed project have demonstrated no significant impacts, meaning that the project is currently waiting for USDA funding approval before moving forward. Should the grant be approved, the designing process will begin in October of this year and will likely be finalized in July, 2022, before being bid out later that fall. Construction on the new site would begin in spring of 2023 with substantial completion to be achieved in summer of 2024 and total completion achieved later that fall.

The new site would be easily upgraded in the future should the village grow in the future. Currently, there is no plan to hook up those living along Washington Street to the new facility. Costs for the village's portion of the project would be covered by an increase in the sewer and water utility rates, which MSA currently estimates at between \$51 to \$58 per month.

## NEXT Neighbors ISSUE ON OCT. 13TH

# HILLSBORO Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 9	Hillsboro Jh Football @ Bangor 5 PM Hillsboro Volleyball Quad @Cashton 6/7:15P
SEPTEMBER 10	Hillsboro Var Football @ Riverdale 7 PM
SEPTEMBER 11	Hillsboro Cross Country @ River Valley 8:30A Hillsboro Varsity Volleyball @ Sparta Tourn Annual K-9 Run/Walk & Kids Run In Viroqua Start At Sheriff's Office 9 AM Apple Dumpling Day Races At Elroy - Fairgrounds Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull Will Be Shown On Saturday On CBS At 1 PM And NBCSN On Sunday At 3:30 PM Royall Class Of 1961 Class Reunion At The Lodge Mauston 4 PM Social, 5 PM Meal
SEPTEMBER 13	Hillsboro Lions Meet at The Community Center 6:30 PM Hillsboro Woman's Civic Club Meets at Hills Manor 6 PM Hillsboro Jv Football Jv Vs Riverdale 5 PM Hillsboro Jh Volleyball @Royall 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 14	Hillsboro Volleyball Royall @ Hillsboro 6/7:15 PM Volleyball @Hillsboro 5:45 PM
SEPTEMBER 16	Hillsboro Jh Football Vs Brookwood New - Location 5 PM Hillsboro Volleyball @ Bangor 6/7:15 PM Hillsboro Cross Country @Boscobel 7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 17	Hillsboro Football @ De Soto 7 PM
SEPTEMBER 18	Hillsboro Cross Country @ Brookwood 9 AM Hillsboro Class Of 1960 Class Reunion at Spring Valley 11 AM Social, 12 PM Meal
SEPTEMBER 20	Hillsboro Jv Football Desoto Vs Hillsboro
SEPTEMBER 21	Hillsboro Jh Volleyball @ Cashton Hillsboro Cross Country @ Westby 4 PM Hillsboro Volleyball New Lisbon @ Hillsboro 6/7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 22	Movie Night Outdoors At Schultz Park, (Elroy Fair Grounds) "It Happened One Night " Sponsored By Eac Member Gundersen St. Joseph's, Popcorn, Water & Soda Will Be Sold as a Fundraiser 7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 23	Hillsboro Jh Football Vs Cashton 5 PM Hillsboro Volleyball @ Necedah 6/7:15 PM Hillsboro Jh Volleyball @Hillsboro
SEPTEMBER 24	Hillsboro Varsity Football Vs Boscobel 7 PM
SEPTEMBER 25	Hillsboro Cross Country@ Fennimore 8:15AM
SEPTEMBER 27	Hillsboro Jv Football @ Boscobel 5 PM Hillsboro Jh Volleyball At Royall Hillsboro Volleyball Brookwood @ Hillsboro 6/7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 28	Hillsboro Volleyball Wonewoc @ Hillsboro 6/7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 30	Hillsboro Jh Football Vs W-C 5 PM Hillsboro Jh Volleyball @Necedah Hillsboro Volleyball @Royall 6/7:15 PM
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OCTOBER 4	Hillsboro Lions Meet Hillsboro Jh Volleyball @Hillsboro Hillsboro Jv Football @Wauzeka-Steuben 5P
OCTOBER 7	Hillsboro Jh Football Vs Necedah 5 PM Hillsboro Jh Volleyball @ Hillsboro Hillsboro Volleyball @ W-C 6/7:15 PM
OCTOBER 9	Hillsboro Football @ Highland 2 PM Hillsboro Cross Country @Riverdale 9 AM
OCTOBER 11	Hillsboro Woman's Civic Club Meets @ Hills Manor 6 PM Hillsboro Jh Volleyball @ Viroqua Hillsboro Jv Quad @ Necedah (Bangor) Hillsboro Jv Football Hillsboro vs Highland 5P
OCTOBER 12	Hillsboro Volleyball Quad @ Hillsboro (Bangor, Necedah) Hillsboro Jh Football @ New Lisbon 5 PM

