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MONROE COUNTY HERALD

Monroe County's #1 Award-Winning Newspaper

VOLUME 163 | NUMBER 28

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

ONE SECTION | 12 PAGES

Sparta Area School District Board to discuss and possibly act on budget cuts

By KYLE EVANS
Interim Editor

The Sparta Area School District Board of Education will have a special meeting on Tuesday at 6:30p.m in the Meadowview Middle School Auditorium. The board will have a public input session before the board discusses and possibly approves any budget cuts.

The budget cuts are in lieu of the \$2.1 million referendum not passing on election day. The district has projected a \$2.8 million shortfall for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

The referendum not passing has left the community wondering, what's next? Last Wednesday evening, the board had a special meeting to go over the possible budget cuts. The cuts range from closing the Cataract Elementary school, eliminating some teacher and secretary positions, delaying technology investments, and more.

This Tuesday's meeting is bound to be controversial, but as Sam Russ, Principal of Sparta High School said last week, "we have to move forward with the resources we have."

Road Bans to be removed April 18th

The seasonal weight restrictions placed upon Monroe County highways will be removed effective Monday, April 18, 2022. Weight restrictions on individual bridges will remain in effect, as posted at the bridge.

Restrictions on vehicle weight are placed each spring to reduce damage while the road base is unstable. This year the restrictions were posted on March 7th.

The typical limit on most Monroe County highways is 40 tons total vehicle weight.

Permits to transport oversize and overweight loads may be requested by submitting an application to the Highway Department. Application forms, the Policy on Vehicle Weight Restrictions & Permits and a fee schedule may be found on the Highway Department web-page at www.co.monroe.wi.us.

For further information, please contact the Highway Department by telephone at (608) 269 - 8740 or via e-mail at highways@co.monroe.wi.us.



Joe Rezin, Layne, Rachel Maciejczak, and Raelyn of Warrens with the Easter bunny.

Easter's on its way

Warrens Lions Club hosts an Easter Breakfast

By KYLE EVANS
Interim Editor

On Saturday April 9, the Warrens Lions Club hosted a community Easter Breakfast. The event was sponsored by the Warrens Lions Club, Warrens Area Youth Association, and Warrens Community Meals. This event was free to the public with monetary donations accepted for the Neighbor for Neighbor food pantry.

The club served pancakes and sausage as the main course.

The Easter bunny showed up at 8:30 to sit in on some pictures.

EASTER cont. on pg. 4



Monroe County Sheriff Wes Revels with the Easter Bunny. Contributed photos.



Tavern League Donation

Monroe County Tavern League (MCTL) with Match Funds from The Tavern League Of Wisconsin Donated \$3000.00 For Norwalk Fire and Rescue/ Fire dept to Purchase defibrillators for their Department. Pictured left to right: Paul Castro, Joe Degenhardt, Jeff Schmitz, Chris Seaman, MCTL Director Jerry Kolbo, MCTL President Todd Giraud, MCTL Director Keith Giraud, MCTL Secretary /Treasurer Vicki Vonhaden, Jim Stoikes, Alex Karis. Contributed photo.

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Fort McCoy community leaders participate in a proclamation signing ceremony April 5, 2022, declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy, Wis. The installation held the special proclamation signing ceremony at the center that was organized by the Fort McCoy Army Community Service office and the Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program office. Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss; Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico, garrison command sergeant major; and other unit leaders were on hand for the presentation. (U.S. Army Photo by Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, Wis.)

Fort McCoy kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with proclamation signing

By Scott Sturkol, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Fort McCoy community leaders participated in a proclamation signing ceremony April 5, 2022, declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy, Wis.

The installation held the special proclamation signing ceremony at the center that was organized by the Fort McCoy Army Community Service office and the Fort McCoy Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program office.

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss; Command Sgt. Maj. Raquel DiDomenico, garrison command sergeant major; and other unit leaders signed the proclamation.

Poss addressed the audience about the importance of sexual assault prevention, and more.

"Let's be active participants and change our culture by being positive influences promoting bystander intervention, by stopping sexual harassment and assault, and by participating in events throughout the month," Poss said.

The Department of Defense theme for SAAPM is "Step forward. Prevent. Report. Advocate." SAAPM is an

annual campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities on how to prevent sexual assault.

According to the Army SHARP Program Office, the 2022 Army theme for ASSPM is "Prevention Starts With You." This theme builds on the concept of upholding what it means to be a member of an Army team.

"When it comes to sexual assault and sexual harassment, the only person responsible for committing the act is the perpetrator, but all members of the team have the ability to look out for each other's safety," states the theme explanation at <https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/SAAPM-2022/index.html>. "Leaders and Soldiers must work in unison to build camaraderie and trust amongst the ranks. This trust allows teams to focus on mission and unit readiness, eliminate harmful behaviors by preventing sexual harassment, sexual assault, and associated retaliation."

At the proclamation signing, in addition to Fort McCoy Garrison personnel, representatives from the 88th Readiness Division, 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade, and other post tenant organizations were there.

