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MONROE COUNTY HERALD

Your Local State Award-Winning Newspaper

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

ONE SECTION | 18 PAGES

Sparta council mulls aldermen pay increase

By PAT MULVANEY
Contributing Writer

The City of Sparta Finance Committee Wednesday had a preliminary open discussion on raising aldermanic compensation that revealed wide-ranging opinions among council members.

Finance Committee Chairmen Kevin Riley raised the issue, saying it's been 11 years since aldermen have received a pay increase. They are currently paid \$3,600 a year, which comes out to \$300 a month.

Riley suggested lowering the pay but adding a per diem for each meeting an alderman attends whether they are a member of the committee or not. The pay increase would not include the mayor, who has a \$8,520 annual salary.

If the council eventually approves raising aldermen's pay, the new salaries wouldn't take effect until after the alderman's term ends subsequent to the approval.

Riley said he hoped adding a per diem for committee meetings would increase council members' attendance

at the committees they don't sit on, so they stay informed on issues that will eventually come before the council.

He also wanted to create more of an incentive for city residents to run for public office.

"If we want people to be running in the future, we have to make it worth their while," said Riley.

Committee member Matthew Hoffland presented figures from the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, showing annual aldermanic salaries in similar-sized cities. According to those figures, which are from 2019, the latest available, aldermen in Merrill make \$3,459, while Ripon council members make \$3,600. Aldermen in Fort Atkinson, Tomah and Reedsburg make \$3,000. The only outlier was Waupun, where the council's salary is \$6,000.

"So we're right in line with what a lot of other cities are doing," said Hoffland.

Alderman Anthony Boltik said city meetings generally

SPARTA cont. pg. 5



Georgianna "Gee" Rehfluss and Sadie Brooks outside The Greens and River Run clubhouse. Herald photo by Logan Everson.

New managers, same smiling faces

Behind-the-Scenes at The Greens

By LOGAN EVERSON
Contributing Writer

The names on the contract may be different, but there's no lack of experience between the two newest owner/operators of The Greens Bar & Restaurant in Sparta.

Georgianna Rehfluss, 42, of Sparta and Sadie Brooks, 24, of La Crosse have been working behind the bar for six and seven years, respectively.

With more than 20 years of bartending under her belt, Rehfluss, also known as "Gee," is a pro when it comes to serving drinks with a smile. She has three sons, ages 7, 14, and 21. Sparta-native Brooks is a spring 2019 graduate from Winona State University with a double major in Business Administration and Human Resources with a minor in Management.

With a tentative opening date of March 2, they have less than a month to get ready for their first day of operation.

"We have a lot to do," Rehfluss said.

"Cleaning, stocking, setting up accounts, ordering inventory and

stocking that inventory," Brooks added.

Rehfluss and Brooks have a few changes in mind for their inaugural owner/operator season. Expect to see the drink cart out more often, kitchen hours extended, and a refreshed menu is in the works. You can still expect the classic Friday Fish Fry and Sunday BINGO, which is expected to return at 1 p.m. March 6.

While a number of tournaments and fundraisers will be happening, the pair look forward to booking more events as well.

GREENS cont. pg. 5

Get out and vote!

This Tuesday, there is a primary election for the Sparta School Board candidates. There are nine names on the ballot: Amy Lopez, Pat McKenna, Edward Lukasek, Tanya L. Morene, Anthony Scholze, Todd S. Wells, Marla Leverich, John Hendricks and Jason Perry. Electors will vote for not more than four candidates. The primary election is to eliminate one of the nine school board

candidates. All municipalities' polling locations in the Sparta Area School District will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. There are three other school board primary elections that fall under some parts of Monroe County: the New Lisbon School District, Westby School District and Black River Falls School District. See page 16 for sample ballot of Sparta Area School District Primary.

Continuation of local public school open enrollment numbers

By KYLE EVANS
Interim editor

The Herald sent questionnaires regarding open enrollment numbers to each superintendent of the five main school districts we cover. Superintendents were asked to submit 100 words per question. Some submitted far more. In an effort of fairness we kept their responses close to that count by cutting bottom up. For their complete responses see monroecountyherald.com. Sparta, Tomah, and Bangor superintendents' replied. There was not a response in time for the paper from Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton and Cashton school districts. Here is what the superintendents had to say:

Dr. Amy Van Deuren
Superintendent,
Sparta Area School District

Why are students leaving the district?

This question should read "Why are families choosing open enrollment?" Families may choose open enrollment for a variety of reasons. A district's size, geography, and proximity to work and child care are reasons to enroll outside of the resident district. Virtual



Van Deuren



Hanson



Brokopp

charter schools have become an option for families wishing to have children learn from home. Some families choose open enrollment for a program that the resident district does not offer. Some families disagree with school or district policy. We contacted families prior to COVID-19, and the most cited reasons for open enrolling out were child care and online learning.

What changes are you making to prevent more kids from leaving the district?

Families should choose based on what works best for their families; the district does not wish to prevent choice if that choice is better for the child and/or family. It is notable that the district itself is often not a factor in this decision. The district regularly contacts families who apply for open enrollment, especially when we have opportunities in the district to meet their needs. The district also engages in continuous improvement,

SCHOOL cont. pg. 5

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Kyle Evans, **Interim Editor**
editor@monroecountyherald.com
Greg Evans, **Publisher**
greg@monroecountyherald.com

Published by
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1302 River Road
Sparta, Wisconsin 54656
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Test early when signs of forgetfulness appear

Tips, advice, resources for dealing with the onset of dementia

By PAT MULVANEY
Contributing Writer

When Jim Wright (he asked that his real name not be used) first noticed his aging mother, who lived alone in her home, was starting to show signs of dementia, he wasn't sure how to handle it.

"She would call me and we'd have a conversation and ten minutes after hanging up, she'd call again like the first conversation never happened," he said.

He chalked it up to forgetfulness and thought it was something he could take care of later. Not long after that, he received a call from one of his mother's friends who found his mother lying on the floor in her house where she had fallen the day before.

"It was then that I knew I had to get help for her," he said, realizing his mother's dementia had progressed further than he thought. "That fall was a wake-up call."

Dr. Thomas Loepfe, a geriatrician with Mayo Health System in La Crosse, said his advice for people with family members who are displaying symptoms of early-onset dementia is to get their loved one to a medical provider as soon as possible to get tested.

"I see people many times too late," he said. "I see them when they have behavioral problems or are giving caregivers significant stress. We might have been able to help them sooner or helped them more if they would have come in sooner."

The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's, which, in rare types of the

disease, can show symptoms in patients in their 30s and 40s. But the common type of Alzheimer's typically shows up in patients in their 70s, although it can appear earlier.



Dr. Thomas Loepfe

Loepfe said classic Alzheimers manifest itself in basically three ways.

– Short-term memory loss characterized by the inability to remember recent happenings but still being able to remember things that occurred decades ago. It includes things like repeating oneself or talking on the phone and not remembering who called.

– Language difficulties, such as struggling to find words, particularly nouns. "They can think of the person, place or thing but can't get the word out," said Loepfe. "They'll forget people's names but of course, we all do that. It will be more pronounced."

– Visual spatial-perception problems. "They'll get lost while driving," said Loepfe. "They won't know where they are in the world."

Loepfe notes that other symptoms can also come into play but those three are the first signs he would be concerned about for early-onset Alzheimer's.

Another form of dementia is vascular dementia, which is related to anything involving or causing vascular disease such as strokes, diabetes, smoking, blood pressure among other problems.

"I tell patients anything that can hurt your heart can hurt your brain, too," said Loepfe.

He added that another reason to get tested early when signs of dementia manifest is that there are conditions that can mimic dementia and can be reversed.

Problems with medication, depression, anxiety along with other conditions can cause forgetfulness and there could be an easy fix, he said.

And while there is no medication at this time that can slow or stop Alzheimer's, there is one major recommendation Loepfe gives his patients.

"I tell them the best thing you can do is have a healthy lifestyle," he said.

