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MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021

ONE SECTION | 12 PAGES



Contractors have been working outside Wonevoc-Center Schools to install a new concrete patio area, where students will be able to spend their lunch hour outside if they desire. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

Construction ongoing at Wonevoc-Center

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

In April 2020, voters in the Wonevoc-Center School District cast their ballots during the spring election cycle, which included a referendum allotting \$4.56 million in funding for extensive remodeling to the existing school buildings, as well as an additional \$195,000

in operational expenses. The referendum passed and construction efforts began in spring of this year. Today, the school buildings are torn practically to pieces as contractors continue to work at expanding, redesigning, and updating everything from classrooms to bathrooms to storage space. Every room in the school had to be taken apart to some degree

due to the installation of a sprinkler system throughout the building as well as the addition of air conditioning. Updates to the phone and alarm systems are also being conducted.

Work has been nonstop since May 21, with students ending their 2020-2021 school year a bit early in

'CONSTRUCTION' cont. pg. 5

Pulling for charity August 13 and 14

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

The Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull has been a staple of the local summer line up for over fifteen years, devised as a way to help area residents in need of assistance when they became sick. Don Slama, owner of Hillsboro Equipment, decided to put his lifelong interest in tractor pulls to good use by setting up the first Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull.

The tractor pull started up with Badger State Tractor Pulling, beginning as a brush pull. After a few years, the Charity Tractor Pull made the jump into the big leagues, joining up with the Lucas Oil Pro Pulling League. By 2019, the Charity Tractor Pull could see over 100 pullers arrive in Hillsboro each year to help raise money for those in need.

While the Charity Tractor Pull is considered an event, it functions as a charity on its own.

A committee of five to six people from the Hillsboro area meet to determine donation amounts and to whom the donations go. The Slama Family put in quite a bit of effort to remain separate from the committee, allowing the community itself to best determine how to use the funds raised during the Tractor Pull. All donations are made to individuals and their families, with donations providing everything from gas cards for those who have to seek treatment out of the area to hotel stays for families who have lost their homes to fire.

Pullers come from all over the country, ranging from nearby states such as Illinois to southern states such as Kentucky and Tennessee. There are even pullers who come from overseas, such as those from the Netherlands. Whether they come from nearby or far away, all pullers are welcomed into the

'PULLING' cont. pg. 6

Gundersen St. Joseph's to receive vaccine support funding

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

Gundersen St. Joseph's Hospital and Clinics have been working to vaccinate our local communities since the first shipment of vaccines arrived in Hillsboro on December 22, 2020. By June, the hospital had vaccinated roughly 2,057 people, with some of those coming from different areas around Wisconsin, looking to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Wisconsin healthcare providers have administered a total of 3,224,573 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, 2,370,829 doses of the Moderna vaccine, and 241,752 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Both Pfizer and Moderna require two doses separated by 21 days in order to achieve maximum efficiency, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is only one dose.

As a whole, Gundersen Health Systems has been pushing vaccinations in the communities that they serve, working hard to immunize local populations against

the COVID-19 virus. Wisconsin has currently seen 52.1% of the state population receive at least one dose of the available vaccines, or about 3,030,893 Wisconsinites.

Here in Vernon County, only 46.6% of the population—equally 14,357 individuals—have received at least one dose of the available vaccines. A total of 44.7%—or 13,771 individuals—have completed their vaccination series. Vaccine rates across the county have tapered off since March and April of this year, with an estimated 191 vaccine doses administered in the last week, according to data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

In the last two weeks, Wisconsin's seven-day rolling average for new COVID-19 cases rose by more than 300%, with the state exceeding 1,000 new daily COVID-19 cases. Gundersen officials have indicated that case rates within their service area are following a similar trend. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have updated their masking recommendations,

which the DHS has supported and from which Wisconsin counties are advised to take into consideration moving forward.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued a series of federal grants totaling nearly \$100 million to rural health clinics throughout the country, including Gundersen St. Joseph's Hospital and Clinics. Gundersen has received \$841,993 in funding to support 17 of the system's rural health clinics.

The additional funding is intended to help these clinics boost outreach efforts and increase vaccination rates against COVID-19, particularly in response to the ongoing circulation of the Delta variant. The CDC has described the Delta variant as more transmissible than the common cold influenza, the viruses causing Ebola, smallpox, MERS, and SARS, and has been considered as contagious as the chickenpox in an internal CDC document.

The highest levels of spread, confirmed cases, and severe infections have been recorded



Tina Sullivan (left) from the Juneau County Health Department was onsite at Wonevoc-Center on Thursday, February 25, to administer the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines to the school's staff. Tom Schraufnagel (right) was one of the first in line to receive a vaccine. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

in areas with low vaccination rates, and the CDC has stated that deaths related to the virus are now occurring most commonly among the unvaccinated. The DHS has listed the Delta variant as the

predominant strain of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, and stated that between January 1, 2021 and July 22, 2021, over 98% of COVID cases have

'GUNDERSEN' cont. pg. 12

20 125 21 ANNIVERSARY

Kendall Fest

SEPTEMBER 3rd-4th-5th

Sunday SEPT. 5th

- 10:00am- Car Show
- 11:00am- Car Parade - Main Street
- 11:30am- Chicken Dinner - Legion Auxiliary Community Center
- 12:00pm- Monroe County's Largest Labor Day Parade
- 1:00pm- Entertainment Stage - UW Marching Band, UW Cheerleaders and UW Dance Team - Juggler
- 5:00pm-9:00pm- High Mileage Band - Entertainment Stage