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# Gundersen Health Systems to require vaccinations

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

In August, Wisconsin crossed the halfway point for vaccinations, with 53.4% of Wisconsin residents having received at least one dose of the vaccine as of Monday, August 16. As of September 1, the state has reached 54.9% of eligible Wisconsinites receiving at least one dose.

Statewide, the seven-day average for new confirmed cases has increased to 1,515, with 2,370 new cases confirmed on Wednesday, September 1, alone. While these numbers pale in comparison to the massive spikes recorded in November, 2020—which saw over 7,870 cases confirmed on November 12 and 17 at its height—current trajectories indicate that the number of daily confirmed cases are growing across the state.

All but 17 Wisconsin counties have recorded very high levels of viral activity, according to data collected between August 18 and August 31. In Vernon County and surrounding counties, only Richland County remains at high activity levels. Vernon, La Crosse, Juneau, Sauk, and Crawford Counties all show no significant changes anticipated in their trajectories, however. Monroe County’s trajectory indicates continued growth of active and confirmed cases.

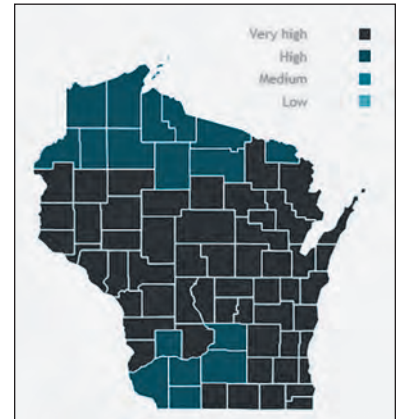
Officials at Gundersen attribute the rising case counts and hospitalizations to the Delta variant, a high contagious mutation of the COVID-19 virus that has been spreading through the United States.

In addition to the high transmittable variant, the hospital has also indicated that those who have not been vaccinated against the virus are another driving factor in the rise of viral activity.

When the vaccines first became available, roughly 85% of Gundersen Health System staff voluntarily received a dose. In addition to getting vaccinated, staff has continued to implement and follow safety measures, such as wearing masks and observing social distancing, to further ensure the health and safety of both staff and patients throughout the hospital’s network.

Gundersen Health Systems announced this week that all employees must be vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 1 of this year, joining dozens of local and regional health systems, schools, and organizations in requiring the vaccine.

Gundersen officials have stated that the vaccine is free and proven to be safe, as well as the surest way to protect everyone from the COVID-19 virus. Anyone age 12



Data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services over a two-week period has shown that Wisconsin’s level of viral activity is anticipated to rise moving forward. Health organizations, such as Gundersen Health Systems, are now looking to require vaccinations for all members of their staffs. Graphic courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

and older is encouraged to get vaccinated. For more information on vaccine eligibility and scheduling an appointment, please visit [gundersenhealth.org/vaccine](https://gundersenhealth.org/vaccine).

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# Richland County HCE donates over 9,000 masks in time of need

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

Last summer, as the pandemic stretched through the summer months, the Richard County Home and Community Education Club (HCE) sewed and donated masks to help protect community members from the spread of COVID-19. A year later, the pandemic continues on with vaccine efforts still ongoing and case counts rising as those who remain unvaccinated are left at greater risk of the Delta variant.

The Richland County HCE entered into a contest sponsored by the Wisconsin HCE called Stitches of Love, setting about to make and donate as many masks as possible. The HCE club has 41 members from Sauk, Vernon, and Richland Counties, who banded together to sew and donate 9,145 fabric masks throughout the three counties.

Beginning in March 2020, just as the pandemic was starting to hit home, the president of the Richland County HCE, Yvonne Chapman, was asked to sew 100 facemasks for a local nursing home. Chapman saw a greater need for masks beyond the nursing home, and began to mobilize other HCE members to start sewing and donating masks. At the start, five members sewed the masks while four sewed the ear saver bands. Some weeks, this team would distribute over 500 masks, with three members handling the distribution.