That includes exercising both physically and cognitively, keeping active, including socially, and eating Mediterranean diet type foods. That advice also will control risk factors for cardiovascular disease. "That will take you further than anything else, in my opinion," he said.

He points out that social connections are very important not only with dementia but with depression, which has a not-fully-understood connection with dementia.

While he said there are a lot of resources for people with dementia and their caregivers, he suggests starting with your local Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

Most Wisconsin county governments include an ADRC. The one in Monroe County is managed by Pamela Weber, who said the agency has a number of programs and staff who deal with dementia care.

In fact, the county hired a dementia care specialist, Emily Reitz, a little over a year ago. According to Weber, Reitz trains the department's staff and its volunteers to make sure they are "dementia friendly."

"We know how to work with and meet the needs of people who come to us and have dementia," said Weber.

The ADRC staff also is trained in giving memory screenings. While they can't make a diagnosis, they do make referrals to medical providers if a person shows

symptoms of dementia.

The ADRC also provides support to caregivers. They have toolkits for them as well as programs that help caregivers manage behavioral issues of loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's. They can help caregivers access respite programs to give them a break.

Monroe County also has a Dementia Coalition made up of area stakeholders, from social workers and area nursing home staff to police departments and hospital staff. The group gets together once a month to identify needs of county residents and programs that can be implemented to

help the community.

To find out more about the Monroe County ADRC, check it out on the Monroe County website at co.monroe.wi.us. Look for Aging and Disability Resource Center under departments. It also can be reached at (608) 269-8690.

The Savvy Senior

by Jim Miller

How to write a loved one's obituary

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you provide any tips on how to write an obituary? My dad, who has terminal cancer, has asked me to write his obituary, which will be published in the funeral program and run in our local newspaper.

Not a Writer

Dear Not,

I'm very sorry to hear about your dad's prognosis. Writing your dad's obituary would be a nice way for you to honor him and sum up his life, not to mention avoiding any possible mistakes that sometimes occur when obituaries are hurriedly written at the time of death. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and tools to help you write it.

Contact the newspaper

Before you start writing your dad's obituary, your first step is to check with the newspaper you want it to run in. Some newspapers have specific style guidelines or restrictions on length, some only accept obituaries directly from funeral homes, and some only publish obituaries written by newspaper staff members.

If your newspaper accepts family-written obits, find out if they have a template to guide you, or check with your dad's chosen funeral provider. Most funeral homes provide forms for basic information and will write the full obituary for you as part of the services they provide.

You also need to be aware

that most newspapers charge by the word, line or column inch to publish an obituary, so your cost will vary depending on your newspaper's rate and the length of your obit – most range between 200 and 600 words.

Also note that many newspapers offer free public service death listings too, which only include the name of the person who died along with the date and location of death and brief details about the funeral or memorial service.

Obituary contents

Depending on how detailed you want to be, the most basic information in an obituary usually would include your dad's full name (and nickname if relevant), age, date of birth, date of death, where he was living when he died, significant other (alive or dead), and details of the funeral service (public or private). If public, include the date, time, and location of service.

Other relevant information you may also want to include: cause of death (optional); place of birth and his parents' names; his other survivors including his children, other relatives, friends and pets and where they live; family members who preceded him in death; high school and colleges he attended and degrees earned; his work history and military service; his hobbies, accomplishments and any awards he received; his church

or religious affiliations; any clubs, civic and fraternal organizations he was members of; and any charities he feels strongly about that he would like people to donate to either in addition to or in lieu of flowers or other gifts. You'll also need to include a photo of your dad.

Need help?

If you need some help writing your dad's obituary, there are free online resources you can turn to like Legacy.com, which provides tips and articles at Legacy.com/advice/guide-to-writing-an-obituary. Or consider the 25-page e-book "Writing an Obituary in Four Easy Steps" available at DearPersonObits.com for \$5. This guide will help you gather the details of your dad's life so you can write an obituary that will reflect his personality and story.

Online memorials

Many families today also choose to post their loved one's obituaries online and create digital memorials. Some good sites that offer this are MyKeeper.com, GatheringUs.com and EverLoved.com, which provide a central location where family and friends can visit to share stories, memories and photos to celebrate your dad's life.

Or, if your dad used Facebook, you could also turn his profile into a memorial (you'll need to show proof of death) where family and friends can visit and share anytime.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

AARP opens applications for Community Challenge grants

AARP Wisconsin is currently accepting applications for the 2022 AARP Community Challenge grant program. Applications opened on Wednesday, January 26, and will remain open through Tuesday, March 22.

The AARP Community Challenge grant program is designed to help fund quick-action projects that serve to help communities become more livable in the long-term. These projects can include improvements in public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, COVID-19 recovery, diversity and inclusion, and more.

The program has been up and running for six years, serving as part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which aims to support the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods, and rural areas to improve their quality of life.

Local organizations and governments alike can apply for the program, and proposals that support residents age 50

AARP cont. pg. 5

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SPARTA

(Continued from Front Page)

aren't that long and since aldermen live in the city travel times are insignificant. He suggested a raise would be hard to sell to the public.

Mayor Kristin Gust said council members aren't just spending time at city meetings, they also are answering phone calls and emails and sometimes attend outside meetings. "There's a lot of work that goes on outside of just those (city) committee meetings," she said.

And while Gust contended nobody on the council was doing it for the money but rather to serve the community, she agreed 11 years was a long time to go without a pay increase.

"I don't think anyone's worked a job where they worked 11 years and never got a single penny of an increase," she said.

Kevin Brueggeman, who's been on the city council since 2014, said he gets numerous phone calls and has to field complaints from constituents even when he is out in public.

Alderman Jim Church questioned how many calls he



Bruce Humphrey, 3rd District City of Sparta alderman. Goes up to the podium to talk about alderman wages at the city of Sparta finance committee meeting. 8th district alderman Kevin Riley, City Administrator Todd Fahning, and 5th district Alderman Matthew Hoffland also pictured. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

actually gets and said dealing with the public is part of the job.

"There's one way to fix that, if you don't enjoy that, the alternative is to get off," he said. He also said he'd like to see Brueggeman log his calls. That prompted a heated exchange with Brueggeman, who said he didn't appreciate being called a liar.

Church, who also said he doesn't spend more than six hours a month on city business, added that the figures Hoffman presented show that Sparta's pay is in

line and that should end the conversation.

Finance Committee member Josh Lydon pointed out that he isn't running for reelection in April and there is no candidate for his seat.

"For anyone who wants to do my ward, I get about two calls a year," he said.

Ed Lukasek said finding candidates to fill positions is a problem. "If we're going to get young people or people who are considering running for reelection, at least give them somewhat of an incentive to cover their time,"

he said, suggesting that tying raises to the Consumer Price Index would be a good idea. "There should be a steady increase in wages for the city council."

Riley said it's always uncomfortable to talk about what is in essence giving yourself a raise but he's looking at it as a way to increase participation among aldermen and enticing more people to run for office.

Riley said the council will keep the discussion going for the next few months before making a decision.

SCHOOL

(Continued from Front Page)

including student and staff support, as well as facilities and transportation updates to provide a quality education to our students.

What are you doing to get more students to come to your district?

The district offers unique educational opportunities: four charter schools, a full range of Advanced Placement courses, the advanced welding program and online learning options at all grade levels. The district has modernized school facilities, including the technology infrastructure. In athletics and co-curriculars, the high school added a robotics team, and our gymnastics team has expanded to field a full team competitive at the state level. Show Choir and Musical Theater programs have increased in their participation and quality as well. Note that students open enrolling into the district come at net cost, and are not a source of additional revenue.

Does your district have to cut anything with the loss of aid?

This question is a misunderstanding of how the transfer of aid related to open enrollment works. The state Legislature set up a finance formula that does not reward open enrollment. Districts actually retain some of the funding related to students who open enroll out, and they do not receive full funding for those that open enroll into a district. Budget deficits are not directly related to an open enrollment deficit. This question is more appropriate for districts that take in a large number of open enrolled students.