Saturday SEPT. 4th

\$3 Advance
\$5 GATE

****BUTTON REQUIRED FOR SATURDAY & SUNDAY****

- 8:00am- Mud Run - Sign up with the Kendall American Legion - Ron Leis Farm
- 8:00am-11:00am- Pancake Breakfast - Pancakes, Sausage, Beverages St. Joseph's Catholic Church - 307 Spring St., Kendall, WI
- 11:00am- Corn Hole Tournament - Sign up with the Kendall American Legion on the basketball court at Park
- 11:00am- Magician - Entertainment Stage at Park
- 12:00pm- Hypnotist - Entertainment Stage at Park
- 1:00pm- Miss Wisconsin - Jennifer Schmidt - Dance Performance
- 1:15pm- Magician - Entertainment Stage at Park
- 2:15pm- Hypnotist - Entertainment Stage at Park
- 4:00pm- Kendall Gathering - Community Center
- 4:00pm-7:00pm- Maggie Mae & the Heartland Band - Entertainment Stage
- 7:00pm-11:00pm- K. Sterling and the 85 Silverband - Entertainment Stage



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Friday SEPT. 3rd

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- 5:00pm- Gates Open - Corn & Beer Bust
- 7:00pm-11:00pm- Music by BACKROADS - Sponsored by Community Club of Kendall



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The usually quiet Village of Kendall will come alive this Labor Day Weekend with the 125th annual Kendall Fest set for Sept. 3-5. "Monroe County's Largest Labor Day Parade" will take place Sunday, Sept. 5 and feature the University of Wisconsin Marching Band and Bucky Badger. Musical entertainment is slated for all three days.

This year's Kendall Fest promises to be a doozy

By PAT MULVANEY
Herald Editor

If you already have plans for Labor Day weekend that don't include being in Kendall for its annual celebration, you might want to change them.

The small, southern Monroe County village will be holding its 125th annual Kendall Fest Sept. 3-5 and with almost two years in the planning, there's little doubt it's going to be a doozy.

"You don't want to miss this one," said Lee Wyttenbach, one of the event's organizers.

The COVID pandemic forced the festival's cancellation in 2020, but that just doubled the energy and investment in this year's three-day celebration, he added.

The Kendall American Legion, which used to run the festival itself for a number of years, has now partnered with the community to put on Kendall Fest. And because it's the 125th anniversary of the event, the community stepped forward with sponsorships and donations "that exceeded expectations," said Wyttenbach.

That's evident in the weekend's lineup of high-quality entertainment, which will be highlighted Sunday in what is billed as "Monroe County's Largest Labor Day Parade". Never mind that it's not actually on Labor Day, with the University of Wisconsin Marching Band and Bucky Badger as he main attraction, it will be a day to remember.

Wyttenbach said it was a small coup to get the nationally renowned marching band to appear in Kendall but it was worth the effort. Following the parade, which begins at noon, the UW band will give its famous Fifth-Quarter performance in the village's Glenwood Park,

where most of the weekend's events will be held.

A juggler also will be performing in the park after the parade and there will be plenty of kids games as well as arts and crafts throughout the weekend.

Kendall Fest actually kicks off Friday at 5 p.m. with the annual Kendall Corn Bust in Glenwood Park. The event, which, like its name implies, is a corn feed, has been a feature of Kendall Fest for over 40 years. All proceeds from the Corn Bust go to the Kendall Fire Department.

The country band "Back Roads", a local favorite from the Wilton-Ontario area, will perform from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday.

Saturday's events begin with a pancake breakfast put on by St. Joseph's Catholic Church from 8-11 a.m. At 8 a.m., the American Legion will host the Kendall Mustang Mudder, a 5K mud run held on the Ron Leis farm at 27022 Monitor Rd., Kendall. For more information call or text (608) 547-0909.

The beer tent opens Saturday at 10 a.m. and a corn hole tournament begins at 11 a.m. with sign up at the basketball courts.

A magician and hypnotist will each perform two acts on the entertainment stage at the park between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those will split up by a dance performance by newly-crowned Miss Wisconsin Jennifer Schmidt of Racine.

Food vendors will be on the fest grounds throughout the weekend, with beer and refreshment also available. A social gathering for community members will take place at the community center at 4 p.m. Maggie Mae & the Heartland Band will take the entertainment stage at 4 p.m. followed by K. Sterling & the 85 Silver Band from 7-11 p.m.

Sunday kicks off with a classic

car show at 10 a.m. and a car parade at 11 a.m. That's followed by the main parade featuring the UW Marching Band. While the Badgers are the biggest attraction in the parade, Wyttenbach promises a few surprises.

"There's some stuff in there I won't divulge," he said. "You'll have to come and see for yourself."

Kendall Fest's finale is a performance by 80s and 90s rock and roll cover band High Mileage from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.

As Wyttenbach said, this is one festival you don't want to miss. "If you've got a year and a half to work on something, you better come up with something decent," he said. It sure looks like Kendall Fest organizers delivered.

To see updates on the event, check out the Kendall Fest Facebook page.