A volunteer from Eau Claire had heard about the project and wanted to join in as a part-time sewer, while another woman who had been selling masks online donated 250 child-sized masks and decided to join in with the group.

The masks went to nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, elementary schools, libraries, women's shelters, homeless shelters, restaurants, factories, banks, stores, police departments, and various relatives and neighbors throughout Richland, Vernon, and Sauk Counties.

Donations of cash and materials, including elastic donated by Richland Hospital, enabled the HCE to keep making masks, though the sewers often absorbed any remaining costs. The group made masks for both adults and children, with four area schools needed 1,500 masks prior to the start of school.

"What started out as a small project turned into a huge undertaking," says Chapman.

Public ventures, such hospitals and police departments and shelters, received weekly donations of handmade masks. Hospitals handed out the masks to both their staff and their patients and visitors, and officers would hand out the masks



Over the course of seven months, members of the Richland County HCE sewed and donated 9,145 masks across the Richland, Vernon, and Sauk County area. Many of their masks went to hospitals, schools, and local shelters, while some went to police departments, nursing homes, and businesses. Contributed photo.

rather than ticket for violation of state masking mandates.

With 9,145 masks made and donated, Chapman estimates that the total donated value of the seven-month project sits at approximately \$46,100. While the group has stopped producing masks at the same volume, Chapman has indicated that the HCE would be willing to step up again should the need arise.

"We are always looking for new members who have the same love for our community and have a little spare time to help their neighbors," adds Chapman.

If you are interested in joining the HCE, or would like more information about the mask-making project, please contact Yvonne Chapman at (608) 528-4334.

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# West Lima High School graduates celebrate all school reunion

By **NICOLETTE NAUMAN**  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

On Saturday, August 14, graduates and former students of the West Lima High School got together for a reunion at The Phoenix Center in Richland Center. The school opened its doors to its inaugural class in 1922, with students attending until the school closed in 1967.

The reuniting classmates enjoyed lunch together, with a program following the meal to recognize those in attendance. A total of 18 classes were represented at the reunion, spanning 23 years of the school's history.

Those attending from the graduating classes of the 1940s were as follows: from the Class of 1944, Verna Mary Braithwaite Gillingham; from the Class of 1945, June Marshall Prucha; from the Class of 1947, Peggy Marshall Paull and Lucille Parker Lowrey; and from the Class of 1949, Derwin Levy and Jack Rabata.

Former students who attended and graduated from West Lima High School in the 1950s were as follows: from the Class of 1950, Jim Clark and Bud Gudgeon; from the Class of 1952, Earl Clark, Kay Burdick Levy, and Richard Thompson; from the Class of 1953, Ilene Novy Melvin,

Karren Harris Zimmerman, Ethel McCoy Kanable, and Beverly Hyde Wemette; from the Class of 1956, Roger Spangler; from the Class of 1957, Bob Novy, Everette Lange, and Larry Joseph; from the Class of 1958, Jim Rabata, Harold McCoy, and Pat Allbaugh Kopps; and from the Class of 1959, Jim Joseph, Jill Cooper Vestuto, Deanna Spangler Holak, Joyce Hisel Ellett, Marvin Allbaugh, Mayva Blaha Fish, and Marjorie McCoy Schweiger.

Those attending from the graduating classes of the 1960s were as follows: from the Class of 1960, Larry Hynek, Leonard Kaukl, Bill Johnston, Monty Olson, Jane Cooper Adams, and Janice Muller Hubbard; from the Class of 1961, Sandy DeWitt Joseph, Gary Williams, and Mary Novy Schroeder; from the Class of 1962, Gene Beckwith, Elmer McCauley, and Pat Muller Turnipseed; from the Class of 1963, LaVerne Miller, Sharon Cunningham Lange, Tom Simonson, and Madonna Johnston Pralle; from the Class of 1964, John Granger, Ann Kenworthy Schroeder, Connie Wanless Moldenhauer, and Larry Simonson; from the Class of 1965, Kenely Dalberg, Richard Campbell, Connie Schaffert Frye, Robert Sweet, and Richard Campbell; and from the

Class of 1967, Jim Schaffert and Stanley Campbell.