Other events are planned as well at Fort McCoy in observance of SAAPM.

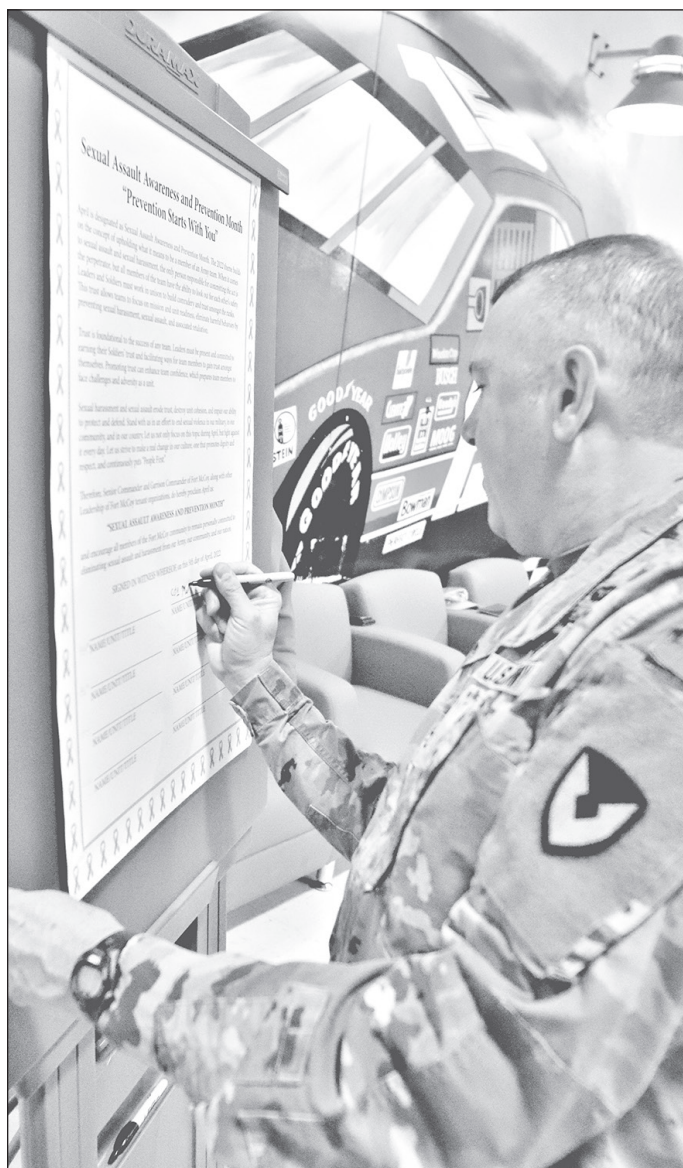


PHOTO CAPTION: Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Col. Michael Poss and other Fort McCoy community leaders sign a proclamation April 5, 2022, declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at McCoy's Community Center at Fort McCoy, Wis. (U.S. Army Photo by Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, Wis.)



(Left) Oakley Moser and Larry Scheckel. Contributed photo

Everyone invited to Deke Slayton science program

Sensational science demonstrations will be presented on 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at the Deke Slayton Memorial Space and Bicycle Museum in Sparta. Oakley Moser, Tomah High School physics teacher, and Larry Scheckel, retired science teacher, will entertain and educate with many science demonstrations accompanied by simple explanations of scientific phenomena. It will be an hour of scientific delights for all ages.

Moser and Scheckel will feature demonstrations of sound and waves, talking on

a laser beam, the science of musical stringed instruments, vibrating air columns, pipe organs, tuning fork technology, singing glasses, singing rods, flaming sound tube, homemade speaker and more.

These yearly science programs are designed to inspire children and adults to be curious about the world and stimulate them to learn more. A few hidden surprises await those attending. The event is free to the public. There will be a drawing for door prizes for adults and each child will receive a gift.

Voice concerns about Medicare

Listening sessions will be held Tuesday, April 26, in Tomah and Sparta to allow residents who are enrolled in Medicare an opportunity to voice concerns to federal elected officials about sometimes confusing information that insurance companies are sending about the Medicare program.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County has received an increase in calls from consumers who are confused by commercials, phone calls and mail they are receiving, according to a news release from the center.

Some have enrolled in plans that don't cover the doctors or medications they use, offer fewer benefits than what they have or require a co-payment every time they visit the

doctor's office where their old policy had none. Others have canceled retiree plans that have a more comprehensive range of benefits than Medicare offers.

Representatives from U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind and U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany will be there to listen to concerns that anyone on Medicare would like to express. The session in Tomah will start at 1 p.m. at the Kupper-Ratsch Senior Center, 1002 Superior Ave. The Sparta session starts at 3:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 1116 Angelo Road.

Registration is not required.

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Gundersen Sparta Clinic offers medical, vision, physical therapy and behavioral health services. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

Gundersen buys Union Bank Branch

By KYLE EVANS
Interim Editor

The Gundersen Sparta campus has purchased the small Union Bank of Sparta branch on Wisconsin Street, directly north of the Gundersen Sparta campus.