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ELROY Calendar of Events

AUGUST 12	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE @ Hillsboro Community Center 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
AUGUST 13 & 14	HILLSBORO City Wide GARAGE SALES MAPS available, City Hall, The Cheese Store And Kwik Trip
AUGUST 13	ROYALL Varsity Football @ ROYALL 6 P.M. HILLSBORO CHARITY TRACTOR PULL At Firemen's Park 7 p.m.
AUGUST 14	HILLSBORO CHARITY TRACTOR PULL AT Firemen's Park 12 Noon & 6 p.m.
AUGUST 16	1ST PRACTICE CC/VOLLEYBALL
AUGUST 20	ROYALL Varsity Football @ BOSCOBEL HS 7 P.M.
AUGUST 23	ROYALL Volleyball @ Richland Center HS 3 p.m. ROYALL JV Football @ DeSoto HS 5 p.m.
AUGUST 24	ROYALL SCHOOL Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. ROYALL JV Volleyball @ Onalaska HS TBD ROYALL SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSE 4K-12TH 4 P.M.-6 P.M. ROYALL Cross Country B/V @ Westby HS 5 p.m.
AUGUST 26	1st DAY OF SCHOOL STARTS
AUGUST 27 & 28	ROYALL Varsity Volleyball @ Just A Game TBD
AUGUST 27	ROYALL Varsity Football @ Fall River HS 7 P.M.
AUGUST 28	ROYALL Cross Country B/V @ Cashton HS 9 a.m.
AUGUST 30	ROYALL JV Football @ Royall HS 5 p.m. ROYALL JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Royall HS 5:45 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 2	ROYALL Cross Country B/JH@ Viroqua HS 4 p.m. ROYALL CROSS Country B/V @ Viroqua HS 5 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 3	ROYALL Varsity Football @ Royall HS 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 3-5	KENDALL FEST (Lots of Food & Entertainment) SUNDAY 12 PM. MONROE County's largest PARADE in KENDALL 12 NOON
SEPTEMBER 4	ROYALL Varsity Volleyball @ Richland Center H.S. 9 a.m.
SEPTEMBER 3-6	HILLSBORO LABOR DAY CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 5	Hillsboro Lion's BINGO at Hillsboro Firemen's Park 1 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 6	NO SCHOOL Hillsboro Labor Day Parade 10:30 a.m.
SEPTEMBER 7	ROYALL VOLLEYBALL @ ROYALL HS 4:30 P.M. ROYALL JV Football @ Necedah HS 5 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 9	ROYALL JH FOOTBALL @ Royall HS 5 p.m. ROYALL Varsity Volleyball @ Bangor HS 5 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 10	ROYALL HOMECOMING Varsity Football @ ROYALL HS 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 11	ROYALL HS HOMECOMING DANCE APPLE DUMPLING DAY RACES AT SCHULTZ PARK-ELROY FAIRGROUNDS ROYALL CLASS OF 1961 CLASS REUNION AT THE LODGE-MAUSTON SOCIAL 4 P.M. MEAL 5 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 13	ROYALL JV Volleyball @ Just a Game Field House WI Dells TBD ROYALL JV Football @ New Lisbon 5 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 14	ROYALL JH Volleyball @ Royall HS ROYALL Cross Country B/JH & B/V@ Necedah HS TBD ROYALL JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Hillsboro HS 5:45 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 16	ROYALL JH Football @ Royall HS 5 p.m. ROYALL JV Football @ W-C HS GYM 5:45 p.m. ROYALL JV 5:45 p.m./Varsity 7:15 p.m. Volleyball @W-C HS
SEPTEMBER 17	ROYALL Varsity Football @ Luther HS 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 18	ROYALL Cross Country B/JH & B/V 9 a.m.
OCTOBER 2	ELROY Fire Dept. Steak & Chicken Feed

Celebrate two years of Open Arms in Elroy

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN, Sentry-Enterprise Editor

On August 1, 2019, the Open Arms Resale Store opened its doors in Elroy. As an outreach for Open Arms Charities of Elroy, INC., the store has received non-profit status and developed a mission statement which enabled them to focus their efforts on donating locally.

The shop sells furniture, clothing, gardening and camping gear, and antiques, among other items, in order to help raise money to support local churches, organizations, and individuals in need in the Elroy area. A recent effort taken on by the shop is providing scholarships to single parents within a 25-mile radius of Elroy who are enrolled in a post-secondary college, university, technical school, or certified business school.

Open Arms Resale is staffed and run entirely by volunteers, who accept donations, assist with local food pantries, and tend the shop to help raise funds for the charity.

This August, the shop will be celebrating its second anniversary and is inviting the local community to stop by and celebrate with them. Visitors to the shop will be able to find some tasty snacks on hand while they shop, beginning on Wednesday, August 11 and continuing through to Saturday, August 14.

On August 14, the shop will be conducting a drawing for some prizes to wrap up their anniversary celebrations. So stop on by at 130 Main Street in Elroy between the hours of 11:00A.M. and 4:00P.M. Wednesday through Saturday to help support the local community and celebrate two years of Open Arms!

Please Join us in Honoring the Memory of Joseph "Chub" Bruha
A Memorial Service will be held on **Saturday, August 21, 2021, at 11:00A.M** at Picha Funeral Home in Hillsboro Luncheon to follow at First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall

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B I N G O

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Sunday, September 5 @ Firemen's Park
Sunday, October 17 @ Hillsboro Community Center
Sunday, November 21 @ Hillsboro Community Center

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CONSTRUCTION

(Continued from Front Page)

order to give contractors time to work on the updates and changes to the classrooms. Currently, school officials have indicated that approximately six rooms in the lower elementary wing have been fully completed, enabling a few of the elementary teachers to begin moving back into their classrooms.

Areas seeing the heaviest amounts of construction work are the CTE wing, the science wing, and the commons area. Metals, woodshop, and agricultural studies are now a series of interconnected rooms with greater space, with the agricultural room including a set of large windows to accommodate plant-related projects and lesson plans and the metals area now home to a bay for car and engine work.

New bathrooms have been installed, office space has been added and moved around, and the science wing has been greatly expanded to afford more room for lab work. The ramp outside of the school's library has been fixed, removing the previously existing step that hindered accessibility.

"There's really not an aspect of this building that hasn't been worked with," says Michelle Noll, principal for the middle and high schools.

A few changes have had to be made to the initial plans as work continued. Such changes include adjustments to the doors in the CTE area, some additional water drainage systems, and the addition of a concrete patio area in front of the school, which feeds in to the school's expanded cafeteria and will provide students with greater access to outdoor hangouts. The steps by the elementary levels have

been removed, though the steps by the middle school area have been saved. Much of these changes are rooted in the school's commitment to making the building fully ADA compliant, as was one of the goals highlighted by school officials in the lead up to the referendum.

School officials hope that the changes, updates, and improvements will naturally lend themselves to greater course offerings for Wonewoc-Center students. The district has recently started working with Gundersen St. Joseph's to develop and implement an EMT certification course, building off of existing efforts to enable students to graduate as CNAs. Noll has indicated that the school will be looking into developing a similar course for firefighting in the future.