Those in attendance took a moment to remember those students and teachers who have since passed on from the previous school reunion. Their names were read and a moment of silence was held. Those names were as follows: Elaine Chadwick Blakely, Kathy Muller Leatherberry, Jerry Todd, Larry Kaukl, Edward Hawkinson, Bernice Yanske Beckwith, Gene Winger Wilson, Elanor Viaget Verbksy, Marilyn Wallace Woosley, Merna Burt Cook, Betty Rabata Tennant, Bee Martin Gray, Virgil Hatfield, Norman Muller, Evelyn Davis Meacham, Leland Jewett, Patty Bender Kuykendall, Darwin Fish, Berta Ruth Sandmire Yeomans, Leon Subera, Arnold Svacina, Wilmer Braithwaite, Bill Nelson, Dolores Stanek Havlik, Maynard Sebranek, Larry Hundley, Burt Parker, Elsie Zoha Conohan, Linda Anderson Flickinger, Robert Wemette, Larry Sneath, David Cervenka, Donald Hyde, Dave Campbell, Larry Fish, Bernard Vodak, Clarice Yanske Wilson, Arnold Wallace, and Evaline Langer Riddle.

The next reunion for the West Lima High School graduates and former students is planned to take place on August 12, 2023.

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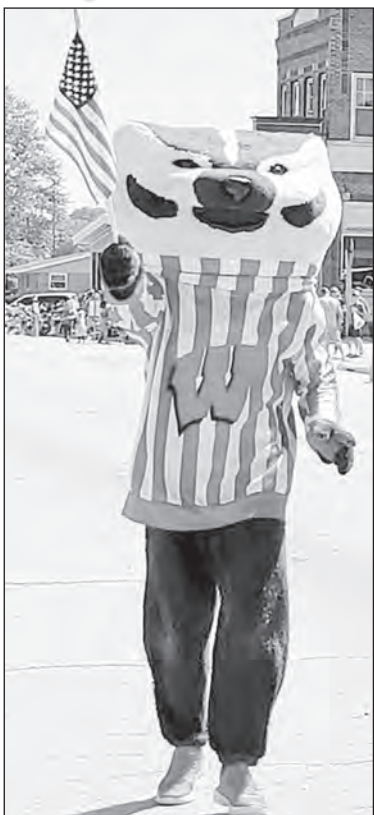
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# Kendall Fest 2021



The U.W. Madison Marching Band and Cheerleaders were unable to make to this year's Kendall Fest, but Bucky Badger came through, waving to spectators along the parade route. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Magician Glen Gerard put some more magic into Kendall Fest, wowing young and old alike during his performances on Saturday, September 4. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Parade Marshal Frances Trepes rode ahead of the Royall Marching Band during this year's Labor Day Parade in Kendall. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Face painter Candis Murphy of Face Candy Face Painting and Body Arts was on hand during Kendall Fest to paint colorful designs onto fest-goers. Here, she paints a snake on 2-year-old Asher Steffen. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Break out the lederhosen and dig out the steins—Oktoberfest is fast approaching and this La Crosse calendar staple went all out to put their best foot forward during Kendall's Labor Day parade. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Representatives from Royal Bank dressed up as the three little pigs this year as they marched through the streets of Kendall. 2-year-old Linsey Sarmiento, held by her father (Cristian), waves to one of the three little pigs during this year's parade. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



The Zor Shriners zipped along the parade route, delighting crowds staked out on the streets of Kendall to enjoy this year's Labor Day parade. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Farmers & Merchant Bank drove their balloon-covered vehicle in the 2021 Kendall Fest Labor Day Parade on Sunday, September 5. There were also representatives from the bank walking along the route and throwing candy and beads to spectators. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Classic country cover artist Maggie Mae and her Heartland Band played for three hours straight during Kendall Fest, performing beloved county music classics for those in attendance. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.



Members of the Hanson-Star-Leith-Paeth Legion Post 508 in Wilton marched along the parade route during Kendall's Labor Day parade, proudly carrying their own flag alongside Old Glory. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess.

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The Union Center Fire Department hosted a Poker Ride fundraiser on Saturday, August 21. Participants set out early Saturday morning to visit a variety of participating area establishments, ranging from Wonewoc to Kendall, in order to try to create the best poker hand they could! Photos taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

# Juneau County Drug Court celebrates first recovery program graduate

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

Right before the onset of COVID-19, Juneau County decided to implement a new program designed to help those convicted on drug-related charges overcome their addictions and rebuild their lives. The Juneau County Adult Drug Court (JCADC) was initiated in late February, early March of 2020, and was devised as a program meant to take a minimum of fourteen months to complete.