“There are no definitive plans for the property yet,” said Lindsey Preston, regional clinic manager. Most of the planning will be done throughout the next few months. Sometime in the fourth quarter this year, the plans will then be proposed.”
Gundersen Clinic in Sparta is growing and offering more services.

“With this purchase, we gained 100 yards of frontage on Highway 16 to make our clinic more of a campus,” Preston said. Gundersen purchased the property in late March. Preston also added, “even though the plans may be finalized later this year, the project wouldn’t start until 2023 at some point.”



Rudy's Drive-In in Sparta has started construction on another shelter for more seating outside. Terrel Wilson, owner of Rudy's Drive-In said, “we're hoping to open around April 20 for the season.” Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

Colon cancer is preventable.

It starts with screening, because early detection saves lives. With advancements in technology and a variety of screening options, there's no excuse to delay. If you're 45 or older, prioritize your health and discuss your colon cancer risk and screening options with your primary care provider.

Call 608-351-5454 to schedule an appointment.
mayoclinichealthsystem.org



Last minute reminder:

Tax day is normally April 15, but that falls on Good Friday, so you have until April 18 to file your taxes without an extension.

Is a tax extension worth it? As Tax Day approaches, you may be tempted to request an extension on the April 18 deadline to submit your income tax return. Although it offers certain advantages, a tax extension might not be as beneficial as you think.

PROS AND CONS
A tax extension pushes the filing dead line to October 15, giving you an extra six months to finish your return. This is helpful if you're waiting to receive tax documents or need more time to sort through your deductions.

However, an extension doesn't give you additional time to pay your tax debt. You'll avoid the late-filing penalty, but your payment is still due as of April 18. Until you pay your debt in full, you'll be charged a late payment penalty of 0.5 percent per month on your outstanding balance, plus interest.

WHO MIGHT BENEFIT?
If you're self-employed, an extension may be useful because it gives you six more months to fund your retirement plan. For employees, however, contributions to traditional or Roth IRAs are still due on April 18.

Although an extension will delay your tax refund if you're eligible for one, the extra time can improve the accuracy of your return. You're less likely to make mistakes if you're not rushed. For some, however, it can be more stressful to have the task looming over their head for another six months.

If you're missing pertinent documents, a tax extension might be necessary. If the extra time will simply encourage you to procrastinate, however, you're better off hiring a tax professional to help you meet the April 18 deadline.



MAKING MORE POSSIBLE

THROUGH MY LENS

Oh, that sunset

By NATE BEIER
Sports Reporter

I think it was a sign. At least, that's what I'm going to go with. I paid special attention to Friday's sunset. I took note of it because we hadn't seen a true sunset in what felt like three weeks or more.

I was driving home from Eau Claire, from one of the few sporting events I could find Friday night - a girls soccer game with Wautoma at Regis/McDonell.

I remarked to myself about this sunset as I watched the purple hues paint the gnarly branches of the naked trees that line the sides of the interstate corridor. I made it a point to just take in what I was enjoying. It was a Friday night that I ended work and could travel before it was dark out.

Let's face it, I don't get to enjoy that often. As much as I love my late nights and frantic schedule, it's important for me to recognize some of the special, quiet moments I get to enjoy.

Do you do that ever? Have you wanted to? Well, maybe you should.

I'll tie this so sport a bit better to justify its existence as a column in this edition of the Monroe County Herald.

Sunsets are a result of a sunny day.

The sun broke through Friday afternoon and it felt like a sign, for some reason, that our spring sports can now finally begin. That we can actually believe our schedules won't be chaos, that you can sit with your grilled meat of choice and be entertained by the sound of ball on a leather mitt, or the crack of a bat for a rousing double.

In my case, I watched the sun break through and add warmth to an otherwise chilly afternoon soccer game.

It was a unique opportunity for me to watch an entire soccer game (well, a 60 minute affair as the R/M co-op bested Wautoma 11-0).

This week we may get rain, we could still get snow. However, the sun broke. The fever of the changing seasons is snapped for all of us, so it's probably time we all get used to getting outside to rake, to dig, to garden...wait... this is a sports column... get outside and throw a ball, mash a maul, or jump a haul of something.

I tried rhyming and it was only mediocre success, I get it.

Let's get outside. I probably need to find those flip flop things I'm known for. I can soak up more vitamin D if I get more skin out in the sun. This time of year - it's great. I hope you enjoy it, too.



BANGOR BOYS BASKETBALL

READER



Reader's four-of-a-kind leave indelible mark on Bangor boys' basketball

Bangor's family Reader boys helped usher in the Golden Age of Bangor boys basketball over the course of the past decade. From the oldest, Jack, to the youngest, Will, and two Scenic Bluffs Players of the Year in between - Luke and Hank - the quartet has left a legacy few will rival. Herald Photos/Design/ Illustration by Nate Beier and Logan Everson.

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

There is no question that we're currently living in the golden age of Bangor boys' basketball.