"The best thing is, it's for the kids," says Dr. Sharon Ennis, District Administrator for Wonewoc-Center Schools, "and it gives them a brighter future."

Contractors and district officials are pushing to have all construction finished and the building ready to accommodate students by the start of the 2021-2022 school year in September. School staff will be having their in-service at the Wonewoc Legion with hopes to be able to get back into their classrooms by August 25.

Noll and Ennis, along with other school officials, are planning to host an open house type of event later this year, with their sights currently set on the week of Wonewoc-Center's Homecoming celebration. A tentative date of October 9 has been mentioned, though it may be liable to change.

August news from the Kendall Public Library

By **LYNETTE VLASAK**
Kendall Public Library Director

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Garden Walk fundraiser at The Ranch, rural Ontario, on July 17. Good weather and a nice crowd made for a very successful event! Special thanks to Arlys and Lowell Zellmer for all their hard work in making this event possible and to the other volunteers for helping with the Walk. The winner of the garden basket raffle was Beverly Matteson.

Our book club will be doing things a little differently this month. Instead of reading a new book in August, the club will be meeting on Tuesday, August 17 (not our regular meeting day), at 2 p.m. in St. John's Fellowship Hall to view the movie we discussed in July—Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*. The movie is not limited to book club members only, so anyone is welcome to attend. Following the movie, we will have a short discussion comparing the book to the movie.

Our August movie night will be on Friday, August 20, at St. John's Fellowship Hall. We will be showing the movie *Judgment* starring Corbin Bernsen and Jessica Steen beginning at 6:30 p.m. Free pop and popcorn will be available and everyone is welcome!

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HILLSBORO *Calendar of Events*

AUGUST 12	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE @ HILLSBORO COMMUNITY CENTER 10:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
AUGUST 13	Hillsboro Football Scrimmage @Royall 6 p.m.
AUGUST 13 & 14	HILLSBORO CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES Maps Available @ City Hall, The Cheese Store, & KwikTrip CHARITY TRACTOR PULL AT HILLSBORO FIREMEN'S PARK FRI 7 P.M., SATURDAY 12 NOON & 6 P.M.
AUGUST 16	Hillsboro Cross Country Informational Meeting & Sign Up @ HS Cafeteria 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
AUGUST 17-19	Elementary Summer School 8:30 am - 9 am & Lunch 12 to 12:30 p.m. GRAB N GO MEALS AVAILABLE
AUGUST 20	Hillsboro Football vs New Lisbon 7 p.m. W-C SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED
AUGUST 21	Hillsboro JV Volleyball Scrimmage @ Sparta 6/7:15 p.m.
AUGUST 24	Hillsboro Cross Country @ Westby 5 p.m.
AUGUST 25	HILLSBORO Elem/MS/HS Open House 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
AUGUST 28	Hillsboro -Freshmen Orientation 6-7 p.m. Hillsboro Cross Country @ Cashton 9 a.m. Hillsboro Football @ Cashton Time TBD Hillsboro JV Volleyball @ Black River Falls Tournament 6/7:15 p.m
AUGUST 30	MARCHING BAND CAMP-ALL DAY Hillsboro JV Football vs Cashton 5 p.m.
AUGUST 31	Hillsboro Marching Band Camp- All Day
SEPTEMBER 1	Hillsboro Schools Start
SEPTEMBER 2	Hillsboro JV Volleyball @ Brookwood 7:15 p.m. Hillsboro Cross Country @ Viroqua 5 p.m
SEPTEMBER 3	Hillsboro Football vs Bangor 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 3-5	KENDALL FEST (Lots of Food & Entertainment every day
SEPTEMBER 5	MONROE COUNTY'S LARGEST PARADE IN KENDALL 12 P.M
SEPTEMBER 3-6	HILLSBORO LABOR DAY CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 5	HILLSBORO LIONS BINGO AT FIREMEN'S PARK 1 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 6	HILLSBORO LABOR DAY PARADE 10:30 A.M.
SEPTEMBER 7	Hillsboro JV Football @ Bangor 5 p.m. Hillsboro Volleyball JV QUAD @ Wonewoc (New Lisbon, Cashton)
SEPTEMBER 9	Hillsboro JV Volleyball Quad @ Cashton
SEPTEMBER 10	Hillsboro Football @ Riverdale 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 11	Hillsboro Cross Country @ River Valley 8:30 A.M. Hillsboro JV Volleyball @ Sparta Tournament APPLE DUMPLING DAY RACES At Schultz Park, Elroy
SEPTEMBER 13	Hillsboro JV Football vs Riverdale 5 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 14	Hillsboro JV Volleyball Royall @ Hillsboro 7:15 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 16	Hillsboro JV Volleyball @ Bangor Hillsboro Cross Country @ Boscobel 7:15 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 17	Hillsboro Football @ DeSoto 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 18	Hillsboro Cross Country @ Brookwood 9 A.M. Class of 1960 CLASS REUNION at SPRING VALLEY GOLF COURSE 11 a.m. Social & Dinner to follow

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PULLING

(Continued from Front Page)

community with the annual Pullers' Meal, prepared and served by the Hillsboro Lions Club. This year, the Pullers' Meal will feature an extra hometown touch, with pork chops provided by Mr. B's Smokehouse, a new local business with plans to open its doors to the public this month.

The Hillsboro Lions are not the only local organization who gets involved with the Charity Tractor Pull; a variety of local groups ranging from the Scouts and 4-H to the Fire Department to church groups offer everything from food and drinks to raffles and auctions during the event.

This year, organizers for the Charity Tractor Pull have decided to host three sessions, rather than four. In previous years, it was not uncommon to see two sessions on Friday and two on Saturday, but after some polling and discussion, organizers determined that dropping the Friday afternoon session and keeping the evening session, as well as both Saturday sessions, would be the best course of action for the pull.