As part of the program, participants are obligated to attend therapy sessions, group meetings, and adhere to a list of restrictions put in place by the court. The team administering the program then provides help in locating and securing housing, finding work, and making healthier choices.

“[This program] is not only helping them with their addiction, but it’s [helping build] a safer community,” says Jo Havlik, coordinator for the Juneau County Drug Court.

Havlik is one of a nine-person team responsible for implementing the program. This team, which includes Judge Stacy A. Smith of Branch 1 Juneau County Circuit Court and defense attorney Gene Cisewski, spent nearly two years prior to the start of the program undergoing multiple training sessions to prepare.

Treatment courts such as these have seen success in courts throughout the U.S., beginning in 1989 and spreading to every state over the past 32 years. The goal of these treatment courts is to provide

treatment and support to nonviolent drug offenders combating substance abuse and addictions. In addition to the human element, these courts are estimated to save an average of \$6,000 for each individual served, which can be seen in reduced prison and jail costs and reduced revolving-door arrests and trials.

During its first eighteen months, the program enrolled ten participants who would otherwise be facing prison time. Under the program, the courts determine what the participant in question is expected to adhere to in order to remain in the program. Should any participant fail to adhere to their guidelines, sanctions such as curfews and electronic monitoring may be considered.

Several current participants have held on to their sobriety for 100 days or more, and have had the opportunity to reconnect with their children. Another participant was even offered a better job while working in the Taco Bell drive-thru.

A few participants have encountered setbacks and relapses, which Havlik has indicated that the program was prepared to handle. Each individual case is considered, and Judge Smith is tasked with determining the appropriate sanctions.

“There’s one thing in the program,” says Judge Smith. “You have to try.”

Judge Smith and the JCADC team aim to be fair when accessing such setbacks and are careful to levy sanctions that have greater value in progressing the participant along the program, rather than merely punishing them for their mistakes.

Community service work, writing assignments, and increased testing for alcohol and drug use have been utilized throughout the program’s initial run.

“It’s a growing process, and I’m learning to grow,” says Lisa, one of the program’s ten participants. “I do believe this is an opportunity, not a punishment.”

Despite the slow start to the program, Havlik and her team were happy to celebrate the program’s first graduate on Friday, August 27.

Christopher Friis, an Elroy resident, had faced charges related to methamphetamine and the possession of drug paraphernalia, which would come with a sentence of up to three and a half years. When Friis was initially recommended for the newly-formed recovery program, he admits that he had no interest in participating.

However, once Friis was admitted to the program, he found the program to be something worth his time and worth the effort. As of his graduation, Friis has been sober for 540 days, completing all five phases of the recovery program.

Following his graduation, Friis plans to continue building off of the progress he’s made with the help of Havlik and her team. He has indicated that he will continue to attend the group meetings and is looking forward to using his experiences with the program to help others complete it and improve their own lives.

“I have had a pretty smooth ride,” says Friis. “You just gotta stick with it. People are here to help you, but you gotta let them.”