Over a span that's now nearing a decade, the Cardinals have asserted themselves as the undisputed kings of the Scenic Bluffs Conference while also staking their claim as one of the best Division 5 programs in all of Wisconsin.

A sustained run like Bangor's is a product of a whole host of contributors over the years, but there has been one particular constant that has served as a thread line woven through each team during this incredible run: the presence of the Reader brothers.

At any given time in the last nine seasons, at least one of the four Reader brothers — Jack, Luke, Hank and Will — have been on the varsity roster for the Cardinals. They've all played indispensable roles in this Bangor dynasty, providing all-conference levels of play and invaluable leadership.

"Quite a legacy that Reader family leaves behind," said Bangor head coach Jacob Pederson, who has been the head coach for the last four years and was an assistant for three years before that. "I think the coolest thing is just the way they embrace each other as brothers. Never really saw them bickering or upset with somebody else when they were doing something. It's just the way they were as teammates. They're just great people."

Their collective contributions over this past decade were all borne out of a lifelong love of basketball, forged from their time growing up competing with one another and their friends. The cohesiveness on so many of those successful Bangor teams is something Hank credited at least in part to all the time so many of them spent together throughout the years.

"We live really close to an outdoor court and we live right around the school area, so all the kids would gather here," Hank said. "All summer long we'd play pickup games — after 10 a.m. everyone's there and play until dark."

Hank also recalled the ample time spent between the brothers playing on their family's basketball hoop in the garage in helping shape them as players.

"It was always war when you stepped in there.



Will Reader (second from left) holds the 2022 WIAA Division 5 state runner-up trophy along side his three brothers (from left to right): Jack, Luke and Hank. Herald photo contributed.

"I think the coolest thing is just the way they embrace each other as brothers. Never really saw them bickering or upset with somebody else when they were doing something. It's just the way they were as teammates."
Jacob Pederson
BANGOR BOYS BASKETBALL
HEAD COACH

It's one-on-one with your brothers — someone's going to be bleeding or crying or Mom and Dad are coming outside to break up the fight or something," he said. "That was always a great time. I really think the garage is what made all four of us boys so tough — just always beating up on each other and getting after it in the garage."

This stretch for the Readers began with the 2013-14 season, when Jack broke into the rotation as a sophomore for a Cardinals team that went a perfect 14-0 in Scenic Bluffs play on their way to a conference title. They would repeat that feat the following year, when freshman Luke entered the program.

In both those seasons, Bangor bowed out at home in the regional finals: a 50-48 loss to conference counterpart Hillsboro in 2014 and a 52-51 surprise defeat at the hands of Gilmanton

in 2015.

It was during the 2015-16 season — Jack's senior year — that the Cardinals cleared a major postseason hurdle.

In those playoffs, Bangor won itself a regional title by besting Blair-Taylor 87-85 in the regional finals. The Cardinals then were able to go on the road and pick up a dramatic 63-60 sectional semifinal win over a Hillsboro team that had beaten them twice in the regular season en route to a 14-0 record in Scenic Bluffs play.

Bangor fell heartbreakingly short of a state berth with a 57-55 sectional final loss to Barneveld, but the program still felt like it had made a huge stride in the right direction with their deep postseason run.

"Coming off those two losses, we definitely had a chip on our shoulder and it definitely kinda set the tone for the next few years going forward for how Bangor was going to look basketball-wise," Jack said.

The Cardinals reclaimed the top spot in the Scenic Bluffs with the 2016-17 campaign — the start of their current streak of six consecutive conference championships — and navigated their way back to the sectional finals for a second straight year. Unfortunately for them, they once again fell just shy of a trip to state with a 60-58 loss to Shullsburg.

The 2017-18 season — Luke's senior and Hank's freshman years — saw

Bangor clear its next playoff hurdle and go a couple steps further. The senior-laden Cardinals were the most dominant force in Division 5, reaching state for the first time since 1936 and continuing on to capture the program's first state title.

"To have it all come together in our last season and go out with a win — it's a nice memory to have as the last memory of high school basketball," Luke said. "Our whole team — there

(READER) cont. pg 8

Kawasaki

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TRACK AND FIELD RESULTS



Bangor's Gavin Benzing was the Cardinals' highest placing finisher after taking second in the 3200 at New Lisbon.

MILL HAVEN FOODS INVITE (NEW LISBON) 3-26-22 BANGOR Top 5 Finishers

GIRLS
Track.....
100M: 2 Bliss Knox 13.81
Relays.....
400M Relay: 3 (Bliss Knox, Aubrey Langrehr, Grace Wentholt, Alycia Felch) 57.211600M - 4 Bliss Knox, Anna Fronk, Marissa Eckland & Molly Bachmann 4:49.91
Field.....
Long Jump: 3 Bliss Knox 13-09.5

BOYS
Track.....
1600M: 4 Gavin Benzing 5:10.03
3200M: 2 Gavin Benzing 11:19.91
Relays.....
800M Relay: 5 (Gavin Meacham, Lucas Horman, Tanner Wells, Sam Crenshaw) 1:45.52
Field.....
Long Jump: 3 Gavin Meacham 34-07