The pull was unfortunately not able to take place last year due to concerns regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, joining other Hillsboro summer staples such as Cesky Den and the H.O.P.E. Walk. While both Cesky Den and

H.O.P.E. have decided to push back their annual events one more year, the Charity Tractor Pull has taken its cues from other Lucas Oil events and from the success of this year's Hillsboro Lions Dairy Breakfast, which recorded record levels of turnout.

Sally Kraemer, a key organizer for the event, has noticed an uptick in local interest for the event this year, which she hopes will translate into greater local attendance than in previous years. More community members and local business have expressed interest in sponsoring the event this year, and the pull has seen increased levels of community engagement through their online presence on sites such as Facebook.

The first session for this year's Charity Tractor Pull is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 13, beginning at 7:00P.M. at Hillsboro Firemen's Park. This session will feature Big River Steel super modified tractors, pro stock tractors, Summit Racing mini rod tractors, and more. Gates are set to open at 4:30P.M.

The second session will take place on Saturday, August 14, beginning at 12:00P.M., featuring Optima Batteries 2WD trucks, ARP Super Stock diesel trucks, and limited pro stock tractors. The third session will begin at 6:00P.M. on Saturday, and will feature pro



Inclement weather forced the cancellation of the fourth and final session of the Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull in 2019, and spectators were advised to keep their admission bands in order to be granted free admission to any session at the 2020 Hillsboro Charity Tractor Pull. COVID-19 concerns resulted in the 2020 event's cancellation as well, but the admission bands from that event will still be honored at this year's pull. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

stock tractors, AirDog Super Farm tractors, and more. Gates are set to open at 10:00A.M. and 4:30P.M. respectively on Saturday.

Admission fees are \$20 per person, per session, and there were to be a selection of food trucks and stands available for those looking

to enjoy some good food while watching the pullers tear up the track!

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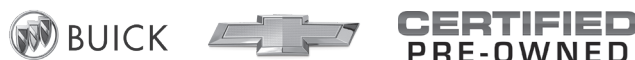


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A Neighborly show of support for local education

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

For the past four years, the Neighbors Sandwich Bar and Deli in Wonewoc has organized a back-to-school donation drive for the Wonewoc-Center School District. As the school is always in need of supplies, Neighbors owner Colleen Lehman figures the drive is a good way to help support local kids.

Lehman typically refers to the school supply list distributed by Wonewoc-Center for those looking to donate. The usual suspects—crayons, colored pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, #2 pencils, and so on—are all good places to start for donating supplies, but Lehman has indicated that backpacks are also a good donation item, and one often overlooked.

A collection box for the donations can be found at the Neighbors in Wonewoc, and Lehman usually sees the box fill up at least once or twice before the donation drive ends on September 1. She usually runs the donations over to the school, though occasionally she will be unable to do so due to increased activity at her restaurant. The donated items still make it to the school, however, as Lehman has stated that school staff have been very good about collecting the donated items when she can't deliver them herself.

Donations can also be sent to St. Paul's, though Lehman is unsure



Alayna Asp poses with a handful of supplies to be donated to Wonewoc's local schools, as well as with the donation box where community members are welcome to donate school supplies. Contributed photo.

of what items the Lutheran school needs per its supply lists. Those looking to donate items to the local schools can drop their donations off at the Neighbors during regular business hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 7:00A.M. to 7:00P.M. and on Sundays from 11:00A.M. to 5:00P.M.

For further information regarding how to donate to Wonewoc-Center or St. Paul's, please contact their offices at (608) 464-3165 and (608) 464-3212 respectively.

Vernon County health officials encourage masking following CDC update

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

New evidence and data regarding the B.1.617.2, or "Delta," variant of COVID-19 has prompted updates to the masking guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Delta variant has been shown to infect a small percentage of individuals who are fully vaccinated, and preliminary evidence indicates that fully vaccinated people who catch the variant can unknowingly pass the virus on to others.

While fully vaccinated individuals are able to participate in many of the activities they enjoyed pre-pandemic, including travel, the CDC has advised that these individuals wear masks in public indoor settings, especially if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission. Fully vaccinated individuals can choose to mask regardless of the level of transmission, and may do so for reasons such as if they or a loved one are immunocompromised or otherwise at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in their household remains unvaccinated.

If experiencing symptoms of a possible COVID-19 infection, the CDC recommends that you get tested, regardless of whether or not you are fully vaccinated. If you know that you have been exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, regardless

of your vaccinated status, it is recommended that you get tested 3 to 5 days following the exposure and that you mask in public indoor settings for either fourteen days after the exposure or until a negative test result is confirmed.

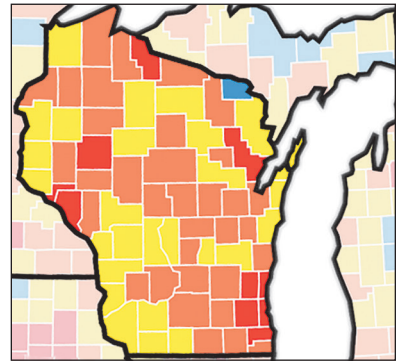
Health officials in Vernon County are recommending that residents and visitors resuming regular masking efforts in light of the updates to the CDC guidelines.

"Please remember that, in Vernon County, we still have populations that are very vulnerable to severe illness that can be caused by COVID-19," says Amy Kleiber, a Vernon County Health Officer. "It is up to us all to help protect the overall health of our community."

In a two-week period, from July 14 to July 27, Vernon County demonstrated a high level of case activity, with a burden of 106 per 100,000 people. In a release from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), DHS Deputy Secretary Julie Willems Van Dijk stated that Wisconsin's 7-day average of new confirmed and probable cases has been trending upward.