Dr. Charles M. (Mike) Hanson II, Ed.D. Superintendent Tomah Area School District

Why are students leaving the district? There are a variety of reasons why parents and guardians may determine a nonresident open

enrollment application to another school district is in the best educational interests of their child. Based on the most recent January 2022 student count data, open enrollment in is 97 and open enrollment out is 119. These figures are subject to change through the reporting process Fall 2022.

What changes are you making to prevent more kids from leaving the district? What are you doing to get more students to come to your district?

Tomah Area School District has a proud and ongoing tradition of excellence and innovation in the educational space focused on high-quality learning, every child, every day. Our dedicated professional team of educators in every operational area continue to lead the way — especially through the impact of the pandemic. We have remained in-person this current year and last year limited disruptions to in-person delivery last year only twice — once at the district level and once at the middle school. Delivering educational programming through multiple formats that include in-person, virtually with Wisconsin RVA, through the 45 on-15 off calendar at Lemonweir Elementary School, and in our Montessori School offer parents/guardians choice and strong opportunities... see more of this answer at monroecountyherald.com

Does your district have to cut anything with the loss of aid?

Open enrollment has not impacted one specific building or program. Over time, the district has allocated resources where needed to continue moving our programs forward each year. As stated in your article, open enrollment is viewed in the net cost of dollars coming in and going out. Those dollars will change yearly based on parental decisions as discussed above. The net dollar amount you referenced in your article, \$190,000 or thereabouts, has been an accumulation

of costs since the inception of open enrollment. So as to your question above, most of the open enrollment dollars were budgeted in the previous year's budget. See more of this answer at monroecountyherald.com

David Brokopp Ph.D. Superintendent Bangor School District

Why are students leaving the district?

First of all when we begin to look at open enrollment numbers you have to remember that Wisconsin is fairly unique in the fact that families are provided the opportunity to choose the school district that works the best for their families even if that choice is not within the school district boundaries where they live. This does not happen in all states. Whether you agree with the option or not, it is an opportunity that is provided to every family in Wisconsin.

The list of reasons for why families choose to attend a school outside the boundaries where they live is long and complex. See more of this answer at monroecountyherald.com

What changes are you making to prevent more kids from leaving the district? What are you doing to get more students to come to your district? Does your district have to cut anything with the loss of aid?

If you take a look back, not too many years ago, Bangor has experienced some years where the number of students leaving the district significantly outnumbered students coming in. That trend has changed and getting back to basically even, this has been an important first step. As the smallest school district in La Crosse county, we are not able to offer every opportunity that some of our larger neighbors are able to. What Bangor has worked hard on has been embracing who we are, what we do, and doing it incredibly well. See more of this answer at monroecountyherald.com

GREENS

(Continued from Front Page)

"We can do birthday parties, baby and bridal showers, graduation parties, basically any private event," Brooks said.

Unlike most golf courses, River Run is a public golf course owned by the City of Sparta. The Greens Bar & Restaurant is a separate entity. The city operates the golfing portion of the clubhouse.

"This isn't a country club. We have guests come from all over. We have a nice course with friendly service," Rehffuss said.

"The customers are our top priority. We want them to have a good experience and visit us again," Brooks said. "Come on out!"

With all the time they spend at The Greens, do they golf?

"No, we don't have time," Rehffuss chuckled. "We gotta work!"

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AARP (Continued from Page 2)

and over will be given priority. Proposals addressing inclusivity and disparities, directly engaging volunteers, and aiming to achieve one or more of seven specific outcomes will also be prioritized.

These seven outcomes include supporting communities' effort to build engagement and leverage funding available under new federal programs; creating vibrant public places to help improve open spaces, parks, and so on; delivering a range of transportation and mobility options that help increase connectivity, walkability, biking access, and so on; supporting a range of housing options that increase the availability of accessible and affordable options; ensuring a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion; increasing civic engagement; and improving other aspects of the community, such as health services, community development, and COVID-19

pandemic recovery.

Nearly 40% of past projects have helped to benefit rural communities, with an additional 20% benefiting suburban areas and the remaining 40% benefiting urban communities.

Nonprofits designated under 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) status are welcome to apply, as are government entities. Other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and are still welcome to apply. Grants typically range from several hundred dollars for small or short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger, more long-lasting projects.

All applications must be submitted by no later than 4:00P.M. on Tuesday, March 22, and all projects funded by this program must be completed by November 30 of this year. To submit an application, please visit AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

Meetings

- The Monroe County Public Safety & Justice Coordinating Committee will meet on Mon., February 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Justice Center.
- The Housing Authority of the County of Monroe will meet on Wed., February 16, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at 1108 W. Wisconsin St. #103, Sparta.
- The regular meeting of the Bangor School District Board of Education will be held in the Bangor High/Middle School on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., A link

will be provided on the main page of our website (www.bangor.k12.wi.us) to view the meeting virtually. To participate in public comment virtually during the meeting, please contact John Magnuson, Technology Coordinator, jmagnuson@bangorsd.net.
 ■The Monroe County Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet on Thur., February 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at 18432 State Hwy 21, Tomah.
 ■The Monroe County Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet on Thur., March 10, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at Lily Avenue, Wilton.

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From left to right: American Legion member Sam Arentz, Jane Knudtson, Ryan Walters, and Gary Althoff. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.



From Left to right: Curt Brockney (first place chili), Brytani Beranea (first place soup), Ryan Walters, and Dan Reiber (fan favorite.) Contributed photo.

CRP general sign-up is open from now until March 11, 2022

Farmers and landowners have until March 11 to sign up for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Program.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

Meanwhile, Grassland CRP (the sign-up period is April 4 to May 13) is a working lands program, helping landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland

and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands can contribute positively to the economy, provide biodiversity of plant and

animal populations and provide carbon sequestration benefits.

Interested landowners can contact their local USDA service centers. Sparta's center is at 820 Industrial Drive.

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Looking forward to the 4th of July fireworks!

Dozens gather in remembrance of Knudtson

By KYLE EVANS
Staff Writer

Do you have a case of the winter blues? Looking forward to warmer weather? About 80 people at Augie's Bar & Grill on Sunday were thinking the same thing (especially after taking 2021 off due to the pandemic) as they filled their bellies with warm chili and soup.

People gathered for the delicious soups and chilis and to remember a former Legion commander, during the Bangor American Legion Post 40 and Augie's Bar & Grill's fourth-annual Butch Knudtson Memorial Chili and Soup Cook-off.

Knudtson was the former commander of the Bangor Legion. He died four years ago in April. He and Ryan Walters (owner of Augie's Bar & Grill) teamed up five years ago to start the chili cook-off as a fundraiser for the annual July 4 firework show in Bangor. It was Walter's idea to honor Knudtson with the event and all the money raised goes to the firework show.

Gary Althoff, Bangor village president and American Legion Post 40 member, said he's heard from quite a few people that Bangor has some of the best fireworks in the area. Paul and Robin Lenser, of Rockland, along with their family, shoot off the fireworks every year for Above and Beyond fireworks. "My family and I have been shooting off the fireworks in Bangor for at least 20 years," Paul said.

There were 21 entries total of soup and chili on Sunday. There was a \$50 cash prize for the best soup/chili in each category.

Brytani Beranea made the first-place soup and Curt Brockney took home honors for the first-place chili. Augie's Bar & Grill vendors judged the soups and chilis.

"It works great because they have no bias, and the judges

don't know the people," Paul Lenser said. There is also a fan favorite award in which the customers pick their favorite. Each chili or soup is numbered and customers write the number of their favorite and turn it in. The fan favorite award went to Dan Reiber, who won a \$25 gift certificate to Augie's Bar & Grill. Jane Knudtson (widow of Butch) attended the cook-off.

"It's a nice event and fireworks cost a lot of money and they aren't getting any cheaper," she said.

When asked about Butch, Jane said "you ask anybody here, and they'll tell you he was a good man. He did a lot of things for the Legion that nobody knows about. People think that things just happen but they don't."