Brookwood's Franklin Wildes finished fourth in the 100 and 200 meter races Saturday. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

MILL HAVEN FOODS INVITE (NEW LISBON) 3-26-22 BROOKWOOD Top 5 Finishers

GIRLS
Track.....
200M: 4 Cora Brandau 30.33
400M: 3 Amelia Muellenberg 1:07.9, 4 Lainey Teynor 1:07.1
800M: 4 Lainey Teynor 2:52.66; 5 Katie Gruen 2:53.28
1600M: 2 Kimberlee Downing 5:52.91, 4 Margarita Silva 6:01.05
3200M: 2 Kimberlee Downing 12:35.06, 4 Margarita Silva 13:03.45
100M Hurdles: 2 McKenzie Woods 18.38
300M Hurdles: 3 McKenzie Woods 55.72, 4 Katie Gruen 56.64, 5 Taylor Freed 58.19
Relays.....
800M Relay: 5 (Vanessa Anderson, Kristen Berg, Cora Brandau, Taylor Freed) 2:02.77
1600M Relay: 1 (Lainey Teynor, Katie Gruen, Savanna Groom-Cruz, Amelia Muellenberg) 4:39.46
3200M Relay: 2 (Alexis Lacy, Yareni Cruz, Alice Wiedmeyer, Savanna Groom-Cruz) 11:57.33
Field.....
Triple Jump: 2 Sophie Teynor 28-09.5
Discus Throw: 2 Cora Brandau 98-10

BOYS
Track.....
100M: 1 Dan Peterson 11.98, 4 Frank Wildes 12.22
200M: 1 Dan Peterson, 4 Frank Wildes 24.79
400M: 1 Dan Peterson 53.83, 5 Frank Wildes 56.96
800M: 3 Owen Radloff 2:15.01
300M Hurdles: 3 Josh Zietlow 50.88
Field.....
Long Jump: 2 Frank Wildes 18-05.75



Reader brothers, Luke, Will, Jack and Hank gather together after Bangor's sectional final win over Southwestern in March. Herald photo contributed.

(READER)

cont. from pg 7
of everyone, but also the younger guys — everyone was best friends, basically. We all hung out together, did everything together.”
Luke and Hank had gotten to share that special run together, and Hank and Will would get to share a similar experience a year later.

With Hank a sophomore taking on a much more significant varsity role and Will joining the program as a freshman in the 2018-19 season, Bangor made it back to Madison for state before seeing its bid for a repeat performance ended with a 69-66 loss to Columbus Catholic in the state semifinals.
The Cardinals would suffer a 62-61 sectional semifinal loss to Blair-Taylor in the 2020 playoffs and then went out in the regional finals in 2021 in Hank's final season after being bumped up to Division 4 due to COVID-19 shrinking the number of teams competing in the postseason.
That set the stage for the 2021-22 campaign, which would be Will's senior season and mark the final year for any of the brothers with the team.

The Cardinals capped off this Reader era in style, getting back to the Kohl Center and the state championship game with a run that included a 79-74 overtime win over Southwestern in the sectional finals and a 62-54 triumph against Hurley in the state semifinals.

“It meant everything to get back out to Madison. That night in Prairie du Chien against Southwestern, that was just an amazing night,” Will said. “Then to follow it up getting to go down to the Kohl Center and end my career on the Kohl Center court as far as I could go — just to give our school one last thing to remember us by.”

Though Bangor fell a win short of another state championship, the run to Madison was a special experience that the whole Reader family was able to share together in person along the way, with that dramatic state-clinching win over Southwestern in particular standing out.

“Sometimes I had to turn around and stop watching that sectional final game against Southwestern,” Hank said. “I couldn't even handle anymore; it was so crazy.”

The individual accolades for each were never in short supply. All of them were regulars on all-conference teams, with Hank being named Scenic Bluffs Player of the Year in 2020 and Luke twice earning that honor in 2017 and 2018.

There were honors aplenty to go around for the four brothers, though the two player of the year awards are nice for Luke to have in his back pocket.
“Here and there, especially when

DEALT THE PERFECT HAND

JACK READER
...Bangor won 3 SBC titles in Jack's time The team advanced to its first sectional final appearance in nearly 20 years in 2016; was part of team that started Bangor's unprecedented 81-game SBC win streak...

LUKE READER
...was a two-time SBC Player of the Year; helped Bangor not only win three conference titles in four years, but make 3 sectional final appearances, culminating in 2018's state championship...

HANK READER
...carried on the Reader tradition by going 4-4 in SBC titles and was part of two state victory teams; was 2021 SBC Player of the Year...

WILL READER
...played an instrumental role in Bangor's third trip to state in five years; helped team finish second in D5 and was part of team that wrapped up the SBC's longest win streak of 81 games...

they're mouthing off. Gotta remind them a little bit,” Luke joked when asked if he ever brings it up. “We never mean it seriously. We're always joking around.”

For all their personal and team success over the years thanks to their play, there was a familiar refrain from all four of the Reader brothers: they hope people mostly remember their time with the program and as representatives of Bangor for the examples they set and what they gave beyond just what you might find in a basketball box score.