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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 9	W-C/Weston Jh Football At New Lisbon 5P W-C Volleyball @ Cashton 5/6:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 10	W-C/Weston Varsity Football At Belmont 7P
SEPTEMBER 11	W-C Volleyball @ Sparta Invitational 9 AM
SEPTEMBER 13	W-C/Jh Volleyball Triangular At Bangor W/Brookwood 5/6:00 P.m
SEPTEMBER 14	W-C @ Necedah 6/7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 16	W-C/Weston Jh Football At Cashton 5 PM W-C Volleyball Royall @ W-C 6/7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 17	W-C/Weston Varsity Football Bye Week
SEPTEMBER 20	W-C Volleyball Triangular W/ New Lisbon & Royall W-C Jh Volleyball Triangular @ W-C 5 PM 5:00/7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 21	W-C Volleyball Brookwood @W-C 6/7:15PM
SEPTEMBER 23	W-C/Weston Jh Football Royall @ Wonewoc 5 PM W-C Jh Volleyball Triangular @ Cashton 5/6:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 24	W-C/Weston Varsity Football At St. Mary's Catholic 7:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 27	W-C Volleyball Bangor @W-C 6/7:15 PM W-C Jh Volleyball @ Royall 6 PM
SEPTEMBER 28	W-C Volleyball Hillsboro @ W-C 6/7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 30	W-C/Weston Jh Football At Hillsboro 5 PM W-C Jh Volleyball @ Bangor 5 PM
OCTOBER 2	W-C Weston Varsity Football Oakfield @ Weston 12 PM W-C Volleyball @Belmont Invite 9 AM
OCTOBER 4	W-C Volleyball Cashton @ W-C 6/7:15 PM W-C Jh Volleyball @ Hillsboro 6 PM
OCTOBER 5	W-C Volleyball New Lisbon @ W-C 6/7:15P W-C Jh Volleyball @ Viroqua 6 PM
OCTOBER 7	W-C/Weston Jh Football Bangor @ Weston 5 PM W-C Volleyball Hillsboro @W-C 6/7:15 PM
OCTOBER 9	W-C/Weston WI Heights @ Wonewoc Homecoming 1 PM
OCTOBER 11	W-C Volleyball Jv & C Squad Quad @ Necedah 4:30 PM W-C Jh Volleyball Triangular @ W-C 5 PM
OCTOBER 12	W-C Volleyball @ Hillsboro Varsity 5/6:30P
OCTOBER 14	W-C/Weston Jh Football Necedah @ Weston 5 PM W-C Volleyball @ Brookwood 6/7:15 PM
OCTOBER 15	W-C/Weston Varsity Football At Kickapoo/ La Farge 7 PM
OCTOBER 16	Wonewoc Lions Club Fall Festival Upstairs Gym At W-C Schools 9 AM
OCTOBER 17	W-C Jh Volleyball Triangular @ W-C 5 PM
OCTOBER 18	W-C/Weston Jh Football At Brookwood 5PM
OCTOBER 19, 21,23	Volleyball Regionals
OCTOBER 28, 30	Volleyball Sectionals

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# KVR celebrates installation of Prairie Spring Classroom

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN  
*Sentry-Enterprise Editor*

Thanks to donations, both in funding and volunteer work, the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) was able to expand their education facilities by creating the Prairie Spring Classroom. The project was spearheaded by local donors and a gift from Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Foundation.

Officials from the KVR hope that the new classroom space will help to further serve the growing needs of the Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS). The school is a partnership effort between La Farge School District and the KVR, launched by a \$700,000 DPI Charter School grant back in June of 2020. The KVFS is a public charter school authorized by the La Farge School District and located on KVR grounds.

The school aims to focus on outdoor nature immersion and child-centered practices, instilling environmental stewardship in children through interactive curriculums. Currently, the school is set to serve students from four-year-old pre-kindergarten to second grade.

The KVFS opened its doors for

its inaugural class on Wednesday, September 1, welcoming 32 4K and Kindergarten students. The school's plans involve expanding to first grade in their second year of operation, and to second grade in their third year of operation.

Officials at the KVFS will be operating the school under the understanding that extended time outside and in nature yield beneficial results in children both academically, physically, and emotionally. As an example, building shelters and forts can help develop a child's cognitive and creative skills, such as attention, memory, observation, and idea generation. Climbing, carrying logs, and hiking help to strength physical skills such as balance, coordination, and endurance.

The KVFS Leadership Team will be studying the impact of the place-based forest school curriculum on student outcomes, tying in to the growing effort across the U.S. to better understand how nature immersion and place-based learning can contribute to both student achievement and social and emotional learning.

For more information on the school, please visit [www.kickapoovalleyforestschool.org/](http://www.kickapoovalleyforestschool.org/) and [kvr.state.wi.us/Home](http://kvr.state.wi.us/Home).



From left to right: Jonel Kiesau, Education Director Kickapoo Valley Reserve; Brad Steinmetz, KVR Friend and local donor; Marcy West, former KVR Executive Director; Jay and Carolyn Scott, Trustees of Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust; Scott Walter, KVR Executive Director; Julie Hoel, KRMB member, KVFS Governance Council member and local donor; Scott Lind, KRMB member and volunteer building project coordinator; Steve Carrow building volunteer. Contributed photo.

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