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He's got legs

ACT to hold Mr. Legs contest

By RHONDA HESS

Tomah's Area Community Theatre (ACT) is looking to raise funds with a unique "beauty contest" ... and things could get hairy.

The first Mr. Legs event is being held Thursday, March 31 at the ACT center in downtown Tomah.

One of the organizers, event planner Amanda Thundercloud of Simply Bellagence, said the group is searching for contestants and sponsors. How many are needed?

"The more the merrier," Thundercloud said.

She said this is a first year event that had been cancelled two years ago due to the pandemic.

"We're hoping to continue it every single year," she said. Tickets are being sold prior



Amanda Thundercloud holds information about ACTs new fundraiser, the Mr. Legs contest. Photos by Rhonda Hess

to the event for \$30, with a limited number of tickets possibly available at the door for \$35.

A cash bar will be part of the event and the group is hoping to secure refreshments from area restaurants.

Bridget Owens and Jerry Fushianes plan to be co-hosting the event. Thundercloud said the deadline to receive entry forms for contestants is Tuesday, Feb. 14. A meet-and-greet is being planned for contestants to check out and possibly get a "leg-up" on their competitors.



This man's leg could possibly be in the Mr. Legs event.

Men can get creative with their runway music and costumes and are expected to only bare their legs from the knee down.

There is no fee for entry and the winner who kicks everyone else in the competition will receive bragging rights and a sense of goodwill for helping their local theatre group.

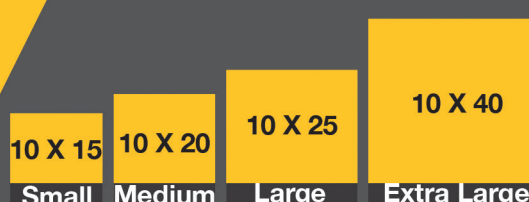
To find out more and receive an entry form, email the group at boxoffice@tomahact.com.

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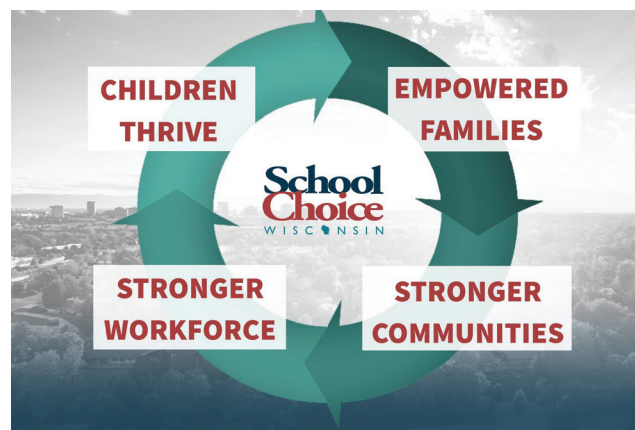
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THROUGH MY LENS

The arrogance of scheduling

By NATE BEIER
Sports Reporter

If I do nothing but cause you to pause and wonder, 'really, why are we doing it this way,' then I did my job with my column today.

I want to talk about the arrogance of our sports schedules and present a case that should be, could be solved to be better.

First off, our winter sports schedules are ridiculous. No day is safe from activity with the exception of most Wednesdays and every Sunday.

As much as some families enjoy chasing and watching their kids' events, why are they running 3-6 times a week?

My second point of contention is the continued practice of running boys and girls basketball games on the same night, but in different places.

Sure, there are some situations that may warrant that. A non-conference game or a postponed event are fair fodder. However, if you look at most schedules - especially our small schools, the schools with the smallest and most taxed fan base, you may see that nearly 50% of game nights have boys in one place and girls in another.

The Mississippi Valley Conference has the audacity to continue the practice of splitting communities for league games, meaning that if the boys are at home against Team A, the girls are on the road at Team A.

The towns that make up the MVC shouldn't have to split their fans to support the one school, and let's face it. Everyone is going to the boys game even if their own boys aren't good.

I talk about conference doubleheaders often. I'll do it in another column at some point, too. Why we aren't doing conference doubleheaders is beyond me. Why can't we make an event out of high school sports again? Most boys games get done in 75 minutes, it seems. Is that really an event?

By stacking more games in to one day, we can open up other nights so that kids could actually spend time at home. Band, choir or other groups would have the ability to take center stage and have a prime evening spot.

As long as the winter season is, wouldn't it be nice if our school/athletic staff could get a couple extra nights to just... be? Let's think about doing it better. For everyone.



TOMAH BOYS BASKETBALL

T-WOLVES OVER .500

Derousseau's season high 42 helps THS topple Rangers

By MAURICE SAVAGE
Sports Writer

The Tomah boys basketball team were able to secure a close win at home against La Crosse Logan on Tuesday night. The final score was 73-67.

The Timberwolves (10-9) were led by Dustin Derousseau

who finished with a game-high and a season-high of 42 points.

Tomah opened the game on a 5-0 run before Logan could light up the scoreboard, which it did on a three-pointer.

That shot by Logan stirred the pot and the Rangers went on a 10-2 run to take a 13-7 lead around the 13 minute mark. Tomah turned the tables,

though and strung together 12-straight points for a 19-13 lead with around nine to play in the first half. The two teams traded blows the rest of the half with THS clutching a 33-32 lead at the break.

Early on in the second half, Logan continued flirting with the lead. Derousseau, however, ended the threat with a put back on a shot of his under the basket which lifted Tomah to a 47-46 lead with just under 13 minutes to play.

The Timberwolves never trailed again.

Derousseau was hot in the

second half, accounting for 25 of Tomah's 40 points in the half. He was hot from 3 scoring 4 of 7 from beyond the arc.

Brady Plueger finished the night with 10 points. He drained 3 shots from beyond the arc in this game. Bryant Thornton came off the bench and added in 8 points on the night.

La Crosse Logan (5-15) was led by Eli Stovall who finished with 20 points. Stovall was able to drain 6 shots from beyond the arc - 4 in the first half. Keenan Hass and Ryan

Bye both finished the game with 16 points. Justin Arellano finished the night with 11.

Tomah was able to constantly take advantage of the second chance points as they went on to score 15 points off of offensive rebounds. The Timberwolves were able to cause 10 turnovers in the game. 8 of those turnovers were steals.

The Timberwolves will be on the road on Friday against their rivals Sparta at 7:15. The last time these two teams played Tomah was able to secure a solid win.

BROOKWOOD GIRLS BASKETBALL



Brookwood's Cora Brandau draws contact from the Lincoln defense while going up for a shot in Monday's non-conference tilt. Herald photo by Ellen Everson.

Berg's ballers come up short against Small Dairyland leader

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

The Brookwood girls' basketball team had a look at a win in the final seconds. That attempt came up short and the Falcons just missed out on a non-conference win.

The Alma Center Lincoln Hornets (15-4) held on to beat Brookwood (3-19) 35-33 when the two teams squared off Monday, February 7 in Ontario. Lincoln currently leads the Small Dairyland Conference with a mark of 9-2. The Hornets on the league a year ago.

In spite of the end result, the Falcons were right it until the very end with a chance to

pull off the upset.

Brookwood sophomore guard Vanessa Anderson had a look at a 3-pointer at the buzzer as she sprinted up the court. Her heave hit the backboard and looked like it might bank in for the win, but the ball rattled out and the Hornets held on.

Anderson scored 11 points and junior forward Cora Brandau added 9 points for the Falcons in the loss. Alma Center Lincoln junior forward Liza Cummings led the way for her team with 11 points.

The Falcons are back in action in Scenic Bluffs play against the Wonewoc-Center Wolves (9-7 overall, 7-5 Scenic Bluffs) Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m. in Wonewoc.

BANGOR BOYS BASKETBALL

No Jones, no problem as Cardinal boys blow past New Lisbon

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

After yet another conference win and an assist from Hillsboro, the Bangor boys' basketball team is on the cusp of a sixth consecutive Scenic Bluffs championship.

The Cardinals (17-3 overall, 11-0 Scenic Bluffs) used a sensational second half to pull away from the New Lisbon Rockets (6-14, 2-9) and record a 75-43 road victory Tuesday, February 8 in New Lisbon.