They also emphasized that they were just each a piece to the puzzle in the Cardinals' run of success, which is undoubtedly true. The team is still set up for success for next season and beyond.
But when basketball returns in the fall



CASHTON SOFTBALL VHS uses fifth inning surge to past CHS

By ZACH RASTALL Sports Writer

A fifth-inning outburst of runs prove to be enough for Viroqua/Youth Initiative (1-0) in its 13-8 win over Cashton (1-3) in a non-conference meeting Saturday, April 9 in Cashton.

It was a seesaw battle throughout the game: the Eagles led 3-0 after two innings, the Blackhawks seized a 5-3 advantage in the top of the third, Cashton regained an 8-5 lead with a five-run rally of its own in the bottom of the fourth and then Viroqua went off for six runs in the top of the fifth then added a couple insurance runs in the seventh for the victory.

For the Eagles, Chelsie Paulsen went 3 for 5 with a home run, 2 RBIs and a pair of runs and Taylor Lukaszewski finished 2 for 4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored.

Cashton is set to play at rival Brookwood Monday afternoon. The Eagles hit the road again Tuesday when they travel to North Crawford. Thursday's game against New Lisbon was moved to May 9.

Around the SBC, you'll find Necedah at Royall Monday night. Necedah is 2-1 on the season and Royall is 0-3.

The crucial matchup of the night is Hillsboro at Wonewoc-Center.

Bangor's game at New Lisbon was pushed back to a later date.

AT BROOKWOOD
Cashton will try to get back on track Monday afternoon when it travels to face Brookwood in each team's second league matchup.

Last year Brookwood forced a season split with the Eagles as the Falcons surprised Cashton with a 9-8 win in the season opening game of the delayed spring season.

Brookwood went on to finish 5-9 in conference play while Cashton tied Royall for fourth place in conference standings with a 7-7 mark.

RESCHEDULES
Weather interrupted play last week, meaning that a number of conference and non-conference contests have been pushed to other dates. Please visit the conference website, scenicbluffsconference.org for the most up to date changes in your team's schedules.

BROOKWOOD TRACK AND FIELD Falcons control fate at New Lisbon

By NATE BEIER Sports Writer

The Brookwood girls track and field team demonstrated its versatility and depth at Saturday's Mill Haven Foods Invite in New Lisbon. The Falcons won the team title with 126 points after landing just one first place event - the girls 4x4 relay.

The 300 meter hurdle corps scored 19 points and had the second, third and fourth finishers with McKenzie Woods bringing home the silver medal.

Brookwood's mid-distance and distance prowess proved to be the difference. Brookwood had three runners score points in the 400, 800 and 3200. Kimberlee Downing scored 16 points after a pair of second place races in the 1600 and 3200.

Ithaca/Weston was second with 104 points and Mauston was third with 67.

BROOKWOOD BOYS
Dan Peterson claimed first place finishes in the 100, 200 and 400. Frank Wildes finished in top five in the same three events. The BHS boys were fourth with 65 points. New Lisbon claimed the boys title with 107 points.



ABOVE Brookwood's Taylor Freed overtakes the final hurdle before finishing fifth in the low hurdle race.

Brookwood's Sophie Teynor falls into the sand of the long jump pit during Saturday's meet at New Lisbon. Teynor finished ninth in the long jump, but was second in the triple. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

SPORTS SCHEDULES



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mvconference.org



For the most up to date MVC sports schedules, scan QR code.



scenicbluffsconference.org



Eastern chipmunks emerge from their winter burrows at the first sign of bare ground and warming temperatures. Photo by Emily Stone.

Eastern Chipmunks: A Furry Sign of Spring

What are your favorite signs that spring is on its way? The first trill of a red-winged blackbird, the guttural cry of sandhill cranes, and the swelling of pussy willow buds are all on my list—foretelling of many more changes to come. But none of those have yet appeared at my house, which faces north and is surrounded by dense hemlock trees.

Spring may come slowly to my yard, but one of the first indicators is already scurrying around at breakneck speed.

Eastern chipmunks are early risers, at least in terms of the season. They've just emerged from their underground burrows—actually in the soil, not just the subnivean zone at the interface between soil and snow. Their cozy winter burrows, lined with dry leaves, can be two feet deep and up to thirty feet long, although I doubt we've measured enough of them to capture all of the variability out there.

While I was taught that chipmunks aren't true hibernators, and spend the winter only taking naps and staying alert for hungry weasels, new research has refuted that idea. Craig Frank, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and a mammalian ecologist at Fordham University in New York, put radio telemetry collars that measure body temperature on wild chipmunks at the university's field station.

Over the course of the winter, Frank discovered that chipmunks go through cycles of hibernation when their body temperature drops from 94 degrees to the ambient temperature of their burrow—around 40 degrees. During these periods of hibernation, their heartbeat slows from their normal rate (which is up to 350 beats per hyper, stress-filled minute) down to 4 beats per minute. From their typical rate of 60 breaths per minute, they drop to only 20.