"We are concerned with this trajectory along with the increasing proportion of sequenced SARS-CoV-2 specimens that are the Delta variant," says Willems Van Dijk.

Health officials from the DHS continue to advocate for getting vaccinated and wearing a mask until you are fully vaccinated. While



Those living in or visiting counties marked by red or orange, as indicated by this graph courtesy of the CDC, are strongly encouraged to resume masking in public indoor spaces due to high transmission rates for COVID-19 and the Delta variant. The Vernon County Health Department advises county residents to mask in public indoor spaces in order to help protect those in the county who are most vulnerable to infection.

data demonstrates that COVID-19 vaccines have proven effective against the Delta variant, past infection with COVID-19 does not mean that you will be protected from the Delta variant.

Residents can keep up-to-date with the current status of Wisconsin and Vernon County's transmission levels by visiting covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view. If you have not yet received the vaccine, you are encouraged to contact your health care provider and schedule an appointment.

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Riding the rails of local history

By **NICOLETTE NAUMAN**
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

Trains, railroads, and their history form an important aspect of America's transportation history, and they remain an aspect of our own unique local history. Elroy, Kendall, Wilton, Norwalk, and Sparta pride themselves on their placement along the Elroy-Sparta Trail, and on the trail's spot in history as the first Rails to Trails project in the country.

Hillsboro has its own piece of railroad history, with a 4.8-mile section of track dubbed the 'smallest railroad in the world' by the Wisconsin State Journal in 1927. While the City of Hillsboro is resuming efforts to bring home a pair of engines that once serviced this railroad, Hillsboro local Zach Bender has been keeping the area's railway history alive in his own way.

As a kid, Bender lived along the railroad tracks in Elroy, and he developed an interest in the rail system and the trains that operated on it. This interest stayed with him into adult, and over the past thirty years, Bender has worked on building small-scale replicas of the trains that used to rumble along local railways.

Bender prefers to build his models in 3/4-inch scale, a size he settled on after spending a few years experimenting and testing out various scales. He runs his replicas along a 3 1/2 inch gauge track that he's built in his own yard. The

track includes 300 feet for the main line, with an additional 150 feet of siding and storage track, which he's incorporated into his property's landscaping when the City of Hillsboro redid Mechanic Street.

His favorite lines are the Chicago and North Western and the Hillsboro and Northeastern, the names of which he combined to form the line name for his own trains: the Hillsboro Northwestern. Both lines have strong ties to our area, with the ghosts of their railways still present in our local trails.

In building his models, Bender typically favors steam-operated locomotives, with his current model running on de-natured alcohol. He does have one electric model that he built from a kit, however. Typically, Bender purchases models from other hobbyists and overhauls the engines to make them his own.

Most models need to be built from scratch, with only a few castings available, resulting in a long and time-consuming process. With three decades of time invested in model trains, Bender has invested in a full machine shop, complete with the tools needed to build and detail his engines.

His current operating model is a 2-6-0-wheel arrangement live steam locomotive, and he is currently working on a 4-6-2 Pacific type locomotive. Bender focuses primarily on recreating specific locomotives rather than focusing on specific railways, taking inspiration from various books and magazines on trains throughout history.

"You just pick what you like and go with it," Bender says.

Bender's most recent project, which is still in the works, is modeled after an engine that would have operated north, out of Elroy on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad. The "Omaha Road" as it was called was taken over by the Chicago & North Western in 1883 and run independently until 1957. The locomotive is being modeled after the Omaha's Class E3 Pacific's. These were the largest of this class of locomotive ever built. The locomotive in question would have run along the tracks going through Elroy, tracks which have since been replaced with the 13-mile paved Omaha Bike Trail.

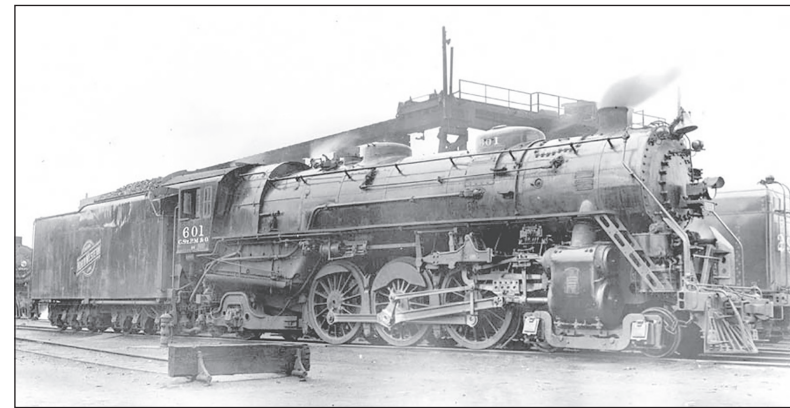
When completed the locomotive will weigh close to 150 pounds, will burn coal for fuel, have operating electric lights, and operate on 100 psi of steam pressure.

For Bender, model trains are a fun and engaging way to remain in touch with a by-gone era of local history. While the hobby may require substantial amounts of time and effort, he enjoys the process of building the models and operating them. His models are even capable of pulling people, as he has ridden behind it in the past.

As he continues to work on his ongoing model projects, Bender plans to make additions and upgrades to his existing track, such as installing a working turntable and adding in some additional railroad features.



Zach Bender poses alongside his 2-6-0-wheel arrangement live steam locomotive, which he initially purchased from a fellow hobbyist before overhauling the engine. Photo taken by Sue Feala.