Bangor, which was without junior guard Tanner Jones, only led 36-31 at the break but tightened up defensively in the second half and outscored the Rockets 39-12 the rest of the way to turn the night into a rout. The Cardinals had previously creamed New Lisbon 96-28 in their first meeting January 6 in Bangor.

In Tuesday night's win, Bangor junior forward/guard Dustin McDonald unloaded for 30 points on 11-of-16 shooting to go along with 7 rebounds.

Additionally for the Cardinals, senior forward Ashton Michek scored 12 points, senior guard Gunner Ellenburg added 10 points, sophomore forward Chase Horstman had 9 points and 7 rebounds and senior guard Will Reader chipped in 8 points.

Meanwhile, for the Rockets, junior guard Ashton Pfaff and junior forward Nikita Shankle finished with 14 and 10 points, respectively.

This latest victory extends Bangor's winning streak in Scenic Bluffs play to a staggering 81 straight games and inched the team closer to another conference championship. That quest got an additional boost Tuesday night.

AROUND THE SBC

Necedah defeated Brookwood 72-34. Royall trumped Wonewoc-Center 40-37.

Elsewhere around the league, the Hillsboro Tigers went on the road and knocked off the Cashton Eagles 67-56 in Cashton. That loss dropped the Eagles to 9-2 in conference



Bangor's Ashton Michek scored 12 points in Tuesday's win over New Lisbon and was one of three Cardinals to finish in double-digit scoring. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

play, leaving them two games behind Bangor in the Scenic Bluffs standings.

The Cardinals held serve at home and beat Cashton 59-40 when the rivals met up January 20. Their rematch is slated for February 21 in Cashton to close out the regular season and figured to potentially decide if Bangor would win the Scenic Bluffs title outright or share it with the Eagles.

These latest developments mean the Cardinals can have the outright championship secured before they travel to Cashton.

Bangor has a pair of home games over the next week. The Cardinals first welcome in Wonewoc-Center (3-12, 0-10) Friday, February 11 and then host Royall (11-9, 5-6) Thursday, February 17. Both games are scheduled to tip at 7 p.m.

A win Friday night against the Wolves clinched a share of the Scenic Bluffs crown for Bangor. Following that up with a victory against the Panthers gives the title to the Cardinals outright.

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MVC GYMNASTICS

Wiegand shines at home

By NATE BEIER
Sports Writer

Sparta's Lily Wiegand captured the All-Around title in her final performance at home on February 3 in the penultimate Mississippi Valley Conference meet of the year.

Wiegand finished with the highest scores in both the floor and beam and was second in the vault.

The senior scored a 36.7 in the All-Around to edge runner-up Ella Hemker (36.375).

Wiegand scored a 9.525 on floor, a 9 on beam and 9.4 on vault. On the bars, Wiegand finished third with a score of 8.775.

Sparta finished with the second best score behind Holmen. Holmen's 140.175 topped Sparta's 137.45.

TOMAH'S FOSTER BREAKS FLOOR MARK

Tomah's Peyton Foster led the way at Sparta's MVC meet with a score of 32.875 which was good enough for ninth place.

The big news was that Foster set a new school record in the floor exercise. Foster, who was the current record holder after posting an 8.85 last year, scored a 9 in the event at Sparta.

According to coach Karen Brown, Foster was also just .25 shy of tying the All-Around record.

As a team, Tomah posted its best team score in two seasons with a 113.475.

Mya Mayer finished with an All-Around score of 28.075. Mayer scored an 8 on vault, a 7.4 on floor, a 7.275 on beam and 5.4 on bars.

The MVC gymnasts will put the finishing touches on their regular season when they wrap up competition tonight in Holmen. Action is set to start at 6:00 p.m.

Sparta and Tomah will both be off after tonight's meet until February 26 when they will travel to West Salem for a Division 2 sectional. The sectional will include the likes of West Salem, Arcadia, G-E-T, Grantsburg, Menomonie and River Falls.

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONFERENCE AT SPARTA 2-3-22

TEAM SCORES

PLACE	SCHOOL	SCORE
1	Holmen	140.175
2	Sparta	137.45
3	Onalaska	129.275
4	La Crosse	119.875
5	Tomah	113.475

ALL AROUND

PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	SCORE
1	Lily Wiegand	Sp	36.7
2	Ella Hemker	Sp	36.375
7	Savannah Clark	Sp	33.625
9	Peyton Foster	Tmh	32.875
14	Mya Mayer	Tmh	28.075

VAULT

PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	SCORE
1	Kamryn McNally	Hol	9.5
1	Ella Hemker	Sp	9.5
2	Lily Wiegand	Sp	9.4

BALANCE BEAM

PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	SCORE
1	Lily Wiegand	Sp	9.00
2	Kamryn Schibbelhut	Ona	8.925
3	Kamryn McNally	Hol	8.675

FLOOR EXERCISE

PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	SCORE
1	Lily Wiegand	Sp	9.525
2	Kamryn McNally	Hol	9.45
3	Harley Bartels	Hol	9.375

UNEVEN BARS

PLACE	NAME	SCHOOL	SCORE
1	Ella Hemker	Sp	9.2
2	Harley Bartels	Hol	8.8
3	Lily Wiegand	Sp	8.775

CASHTON BOYS BASKETBALL

Eagle boys served a side of Tiger surprise

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

The Cashton boys' basketball team entered the 2021-22 season with aspirations of potentially competing for a Scenic Bluffs title. That dream has taken a debilitating blow after a home loss to Hillsboro.

The Tigers (12-8 overall, 7-4 Scenic Bluffs) went out on the road and knocked off the Eagles (16-4, 9-2) 67-56 Tuesday, February 8 in Cashton. It was a role reversal from their first meeting, where Cashton topped the Tigers 61-51 January 6 in Hillsboro.

On Tuesday night, Hillsboro held a narrow 28-26 halftime lead and then outscored the Eagles 39-30 over the final 18 minutes.

Senior guard Jordan Erickson led the Tigers with 19 points, sophomore guard Isaiah Stokes finished with 16 points and 9 rebounds and senior guard/Kasen Holmen added 10 points.

For Cashton, senior forward Presley Brueggen and senior guard Bowdy Dempsey each scored 18 points to lead the way.

That loss dropped the Eagles to 9-2 in conference play, leaving them two games back of first-place Bangor. Cashton hosts the Cardinals on February 21 to cap off the regular season, but Bangor could now already have the Scenic Bluffs title clinched outright if it takes care of business against Wonewoc-Royall.

Next up for the Eagles is a home game against the New Lisbon Rockets (6-14, 2-9) Friday, February 11 at 7 p.m. in Cashton.



Cashton's Bowdy Dempsey manages to place a shot over the outstretched arm of Hillsboro's Payton Strohmeier in the first half of Tuesday's game. Herald photo by Jenny Schendel.

CASHTON GIRLS BASKETBALL

M-M holds on to thwart Cashton victory effort

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

They were in it until the end, but the Cashton girls' basketball team fell just short of picking up a non-conference victory on the road against Melrose-Mindoro.

The Mustangs (11-11) staved off the Eagles (9-13) to secure a 58-54 win Monday, February 7 in Melrose. After the game was knotted up 25-25 at halftime, Melrose-Mindoro held a 33-29 scoring edge in the second half.

Junior guard Lily Radcliffe finished with 22 points on 8-of-13 shooting and senior forward Ella Tracey added 13 points for the Mustangs in the victory.

As for Cashton, junior guard Braylee Hyatt went off for a game-high 27 points, sophomore guard Sydney Helgerson had 10 points and senior guard Paige Olson chipped in 7 points.

The Eagles will look to avoid a third consecutive loss when they go out on the road to take on the New Lisbon Rockets (8-13 overall, 3-9 Scenic Bluffs) Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m. in New Lisbon.

AROUND THE SBC

In Monday's non-conference action, Hillsboro defeated Viroqua 73-36 and New Lisbon picked up a 57-33 win against North Crawford.