Emerging from this intense nap is no easy task. But every few days the chipmunks warm up, wake up, feed on stored food, urinate, and defecate.

Natural Connections

By Emily Stone
Naturalist and Education Director at Cable Natural History Museum



It seems that these feeding sessions are necessary because chipmunks can't put on enough fat to last them through the winter.

Chipmunks' northern cousins, Arctic ground squirrels, are deeper hibernators. Their body temperature may drop to as low as 27 degrees. Even they warm up every few weeks, though. Unlike chipmunks, they don't use that time to eat, they use it to sleep. The hypothesis is that REM sleep is necessary to keep brains healthy, and deep cold doesn't allow for that.

In the refrigerator of my yard, I never see chipmunks up and out in the middle of winter, but in warmer areas, these striped little squirrels often pop up on a mild day. While you might assume that being warmer and able to find food in the middle of winter is nice for the critters, it may actually lead to their demise. Frank found that after the warm winter of 2016, when few chipmunks at the field station bothered to enter hibernation, most of them died in their burrows. During normal, colder winters, 87% survived. This is likely because the energy it takes to be active cannot be fully replaced by the meager food supplies available in winter.

The hints of warmth we're feeling now are right on schedule, though, and active chipmunks are a happy sign of spring. Males wake up first, with females following a couple weeks later. Within another week, females are in estrus and ready to mate with a number of their neighbors. This—and the two months when moms provide care to their litter of two to six young—are the only parts of the year that chipmunks are social.

For the rest of the year, chipmunks defend their small

territories and food caches from each other quite vocally with chips and chucks, sometimes lasting 30 minutes. Females tend to give alarm trills more often than males. This could put them at risk from a predator, but it may also alert their relatives to the presence of danger. Since females tend to stay closer to their mother's burrow when they disperse, they are likely related to their neighbors.

Chipmunks eat a lot of seeds—often stuffing their cheeks under our bird feeders and stealing away—but in spring there are more options on the buffet. The tiny, carbohydrate-rich tubers of trout lilies are a favorite treat, as are trillium flowers, and mushrooms. Insects, frogs, snakes, slugs, worms, painted turtles, and even the eggs and chicks of songbirds have been discovered on the chipmunk's menu, but those animal proteins make up less than 20% of their diet.

Here in northern Wisconsin, the range of the eastern chipmunk overlaps with the least chipmunk. The smaller cousins are more likely to be spotted in open areas or rocky outcrops, but I've seen both kinds at the same campsite in the Boundary Waters. Size is one clue to their identify, as are the stripes—which fade out on the rump of the eastern chipmunk, but continue all the way to the base of the tail on the least chipmunk.

No matter how long their stripes, chipmunks are a welcome sign of spring.

Emily's award-winning second book, *Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skimmer*, is now available to purchase at www.cablemuseum.org/books and at your local independent bookstore, too.

For more than 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the Northwoods. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and cablemuseum.org to see what we are up to.



Chimo Lodge moments before a forest fire destroyed it.



Daniel Wesolowski with the cabins that he helped build in the background.

North of the Border

1989 to 2022

Hello friends,

This week's column is different and tells a heck of a story. It dates back to 1989 when I first started writing and was living in the Canadian bush while I was the camp manager at Chimo Lodge and carries on to last week when I went to Red Lake, Ontario Canada to visit with former Chimo owners, Peter and Elizabeth Hagedorn, for Pete's 84th birthday. I also spent time with my good friends Duane Riddel and Doug Vandussen who have been friends of mine since 1988.

This column was called North of the Border back in '89, and I wrote for The Poynette Press. I would hand write it from a bear stand on Friday nights and give it to an American who would mail it once they crossed the border.

September 1st 1989

I am living at Bear Berry Outpost which is 110 air miles from Red Lake. Pete flew me and my golden retriever, Ben, here with about 12 hours' notice and my job is to cut all the timber for a 28x24 foot cabin and then build as much of it as possible as time would allow.

To do this I would travel by boat from where we had an existing cabin and would tow an empty boat behind me. Pete did not want me working alone and so he had Zygmunt Wesolowski and Andy Novak as my helpers. Zygmunt was a retired gold mine worker and Andy was a retired Red Lake postmaster.

A side story is that Pete was going to Europe with Zygmunt's son George on a long-term hunt and vacation and Duane Riddel would do check flights to bring in gear



An Outdoorsman's Journal

By Mark Walters

and food every Friday.

A typical day, I was the cook and the boss, and we worked hard each day dropping the biggest, straightest jack pine and spruce that we could find which often was about a mile away from camp. Everything was hand peeled and the boats were heavily loaded.

Zygmunt was from Poland and in 1939 was captured by the Germans when he was 17 and put into a labor camp until 1945. Andy Novak joined the English 2nd corps after the Germans invaded Poland and saw a lot of action.

Our best timber was on a ridge line and the entire forest floor had a foot of moss. Most of my day was spent cutting or loading and unloading boats. Zygmunt ran a saw, peeled, and loaded, Zygmunt was incredibly strong. Andy was a laborer and a very good man.

