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4DAY FORECAST
FOR SPARTA, WI FROM ACCUWEATHER.COM

TUE	WED	THU	FRI
57 33	61 37	56 41	63 41

TOMAH SOFTBALL EARNS TWO WINS

SEE PAGE 7



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MONROE COUNTY HERALD

Monroe County's #1 Award-Winning Newspaper

VOLUME 163 | NUMBER 34

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

ONE SECTION | 14 PAGES



A group of riders stand in the mud and water with their horses before entering the arena. Herald photo by Rhonda Hess.

SASD Board looking to fill vacancy

By KYLE EVANS
Interim Editor

With the news of Josh Lydon resigning from the Sparta School Board, the Board will be accepting applications to fill the vacancy with a deadline of May 17. Lydon recently resigned citing the position was taking a toll on him physically and mentally and that is was impacting his family life.

The remaining term of this position is approximately 11 months and ends with the School Board election in April.

The appointment of any candidate will have to come with a majority vote from the current board that will be open to public inspection.

If one or no applications are received by the deadline, the deadline can be extended by a majority vote from the board. If more than six candidates apply, the board may review the applications and select six candidates for consideration to the board.

All applicants are to submit a notice of their interest, in writing, to the Board Administrative Assistant/Superintendent's Office.

Interested individuals should email a letter of interest to Wendy Markgren at wmarkgren@spartan.org or drop off a letter of interest at 900 E. Montgomery St. All letters of interest to be received by 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. If there are questions please call 608-366-3400.

Riders WRANGLE wet RODEO

By RHONDA HESS
Contributing Writer

The rainy weather made for one wet rodeo weekend when the Tomah High School Regional Rodeo Association hosted their annual rodeo at Tomah's Recreation Park last Friday through Sunday.

Junior high students, high school aged students and adults (open division) competed.

Jaden Johnson, 13, of Tomah, competed in the sloppy event. He and his horse, Shotgun, came in second in "Chute Dogging."

"You come out of a gate, turn the steer and flip it over on its side," Johnson explained. He said his favorite

parts about participating in rodeos are "competing and hanging with friends."

Another competitor, Jace Loch, 13, of Bellevue, Iowa, came in second in team roping during the rodeo.

He said riding and roping are his favorite events. His father, Jason, said this was the "second sloppiest rodeo" his son has ever attended.

Jaden said he has been

competing in rodeos "for forever" with his horse, Siete (Spanish for seven).

Josie Waldenberger, 15, of Holmen, and her horse, Sticks, also competed.

"I do barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying and light rifle shooting," she said. "I won the shooting for the weekend." Waldenberger explained that event, which took place at the Tomah Sportsmans

alliance in Warrens. "You have a 22 and shoot in three positions," she said. "One is prone (laying down), kneeling and standing."

The high school freshman has been participating since sixth grade.

To find out more about the Tomah High School Regional Rodeo Association, find them on social media.

Troops and local organizations spread awareness of sexual assault

By KYLE EVANS
Interim Editor

If you saw a number of people marching around Sparta Friday, you likely witnessed the "Ruck March." The 181st Multi-Functional Training Brigade from Fort McCoy partnered with Brighter Tomorrows, which serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Monroe County, to conduct its second annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Ruck March. The troops started and finished the 5-mile march at Memorial Park in Sparta. April is Sexual Assault and

prevention awareness month across the country.

The goal of the event was to collect donations of personal hygiene items/kits, diapers, cleaning supplies and similar items. Some of the troops carried the donations in their backpacks during the march.

Other groups and organizations involved in the event included Gundersen Health, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP), Military & Family Life Counseling, Family Advocacy Program, and United Service Organizations.

"We actually collect donations at the commissary

on Fort McCoy, but this event is to get the word out to more people," said Rebecca Wilkinson, Fort McCoy lead sexual assault response coordinator. "We also do a 'Paws' event, where people bring out their animals and do a walk in support of domestic violence and sexual assault in October." The Paws event switches locations between Sparta's Memorial Park and South Post Housing on Fort McCoy.

"Sgt. First Class Settles came to us last year with the idea of this event, this work is one of his top priorities,"

ASSAULT cont. on pg. 10



Soldiers drop off donations when they got back from the ruck march. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

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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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TOMAH CITY-WIDE RUMMAGE SALES

FRIDAY, MAY 6TH & SATURDAY, MAY 7TH 2022

1. SALE: Thurs. & Fri. 8-4, Sat. 8-2. 722 Kilbourn Ave Tomah. Outdoor play set and house, sandbox, tricycle, Thomas the train, lots of boys & neutral toys for age 3-7yrs old in great condition, kids & adult BOOKS, women's jewelry, women's PLUS SIZE clothes, women's size 8 & 10 like new, tons of capris! Boys clothes up to size 14.

2. DOWNSIZING TRINKETS TO TREASURES SALE: May 6, 9-4, May 7, 8-noon, 815 N Superior Ave. Terry Redlin prints, hunting clothes & equipment, tools, deer head mounts. Jewelry, household, MUCH misc.