Royall claimed a 56-22 win and improved to 14-6 on the season.

SPARTA GIRLS BASKETBALL

League-leading Aquinas clamps down on Sparta

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

Nearing the end of her first season with the Sparta girls basketball team, head coach Samantha Weaver and the team have their hands full. The last five games of season are all conference matchups for the Lady Spartans. The first of the five games started this past Friday with a loss against Onalaska.

Their second game of the final stretch happened this past Tuesday when Sparta (9-11) welcomed the fifth best team in the state in Division 4 the Aquinas Blugolds (16-4).

Their last meeting ended in an Aquinas 69-38 win. Sparta was looking for their revenge.

54-17 in favor of Aquinas was the score at the end of the first half. A miracle was needed for Sparta to get the game back in their favor but the lead was too much to overcome. The Sparta revenge game fell short. Aquinas came to Sparta and took care of business with a 87-36 blowout win.

It was all Aquinas in this game. They shot 47% from the field on 31-66 shooting. They shot 13-33 from beyond the arc. The Blugolds forced 29 Sparta turnovers, scoring 17 points off those turnovers.

The leading scorer for the game was Aquinas' Jacy Weisbrod who had 25 points. In their last meeting earlier in the season, Weisbrod had 32 points. This season, Weisbrod has averaged 22 points per game.

It wasn't just the turnovers that hurt Sparta in this game. They shot just 33% from the field on 14-43 shooting. Sparta got beat up down low. The team was outrebounded 33-24 when it was all said and done.

Sparta's leading scorer for the game was senior Nadia Laufenberg. Laufenberg finished with nine points, two rebounds and two

assists. Right behind her was Sophomore Evelyn Tripp who finished with eight points, three rebounds and two assists. Senior Malory Russ led the team in rebounds with 10.

Aquinas proved that they are one of the best teams in the state for a reason. Sparta falls to 9-11 overall and 2-7 in conference. The Lady Spartans need to put this one behind them with another conference matchup this upcoming Friday. Sparta will travel to arch rival Tomah who beat them earlier this season at Sparta. Tip off is set at 7:15.

WHAT REMAINS

Feb. 10
Sparta @ Tomah

Feb. 15
La Crosse Central @ Sparta

Feb. 18
Sparta @ La Crosse Logan

Information on the WIAA regional seeding can be found on wiaawi.org

BROOKWOOD BOYS BASKETBALL

Necedah offense blasts Blackwell's boys

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

The Brookwood boys' basketball team will hope to shake off a loss to Necedah that completed a season sweep.

The Cardinals (11-5 overall, 6-4 Scenic Bluffs) handled the Falcons (5-14, 3-8) and picked up a 72-34 victory in their Scenic Bluffs matchup Tuesday, February 8 in Ontario.

Leading scorers for Brookwood included senior guard Franklin Wildes with 10 points, senior guard Austin Frye with 9 points, sophomore forward/guard Wyatt Maurhoff with 8 points and senior forward Evan Wang with 7 points.

Brookwood had a home non-conference game scheduled against Alma Center Lincoln for Monday night, but it was postponed until Tuesday, February 15.

CONFERENCE	Nate Beier	Ryan Deno	Aaron Arnold	Kyle Evans	Guest
Bengals at Chiefs					
Last Week's Record	1-1	1-1	0-2	2-0	1-1
Overall Record	155-124	160-119	181-98	147-132	169-110

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This week's guest in the Monroe County Herald NFL Pick-Ems Contest is Mikee Schmitz, owner of the Leon Country Tavern. Schmitz admits she's not a huge football fan, but is still excited for the spectacle that will be Super Bowl LVI. Schmitz invites everyone to the Leon Country Tavern this Sunday for the big game, no matter who you're pulling for. She says the part she's looking forward to most is just seeing her regulars as well as new guests enjoying the drinks, snacks and food the LCT has to offer.

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SPARTA BOYS BASKETBALL

Blugolds' second half shooting downs Spartans

By NICK LEONARDELLI
Sports Writer

Coming off their worst loss of the season, the Sparta boys basketball team had put the loss behind them and looked forward to their next matchup. The boys took their talents to Aquinas high school to take on the second best team in the conference.

Sparta saw themselves up 13-4 just five minutes into the game. The early nine point lead was the biggest lead in the game for the Spartans. Aquinas fought back and the rest of the first half stayed within a point or two. Sparta went into halftime with a 19-18 lead.

The second half went a little different

for the Spartans. After a scoreless two minutes, Aquinas scores on a breakaway layup for the first two points of the second. Aquinas would never see the lead again. Sparta outscored Sparta 38-17 to secure a 56-36 win.

With eight minutes left in the second half, Aquinas had a 42-25 lead over Sparta. Sparta was able to bring it within 11 points only being down 43-32 but, Aquinas never let off the gas.

Sparta only shot 36% from the field. Aquinas shot 43%. Everything was pretty equal between the two teams except in the turnover department, something Sparta has been struggling with all season. Aquinas forced 24 Sparta turnovers while Sparta only forced 11 Aquinas turnovers.

The Blugolds were able to add 27 points off of those turnovers.

Sparta only saw scoring contributions from four of their nine players that hit the floor. Junior Layden Bender led the team in scoring with 15 points. Bender also added seven rebounds and one assist. Sophomore Thomas Laufenberg finished with 12 points and was the team's leading rebounder with eight.

Aquinas had the win in their hands but Sparta turned it up to a different level in the second half. Sparta falls to 4-14 and 0-8 in conference. The boys look to grab that first conference win and keep their losing streak at two with a road matchup against arch rival Tomah Friday at 7:15 p.m.

TOMAH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Logan extracts revenge against Tomah



Tomah's Mark Von Haden goes over a play with Olivia Wall and Lauren Noth during a recent game. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

By MAURICE SAVAGE
Sports Writer

The Tomah girls basketball team lost a close conference game against La Crosse Logan on Tuesday, the final score of the game was 59-50.

The Timberwolves (8-14) were led by Lauren Noth who finished with a game-high and her third straight double-double. She finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds on the night. Katie Krause finished the night with 11 points. Brin Neumann finished the night with 8 points. She was able to drain two 3's on the night.

La Crosse Logan (8-11) was led by Adrianna Lien who finished the game with 16

points. She went 8 of 9 from the floor. Aaliyah Hamilton finished the game with 14 points. Jojo Davis finished with 12 points, 8 rebounds and 6 assists.

Logan dominated the first half with the halftime score being 34-16. Tomah was dominated inside the lane as La Crosse Logan outscored them 36 to 24 in the paint. La Crosse Logan out rebounded Tomah 36 to 29 in this game. Tomah was able to convert on their second-chance points, scoring 13 on the night. The Timberwolves took advantage of the turnovers as well, converting 17 points off turnovers.

The Timberwolves will be in action Thursday against Sparta in Tomah at 7:15. Tomah won the first meeting 49-35.

TOMAH/SPARTA HOCKEY

T/S co-op falls to West Salem, Sauk Prairie

By NATE BEIER
Sports Writer

The Tomah/Sparta co-op dropped a pair of contests leading into the final game of the regular season. That final game is a perfect bookend for the T/S icemen as they get a second shot at Black River Falls - the opponent from the season opener. BRF won that opening game 3-2 in Tomah's Thanksgiving weekend tournament.

West Salem 2 Tomah/Sparta 1

A third period goal proved to be the difference in the February 3 meeting with West Salem. The

Panthers went up 1-0 on a Zach Long goal in the opening minute of the game. Tomah/Sparta responded as Easton Armstrong scored on a power play near the mid-point of the period.

Joseph Daley drove in the game winner in the final period.

Jake Baur had 24 saves for T/S.

Sauk Prairie 6 Tomah/Sparta 2

T/S's Aiden Carney's goal in the second period knotted the game at 1, but three goals by the Eagles later that period put the game out of reach.

Easton Armstrong scored the second goal off an assist by Parker Holloway.