On one particular day of cutting, I am by the boats, Zygmunt is on top of the ridge and drops a big jack. I watch it directly fall on Andy and it appears he is dead and is 100-percent under the tree. Zygmunt is crying uncontrollably. We cut a chunk of jack below and above Andy and lift it off from him. Andy appears dead. A minute later Andy opens his eyes, ten minutes later he is back to work. That foot of moss on the forest floor no doubt helped save Andy from getting hurt.

March 2019

Pete Hagedorn is at my house; Selina is in her senior year at Necedah High School. Pete tells me that he has sold Chimo Lodge and Outposts. Though I did not show it, that really hurt. Pete was 79 and still a bush pilot, but it was time.

One of the buyers was Daniel Wesolowski, Zygmunt's grandson who was probably the best bushmen that I ever knew. Daniel could build, plumb, wire and got his pilot's license just after the purchase.

In 2019, the first year after the sale, the main camp burnt down in a forest fire along with one outpost.

In 2020 Covid hit and there was no season, Daniel and helpers rebuilt Chimo. Last May, the border was still closed and so another season was in peril.

Daniel actually flew "NPO" November Papa Oscar, which was Pete's Cessna 180 float plane and was a very popular and influential man in Red Lake. In my day which was over about 12 seasons I probably was in NPO for at least 500 take offs and landings.

Last May, Daniel Wesolowski was dropping an aspen tree for a friend, something that he had done thousands of times. When the tree fell Daniel ran the wrong way and unlike Andy Novak did not come out of the hit.

My trip to see my friends this past week was quality time with people that I consider family.

It was very hard to get Daniel Wesolowski off my mind!

Sunset

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Tomah High School court presides over prom

Tomah High School prom was April 9 at the THS gym. Members of court this year are Joe Venner, Kennedy Noth, Trey Torkelson, Lauren Noth, Tom Hesse, Madeline Ewing, Reid Spolum, (King) Drew Brookman, Aubrey Kind, Bryant Thornton, Trinity Brach, Eathan Gearing, (Queen) Payton Pierce, Brady Plueger, Peyton Foster. Mini king and mini queen are Will Protz and Emery Hanson. Contributed photo

Three honored during Women's History Month

Three Monroe County women were recently recognized for their leadership and contributions to community. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) — Tomah Branch — celebrated the honorees during its Mary E. Wedin Women's History Month reception held March 29, 2022 in Tomah, Wisconsin.

The event is named in memory of Mary E. Wedin, a founding member of the AAUW — Tomah Branch, Monroe County UW-Extension educator, organizer, and inspirational leader. The annual observance, held during Women's History Month, honors the vision of women, their accomplishments and sacrifices.

Honoree Sara Moseley is a Senior Supply Planner employed by Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc. She is very active in the Warrens community. Her involvement includes educating visitors during the Warrens Cranberry Festival, working with a committee to provide a free monthly meal and fellowship opportunity, and spearheading fun events like the Red Neck Tree Contest that challenges community members to use recycled items to make Christmas trees. She is an active member of the Warrens Lioness / Lions Club and has also organized the creation and delivery of May Day baskets to more than 500 residents of nursing and assisted living homes during Covid. Her blood donations exceed 19 gallons. The Monroe County Fair and Tractor Pull held in Tomah are among the many other activities at which Sara Moseley can be found cheerfully assisting.

Honoree Deb Reid is the Activities Department Secretary for the Tomah Senior High School. Not only has she been an active member of several organizations in the Tomah community, often holding various leadership positions. Her knowledge and strong work ethic has benefitted the Tomah Lions Club, Tomah Holiday Lights,



From left to right: Sara Moseley, Shirley Galstad-Roh, and Deb Reid.

Tomah Youth Soccer, and the Tomah Booster Club. Building from her skill sets and interests, she has volunteered countless hours to assist with fundraising efforts and other organizational needs. Deb Reid is a quiet servant leader, typically involved in many projects at any given time but avoiding the limelight as she effectively works to improve the Tomah community.

Honoree Shirley Galstad-Roh served as an elementary teacher in both the Tomah and Onalaska School Districts during her 35-year career. She was known for implementing innovative childhood education methods to help parents, children, and the educational system to promote success. She has inspired others with her extensive volunteer work and involvement in the Tomah community. These include activities with her church, working one-to-one with elderly, and volunteering at Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry. She has served on numerous organizational boards, such as Tomah Handshop Industries, Tomah Parks and Recreation, and the Jesse Parker Foundation. Most recently she served as a volunteer facilitator at Ft. McCoy for the Afghan refugee women and children at the installation and assisted the Fort's public health nurse to foster new mother/baby

supports. She has assisted in local vaccine clinics, as a volunteer program coordinator for the Strong Bodies fitness program, a volunteer at the St. Clare Mission Clinic, and is the co-organizer of the Tomah Compassion Project.

Including these three

outstanding women, AAUW — Tomah Branch — has recognized 53 Monroe County honorees since 2006. AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

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