3. MULTIFAMILY SALE: May 6, 7-5, May 7, 7-noon, 316 Glenview St. Clothing - infant, childrens, juniors, adults. Toys, collectibles - Barbies, household dishes, decor, misc.

4. RUMMAGE SALE: Oakdale Hwy 12&16/189 W. Badger Dr./Fri. May (5-6) 7-4 & Sat. (5-7) 7-Noon. Women's clothing XL & 1x, juniors small, wicker bathroom unit, bread box, wooden hamper, trailer 5 x 8, much misc. and seasonal.

5. SALE: 1401 Lincoln Ave. Fri. & Sat. May 6th & 7th, 8-4:30. Name brand clothing - junior girls, boys XL, adult, shoes, puzzles, much home decor.

6. HUGE RUMMAGE SALE: Huge rummage sale Fri., May 6th 8am-3pm & Sat., May 7th 8am - 1 pm. 334 Cady Ave, Tomah. Vacuum cleaner, lawn chairs, set of dishes, comforters, twin bed, women's 18 speed bike, clothing children's - adult.

7. GARAGE SALE: 818 Kilbourn Ave Tomah. May 5-7, Thurs, Fri., Sat. Treadmill, kids clothes, books, kids toys, adult clothing (men and women), household, kitchen items, power tools.

8. RUMMAGE SALE: 1010 Hollister. Bicycle tagalong; JD lawnmower cab; roll top desk; jackknife collection; thimble collection; craft supplies; books; dishes; holiday decorations; New Crafts extra large men and ladies clothes. Fri. and Sat. May 6 & 7, 8 to 5.

9. HUGE 4 COUSINS SALE: 714 Mary Kay Ave., Thurs. 5/5, 4-7pm, Fri. 5/6, 8-5, Sat. 5/7, 8-1.

10. RUMMAGE SALE: May 5, 6, & 7, 715 West Council, Tomah, 8am - 5pm. Furniture, TV console, Hallmark ornaments, rugs, kitchen wares, pizza/toaster ovens, Kitchen Aid food processor, power washer, much misc.

11. MULTIFAMILY SALE: Large variety of items. 23416 Elgin Ave., Tomah, 8am - 3pm. Highway 21 to Ellsworth (golf course road) to left on Elgin, first house on right.

12. RUMMAGE SALE: Assortment of tools, kitchen supplies, young adult clothing, fishing equipment, assortment of plants. May 6-7, 7am, 1311 Dora St., Tomah.

13. SALE: Handy Storage, Unit 13: County O, north of Tomah, Fri., 2-6 pm, Sat., 8 am-3 pm. Inversion table, washing machine, glass/kitchenware, China set (12), clothes, much more.

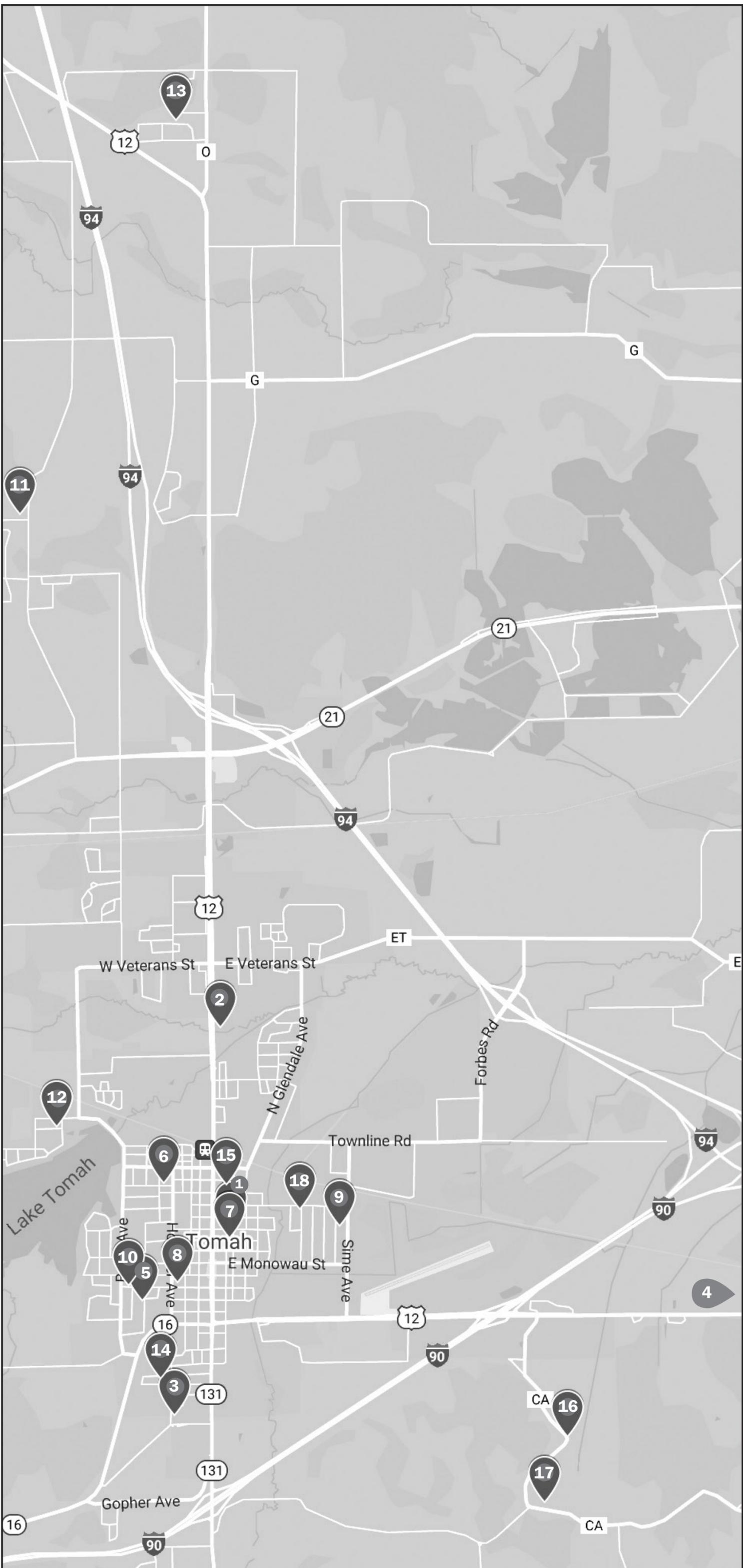
14. RUMMAGE SALE: 424 Schaller St, Tomah. Multifamily rummage sale. Fri. May 6, 7-4, Sat. May 7, 7-3. Items include household goods, canning jars, furniture, pictures, Christmas decorations.