BLACK RIVER FALLS GIRLS HOCKEY

Girls co-op ends regular season on three-game skid

By NATE BEIER
Sports Writer

The Black River Falls girls hockey co-op ended the regular season on a three-game losing streak following a 6-1 defeat Monday night against Viroqua.

Viroqua 6

Black River Falls 1

The Tigers' lone goal came in the third period from Zowie Hunter. The goal cut the deficit to 4-1. Viroqua led 3-0 after two periods of play.

Viroqua's Leonie Boettcher finished with four goals for the visiting Blackhawks.

Hannah Long played in goal for the Tigers and finished with 18. BRF put 35 shots on goal to Viroqua's 24.

BRF won the first meeting with Viroqua 3-2 in early December.

Eau Claire 11

Black River Falls 3

Skylar Pierce scored two goals and Zowie Hunter in an eight-goal loss on Thursday, February 3 in Eau Claire.

Eight different Stars players scored a goal, with Brecken Anderson, Kennedy Gruhlke and Abby Karnitz each scoring two goals.

The BRF co-op trailed 3-2 after the first period.

Onalaska 8

Black River Falls 2

Onalaska drove in four goals to start the game at the Mill Luta Arena in Black River Falls on Tuesday, February 1.

The four-goal lead would have been more than enough to clip the Tigers, but the Hilltoppers went on to claim an 8-2 win.

Kiya Bronston and Jaden Hammes each finished with a hat trick for Ona.

Skylar Pierce and Zowie Hunter each scored for BRF.

REGIONALS

The Black River Falls (10-14) co-op will travel to Hudson for the opening round of WIAA tournament play on February 17.

Onalaska was awarded the third seed and will host Eau Claire. River Falls was awarded the one seed in the bracket.

Brackets can be found on wiaawi.org.

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Did you know?
Modern-day fans of the National Football League, which is one of the most popular and most-watched sports leagues in the world, may aspire to one day see their favorite teams play in-person in the Super Bowl. While there may be nothing stopping fans' favorite teams from making the big game, fans themselves might be priced out. According to Ticketmaster®, the average price for a Super Bowl ticket in 2019 was \$3,295. But even that figure is something of a low estimate, as tickets to Super Bowl LIII between the New England Patriots and the Los Angeles Rams were only sold in pairs, meaning tickets cost closer to \$6,590, and that's before hefty service fees were applied. For many fans, that price is simply too high. But the average fan hasn't always been priced out of attending the NFL's annual championship game. In fact, History.com notes that the average ticket to Super Bowl I, which took place on January 15, 1967, at the Los Angeles Coliseum, was just \$12. Perhaps even more surprising to today's NFL fans? The inaugural Super Bowl did not even sell out.

already scored a touchdown and run for more than 100 yards in the game. But Seattle chose to pass, and Russell Wilson's throw was intercepted, resulting in the Patriots winning their first Super Bowl in a decade.

David Tyree's catch, Super Bowl XLII, February 3, 2008: It's fitting that this Super Bowl is widely regarded as one of the greatest upsets in Super Bowl history, as it also featured one of the most unlikely heroes in the sport's history. With his team trailing the New England Patriots 14-10 late in the fourth quarter, New York Giant David Tyree, a little-used wide receiver and special teams stalwart, made a miraculous catch on third down, leaping into the air and pinning the ball to his helmet. That 32-yard reception kept the eventual game-winning drive alive. The loss would mark the Patriots' only defeat of the season.

Mike Jones' tackle, Super Bowl XXXIV, January 30, 2000: A thrilling affair that featured a 16-point comeback from the Tennessee Titans, Super Bowl XXXIV came down to the final play of the game. With just six seconds remaining, the Titans trailed the St. Louis Rams 23-16 but had the ball at the Rams' 10-yard line. Titans quarterback Steve McNair completed a pass to wide receiver Kevin Dyson, only to see Rams linebacker Mike Jones tackle Dyson at the 1-yard line as time expired, stopping another Titans comeback and earning the Rams their first Super Bowl victory.

Notable plays in recent Super Bowl history
As the annual championship game of the National Football League, the Super Bowl is one of the world's most watched events every year. And for good reason, as the game is never short on dramatic moments. The following are a handful of the many notable plays in the recent history of the Super Bowl.

Malcolm Butler's interception, Super Bowl XLIX, February 1, 2015: An epic battle between the reigning Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots effectively ended when one of the most questionable play calls in NFL history resulted in a goal-line interception by Patriots cornerback Malcolm Butler. With just 26 seconds to go and trailing 28-24, Seattle decided to pass the ball from New England's 1-yard line. The more conventional play call would have been to hand the ball off to running back Marshawn Lynch, who had

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Immanuel: Feb. 13 - worship at 8:30 a.m. w/annual Meeting Feb. 20 - Worship at 8:30 a.m.

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February 13: 9:15 - Fish Creek Worship Services / Coffee following services

February 14: 9:00 - Portland Worship Services/ Coffee following services

February 15: 10:00 - Brush Creek Sunday School 11:00 - Brush Creek Worship Services / Installation of Council & Officers

February 16: 5:30 - Confirmation Class

February 17: 9:00 - North Coon Prairie Sunday School 10:00 - Fish Creek Sunday School

February 18: 11:00 - Fish Creek Ridge Worship Services / Installation of Council & Officers

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SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 210 N. Court St., Sparta, WI Pastor Loretta Waughtal

Friday, February 11: Church Office Closed; 8:00 a.m. Men's coffee at Family Restaurant.

Sunday, February 13: 9:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday school.

Tuesday, February 15: 7:00 p.m. Alanon Mtg., Garden Rm

Friday, February 18: Church Office Closed; 8:00 a.m. Men's coffee at Family Restaurant.

Saturday, February 19: No activities scheduled.

Sunday, February 20: 9:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday school.

Tuesday, February 21: 7:00 p.m. Alanon Mtg., Garden Rm

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Summons and Complaint Small Claims Case No: 22SC30

Plaintiff:
LEBAKKENS INC OF WI
DBA LEBAKKENS RENT TO
OWN
1520 N SUPERIOR AVE
TOMAH, WI 54660
-vs-
To: Defendant(s):
ADAM J. POLK
504 MAIN ST #4
WILTON, WI 54670
**See attached for additional
defendants.**

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-269-8746 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

SUMMONS To The Defendant(s):

You are being sued as described on the attached complaint. If you wish to dispute this matter:

You must appear at the time and place stated.
X You must file a written answer and provide a copy to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney on or before the date and time stated. If you do not appear or answer, the plaintiff may win this case and a judgment entered for what the plaintiff is asking.

When to Appear/File an Answer

Date: 2/21/22
Time: 1:45 pm

Place to Appear/File and Answer

112 S. Court Street, Room 2200
Sparta WI 54656
Date Summons Issued: 2-3-22
2/10 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Administration and Deadline for Filing Claims (Formal Administration) Case No. 2022PR000009

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

Forest J. Peterson Jr.
Date of Death: 1/6/2022

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth 5/3/1941 and date of death 1/6/2022, was domiciled in Monroe County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 8877 Ellsworth Rd., Tomah, WI 54660.

THE COURT ORDERS:

1. The Petition be heard at the Monroe County Courthouse, 112 South Court St. Sparta, Wisconsin, Room Branch 1, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner the Honorable Todd Ziegler, on March 7, 2022 at 2:15 by zoom.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is June 15, 2022.

3. A claim may be filed at the Monroe County Courthouse, Sparta, Wisconsin, Room Branch 1.

4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Hon. Todd L. Ziegler
Circuit Court Judge
January 28, 2022

Galen W. Pittman
712 Main Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-784-0841
Bar Number 1010058
2/3, 10, 17 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Monroe County Sanitation, Planning & Zoning Committee will examine at a public hearing the application of David Bornreger for a conditional use permit for small business-pallets, at 26148 Kiln Ave Wilton, WI in part of the SW1/4, NW 1/4, Section 14, T16N, R1W, Town of Wilton, parcel number 048-00294-0000, 8.320 acres. The adjoining land use is agriculture.