This 6-0-1 Chase is the engine Zach Bender is currently working on replicating in his models. Contributed photo.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 150 Years of Faith and Grace



Members of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation gathered together at Firemen's Park in Hillsboro to enjoy a special worship service in honor of the church's 150 years of faith and grace. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



Members of the Lutheran Ceili Orchestra performed during the Sunday service, with the congregation singing songs adapted and written by the orchestral members. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



Richard Gurgel, President of Martin Luther College, was on hand to deliver this past Sunday's sermon to the combined congregations of Wonevoc and Hillsboro's St. Paul Lutheran Churches. Gurgel, whose grandfather actually taught at St. Paul's school for forty years, delivered his sermons between performances by members of the Lutheran Ceili Orchestra. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

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August news from the Kendall Public Library

By **LYNETTE VLASAK**
Kendall Public Library Director

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Garden Walk fundraiser at The Ranch, rural Ontario, on July 17. Good weather and a nice crowd made for a very successful event! Special thanks to Arlys and Lowell Zellmer for all their hard work in making this event possible and to the other volunteers for helping with the Walk. The

winner of the garden basket raffle was Beverly Matteson.

Our book club will be doing things a little differently this month. Instead of reading a new book in August, the club will be meeting on Tuesday, August 17 (not our regular meeting day), at 2 p.m. in St. John's Fellowship Hall to view the movie we discussed in July—Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*. The movie is not limited to book club members only, so anyone

is welcome to attend. Following the movie, we will have a short discussion comparing the book to the movie.

Our August movie night will be on Friday, August 20, at St. John's Fellowship Hall. We will be showing the movie *Judgment* starring Corbin Bernsen and Jessica Steen beginning at 6:30 p.m. Free pop and popcorn will be available and everyone is welcome!

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Celebrate the Spirit of Kendall at the Kendall Area Gathering and All-School Reunion

By **NICOLETTE NAUMAN**
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

Kendall will be seeing some huge celebrations on Labor Day Weekend, beginning on Saturday, September 4 with the Kendall Area Gathering and All-School Reunion at the Kendall Community Hall. Doors are set to open at 5:30 P.M. with a short program beginning at 7:30 P.M.

This year marks 62 years since the last class graduated from

Kendall High School and passed through the school's hallways and classrooms for the last time. This year's reunion and gathering aim to celebrate the "Spirit of Kendall" by looking back at the Kendall High School and its place in Kendall's history.

Organizers encourage and welcome those from around the area—and those simply visiting—to come and celebrate Kendall's past. Free snacks, entertainment, and door prizes will be available at

this gathering, and there are plans to have a selection of handmade quilts on display. Attendees are asked to give a suggested donation of \$2 at the door to help with the event's costs.

For more information on the Kendall Area Gathering and All-School Reunion, please contact Lynette Vlasak at (608) 463-7639. If there is no answer, feel free to leave a message including your name, number, and inquiry.

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Efforts to remodel the former Misfit Tap into a childcare facility have been ongoing since June, and owner Jenni Schrock hopes to have the facility ready for a September 1 opening. Contributed photo.

New daycare facility set to open in Union Center

By **NICOLETTE NAUMAN**
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

Former Hillsboro School Board member Jenni Schrock has announced that she will be opening up a new daycare facility in Union Center, with doors set to open by September 1.

The daycare, named Sunshine & Giggles LLC, is planned to offer a play-based curriculum and take in children ranging from six weeks old to twelve years of age. Students at the daycare will be evaluated by an ASQ3 evaluation, which is a developmental evaluation designed to determine where each child is at in their own development and enable staff to better tailor the child's educational experience.

She has taken inspiration from play-based curriculums established throughout the area, particularly the Great Outdoors Learning Center located near La Crosse. Schrock plans to have her students spend as much time as possible outside, believing that students can benefit greatly in an outdoor environment which accommodates and encourages their innate curiosity and builds off play behaviors.

"I love kids," says Schrock. "I want to make a difference in kids' lives."

Schrock has worked as a family daycare provider for four years, and has always had a marked interest in children's education. She plans to begin with 40 students and hopes to be able to grow and expand the daycare center in the future. As of Tuesday, July 20, a total of 26 spots remain open. Many of the students who have already signed on come from families who have been on waitlists for exiting childcare centers in the area.



The logo for Sunshine & Giggles LLC. Contributed photo.

Currently, Schrock is in the process of remodeling a building in Union Center to serve as the daycare facility. Schrock purchased the building, formerly the site of the Misfit Tap, in mid-June of this year and has been renovating the space to accommodate educational facilities.

She decided to go with Union Center as the location for the new daycare as the village exists as a relative halfway point between the Elroy, Hillsboro, and Wonewoc communities. Schrock had initially scouted for potential locations in Hillsboro, but was unable to find a spot that met her requirements. Her husband had mentioned the possibility of setting up shop in Union Center, and when Schrock came across the Misfit Tap, she

determined that the lot was a good fit.

The remodel has seen the removal of the bar and kitchen equipment as well as the installation of new windows and flooring. Schrock's husband has over 20 years of experience as a carpenter, and he has put his experience to work in helping rework the former bar into a childcare facility. Funding for this project is provided entirely by Schrock.

Further enrollment for Sunshine & Giggles LLC is set to open up during the second week in August, and those interested in enrolling their child for the center's inaugural class can visit Sunshine & Giggles LLC on Facebook.

WONEWOC *Calendar of Events*

AUGUST 2-12	3RD Session of Summer School Class 8:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
AUGUST 13-23	Wonewoc Gyms Closed
AUGUST 13 & 14	HILLSBORO CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES CHARITY TRACTOR PULL AT HILLSBORO FIREMEN'S PARK FRIDAY 7 p.m. & SATURDAY 12 P.M. & 6 P.M.
AUGUST 16	W-C School Board Meeting
AUGUST 20	W-C SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED Parking Lot Striping
AUGUST 21	W-C Football Varsity Scrimmage
AUGUST 26	W-C Teacher in-service W-C JV & Varsity Volleyball Match
AUGUST 27	W-C Varsity Football Game
AUGUST 30	JV & Varsity Volleyball Match
SEPTEMBER 1	W-C FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 3-5	KENDALL FEST(Lots of food & entertainment) SUNDAY 12 P.M- Monroe County's largest PARADE IN KENDALL
SEPTEMBER 3-6	HILLSBORO LABOR DAY CELEBRATION AT HILLSBORO FIREMEN'S PARK
SEPTEMBER 5	HILLSBORO LIONS BINGO 1 P.M. AT HILLSBORO FIREMEN'S PARK
SEPTEMBER 6	HILLSBORO LABOR DAY PARADE 10:30 A.M.
SEPTEMBER 7	JV VOLLEYBALL QUAD @ WONEWOC (New Lisbon, Cashton)
SEPTEMBER 11	8TH & 9TH Annual 5-K RUN/WALK & KIDS FUN RUN IN MEMORY OF K9 "MYK" AT 9 A.M. @ SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 1320 BAD AXE CT., VIROQUA APPLE DUMPLING DAY RACES AT SCHULTZ PARK-ELROY FAIRGROUNDS ROYALL CLASS OF 1961 CLASS REUNION AT THE LODGE IN MAUSTON 4 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 18	HILLSBORO CLASS OF 1960 CLASS REUNION AT SPRING VALLEY 11 A.M.
SEPTEMBER 28	JV VOLLEYBALL W-C @ AT HILLSBORO 7:15 P.M.
OCTOBER 7	JV VOLLEYBALL HILLSBORO @ W-C 7:15 P.M.

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Vernon County's National Night Out



Members of Vernon County's emergency services teams gathered together at the Vernon County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, August 3, to enjoy a night out with the community. Guests at National Night Out could get an up close and personal look at the vehicles used by the various police, fire, and EMS departments throughout the county. Photo by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



Hillsboro EMS members Barry Witmer, Kim Verbsky, Mike Downing Jr., and Patty Pesik pose for a photo next to one of the ambulances used by the Hillsboro EMS, which they proudly showed off for attendees at this year's National Night Out festivities. Photo by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



Three K-9 units were available to give demonstrations for those in attendance, including the Vernon County Sheriff's newest K-9, Dax. Deputy Sheriff Zach Lovell, a visiting officer from Iowa County, was on hand to don the heavy suit used in training the dogs and serve as the demonstration's suspect. Photo by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



Firefighters gave some demonstrations of their own, enabling even the younger attendees to take a shot at fighting fires and learning more about how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Photo by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



A variety of booths, games, and other activities were set up throughout the fairgrounds for guests to enjoy, including a booth where you could have your fingerprints taken. Photo by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



Officer Shawn Thompson from the Elroy Police Department was available to answer questions about his department's squad car, giving them a closer look at some of the equipment used by the Elroy police. Photo by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.



One of the demonstrations to take place during National Night Out focused on the use of certain pieces of equipment, particularly the jaws of life, in rescuing car accident victims from the mangled wrecks of their vehicles. Photo by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

Merit Badge Bound: Elroy area youth can join Scouts BSA

By Rhonda Hess
Staff Reporter

Ryan Prechel of Hillsboro is paying it forward. The former Eagle Scout is ready to re-charter the Elroy area Cub Scout pack 288 and Scouts BSA (formerly boy scout) Troupe 88.

Prechel, who grew up in Hillsboro, had been involved in scouting as a young boy and wanted other area youth to have that experience.

"I thought it was good enough, that I wanted to give back," he said.

The organization was a popular one when Prechel was younger.

"Back when I was first in cub scouts, it was because most of my friends were in it," he said. "Most lose interest, but I stayed with it."

According to Prechel, when scouts begin driving, dating and working, around age 16, a lot of them do not have the time or desire to continue the activity. Through the years, troops and packs have struggled to keep enough members for a chartered group.

On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts changed their name to Scouts BSA to be inclusive of female students, which has helped with membership numbers. According to scoutingwire.org, "both male and female participants in the Scout BSA program will be referred to as scouts, just as boys in the program are often referred to as scouts."

"At face value, it was the right decision, based on changing with the times," Prechel said, adding that several organizations are competing to engage youth and it made sense to include the sisters that were showing up with their brothers. "A lot of daughters were showing up

and doing everything their brothers were doing."

Even with both boys and girls participating, there is another issue when considering organizing a scout troop.

"The lack of adult volunteers is always a problem," Prechel said. Another potential hurdle, that has come up recently, is the pandemic and the need to social distance. Prechel said most scouts were not interested in a virtual event, indicating that virtual events begin to feel more like online school than scouting events.

Prechel hopes Elroy area youth will be enthusiastic about scouting, and the Scout BSA program has a lot to offer, according to their website: "with exposure to a uniquely hands-on learning experience and the opportunity to earn merit badges reflecting each Scout's budding interests, youth unlock a world of discovery around them and forge a patch for the future."

There may be another way to increase membership in the Elroy Scouting organization. When one area pack is suspended for non-participation, youth in the area can become members of other groups. Hillsboro scouts ceased to meet and were suspended due to nonparticipation. Some boys and girls in that area may be able to participate in the Elroy Scouts organization.

Prechel will be visiting classrooms at the beginning of the school year if COVID restrictions are not in place. Parents of children in fifth grade should expect to find some information coming home with them. Some students in fourth and fifth grade may become

"webelos," which stands for "we be loyal scouts," Prechel explained. "If you are industrious, you can cross over into BSA halfway through fifth grade."

To find out more about the current Scouts BSA, visit scouting.org.

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GUNDERSEN

(Continued from Front Page)

occurred among people who were not fully vaccinated against the virus.

Gundersen urges everyone age 12 and older to get their vaccinations if they have not yet already done so. The vaccines are currently cleared for anyone ages 12 and over and are available for free during walk-in appointments at Gundersen St. Joseph's in Hillsboro. Adult patients can walk-in or schedule

their appointments through MyChart or by calling (608) 489-8280. Patients under the age of 18 must obtain consent from their parent or guardian either in person or by calling (608) 489-8280.

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