This hearing will be held on February 21, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Monroe County Justice Center Monroe County Board Assembly Room 1st Floor - Room #1200, 112 South Court Street, Sparta, WI 54656. (Please use the South Side/Oak Street Entrance). Any person may appear in person by his agent or attorney, to give testimony for or against this matter.

Alison Elliott
Monroe County Zoning Administrator
2/3, 10 WNAXLP

CUSTOM DESIGNS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Monroe County Zoning Board of Adjustment will examine at a public hearing the Petition for Variance of Gregory Eirschele for parcel # 014-00418-2000 on 18432 State Hwy 21, Tomah, WI, to construct a solar array when said structure is contrary to Section 53-181 of the Monroe County Shoreland Zoning Code.

This hearing will be held on February 17, 2022 at 9:00 AM on 18432 State Hwy 21, Tomah, WI which is located in part of the SE1/4 of the NW1/4, Section 28, T18N, R2W, Town of Greenfield. Tax Parcel # 014-00418-2000.

Any person may appear in person or by his/her agent or attorney, to give testimony for or against this matter.

Alison Elliott
Monroe County Zoning Administrator
2/3, 10 WNAXLP

Public Notice Town of Adrian

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that the Adrian Town Board meeting will be conducted for the transaction of business that is required by law. The time and location of such meeting will take place on Monday February 14, 2022 at 8:15 pm at the Adrian Town Hall.

Agenda items will include the following, Open meeting, minutes of January meeting, financial update, patrolman and recycling updates, citizen input, roads, permits and applications fires and liaison, audit bills and set next meeting date.

Kathy Schmitz
Adrian Town Clerk
2/10 WNAXLP

TOWN OF TOMAH TOWN BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board Meeting will be held on Monday evening February 14, 2022 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall.

Agenda will include Public Comment Period, Presentation by LYNX on expansion of Town Broadband, Proposed amendments to Monroe County Ch. 47 Zoning Code, WTA Monroe County unit meeting on February 17, and monthly reports and approval of bills.

Breanne Zaremba, Clerk
2/10 WNAXLP

NOTICE TOWN OF NEW LYME

The regular town board meeting will be held on Monday, February 14th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall. Agenda Items: Discussion and possible action on an open board position, approval of bills, road work update and continue discussion on Camp Ave project, improvements to the town hall entrance and accessibility parking area, review new correspondence and confirm the next meeting date.

Lisa M. Green
Town Clerk
2/10 WNAXLP

DNR opens public comment on Wildcat Mountain forest management

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now seeking public comment regarding an interim forest management plan for a section of Wildcat Mountain State Park. Public comments can be logged until Friday, February 18.

Interim forest management plans are designed to guide the management of timber on properties that do not have formal master plans, with the department expecting to complete detailed master plans for the property in question at a future date. Until this more detailed plan is developed, the interim plan will guide forest management of the pine plantation in the park.

A draft of the current interim plan can be found online by visiting the DNR's website, along with a complete list of other properties operating under interim forest management plans.

"The interim forest management plan is important because it guides forest management and incorporates ecological, economic, and recreational considerations," says John Pohlman, DNR Property Planner.

According to Pohlman, the plan is a part of the DNR's efforts to ensure the sustainable management of state-owned forests. Interested and affected stakeholders can also utilize this period to have their input on the plans considered.

"People want to know we are managing their lands well," says Pohlman, "and consumers increasingly prefer products from sustainably managed forests."

The 17 million acres of

forested land, both public and private, in Wisconsin provides raw materials utilized by Wisconsin's forest products industry. This industry generates \$24.7 billion each year and directly supports roughly 65,000 jobs within the state. The use of sustainable forestry practices enable the responsible growth and harvest of trees, ensuring the continued benefits of the forest products industry.

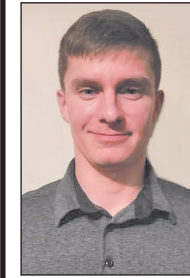
Those interested in submitting a comment regarding the proposed plan are encouraged to do so by 4:30P.M. on Friday, February 18. Please mail comments using the following address: Department of Natural Resources; C/O John Pohlman, DNR Property Planner; 101 S Webster St. P.O. Box 7921; Madison, WI 53707.

For more information regarding how to submit your comment, please contact the DNR by phone at (608) 264-6263 or by email at John.Pohlman@wisconsin.gov.

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New year, new agents

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Jordan Kerska

Welcoming Jordan Kerska to our team! Jordan is a lifelong Sparta resident, graduating from Sparta High in 2009 and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Viterbo in 2013. You may recognize him from the golf course or his uncle, Kevin Lydon's restaurant, Dorine's Family Inn. Give Jordan a call at 608-633-6809. He is ready to help you whether buying or selling.

Becky is a new agent and a Sparta native with downtown ties. Her father, Bob Lehmann has been a barber here for 50 years. She has been a Physical Therapist Assistant for nearly three decades and is familiar with Fort McCoy, spending time there as a civilian contractor as well as a medic in the Army Reserves. Becky grew up in Sparta and did move away for a few years but returned in 2004. She resides with her husband Manny, who in an instructor for the Cold Weather Operations course at Fort McCoy. Becky looks forward to working with buyers and sellers, meeting their needs with attention to detail as well as prompt and courteous communication. Give her a call today! (608)487-1295.



Becky Ortiz



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2022 early catch, release trout season now open

Wisconsin's 2022 early catch-and-release trout season, which includes Fort McCoy streams and tributaries, opened Jan. 5 and continues until 11:59 p.m. May 6. Only artificial lures may be used during the early catch-and-release trout season, and all fish caught must be released immediately, said Fort McCoy Fisheries Biologist John Noble with the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch. The appropriate Fort McCoy permit, Wisconsin fishing license, and trout stamp are required. Access to Fort McCoy's trout streams and tributaries is fairly easy. "There are many great trout fishing opportunities available within close proximity of several major roadways at

Fort McCoy," Noble said. "Also, anglers should try to fish when water warms up midday. They should also fish with smaller baits and watch for feeding trout activity. Fishing licenses and permits for 2021 are valid through March 31. A 2022 Wisconsin fishing license, trout stamp, and related Fort McCoy permit will be required starting April 1. The 2022 licenses can be purchased from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) online at <https://gowild.wi.gov>. All prospective anglers have to do is create an account at the Go Wild site, select the licenses they need, pay for the licenses, and print them, all online. Fort McCoy fishing permits are only available through the iSportsman automated permit

issuance system at <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>. People without direct access to the internet can also utilize the Hunter Information Point (HIP) self-serve kiosk or stop into building 2168 to receive assistance from the Permit Sales Office to purchase their permits from the iSportsman system. The HIP is located along State Highway 21 at the intersection of South J Street and State Highway 21 and is open year-round. A credit card will be required to purchase a permit from the HIP. Anglers are also reminded to read the updated Fort McCoy fishing regulation that is on the Fort McCoy iSportsman web site, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>, and to check the gameline for closed areas prior to fishing. The gameline can be accessed

on the iSportsman website, at the HIP, or via phone at 866-277-1597. Also, through a number of resources available online, following are some tips on how to properly catch and release trout:
 • When catching and releasing trout, face the fish upstream in gentle flowing water, preferably in the stream water near the shore and not in fast current.
 • When releasing the fish, don't let the fish go until it gives strong tail-swimming movements and swims firmly out of your gentle grip.
 • Handle trout gently, keeping it in the water as much as possible. Unhooking the trout without lifting it from the water is best.
 • Remove hooks with needle-nosed pliers or forceps.



A trout caught in an installation stream is shown at Fort McCoy. Trout are plentiful in miles and miles of Fort McCoy streams, rivers, and lakes for anglers. Throughout the past decade, Fort McCoy has collaborated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve waterways, water quality, stream structure and more for fishing on post. Fort McCoy has brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout in its waterways. U.S. Army Photo by Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy

Using barbless hooks makes releasing trout much easier.
 • If a trout is hooked deeply, cut the line and release the fish. The hook eventually will dissolve, leaving the trout unharmed.
 Anglers looking for more

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