15. GARAGE SALE: 405 Kilbourn IN ALLEY, May 5-7 open 8am. Women's & plus clothing, Color Street nails, costume jewelry, furniture, daybed with mattress, and LOTS of misc!

16. SALE: Packers & Nascar items, coins (mint & proof sets), home decor, Party Lite items, coats, jackets, caps, holiday decor, outdoor gear, misc., good stuff - cheap. 267 County Hwy CA, Tomah.

17. GARAGE SALE: Huge mainly guy related garage sale but a lot of stuff for the ladies. Days & times: Fri. - Sun. 8AM to ? 26784 County Hwy C.

18. GARAGE SALE: 713 E Brownell, May 5-7 (8-3pm). Sports memorabilia, rings, cards, pennants, Packers, coins, comics, records, collectables. Bike, stroller, pack-n-play, boys clothing, toys, games, books, bedding, frames, miscellaneous.





Pictured from left to right Ela Mdimegh and Katie Alseron representing SOAR and Herb Boisen Cashton First Responder. Contributed photo.

Cashton SOAR group donates to Cashton First Responders

Recently Cashton First Responders received a \$1000.00 donation from the Cashton High School SOAR group. The donation was used to purchase 3 Active Shooter/Mass Casualty Trauma Kits.

SOAR, which stands for Seeking Opportunities, Achieving Results is a community service based organization offered to the students at Cashton High School. Through this organization, students learn

the importance of giving back to their community through both volunteer work and financial contribution. Funds are earned by the students through SOAR fundraising projects.

Career, Job & Education Fair 2022

The Sparta Chamber of Commerce, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and the Sparta Area School District are sponsoring a Career, Job & Education Fair on Wednesday, May 4th to be held at the Sparta High School.

miss this opportunity! This is a great opportunity to showcase local businesses to students for future opportunities.

The Career, Job and Education Fair will start with a student only session from 1:00pm - 2:25pm, a student/parent hour from 2:30pm - 4:00pm and will then be a Regional Public Job Fair open to the public from 4:00pm-6:00pm. During this time, Schindoggies Cardinals Nest Food Truck will be available

to the public. In addition to the Career, Job & Education Fair, there will also be job search related workshops offered and Job Center staff available to assist with resume review and interview preparation. Job seekers are encouraged to dress for success and bring copies of their resume!

The event will be held at Sparta High School - Alton Ask Gymnasium 506 North Black River Street on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 from 1:00 pm - 2:25 pm Students only, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Student/Parent Hour, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Regional Public Job Fair. For additional information please contact Jamie Adams at jadams@spartan.org or 608-366-3504 Ext.8208

Pollinator party benefiting the prairie enthusiasts to be hosted at Justin trails resort

A Pollinator Party benefiting The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) will be held at Justin Trails Resort near Sparta, WI on Mother's Day Sunday, May 8, 2022. The event is free of charge and is open to everyone. Donations go to The Prairie Enthusiasts.

There will be activities for kids to enjoy, educational presentations, and pollinator care packages for the first 50 participants from Prairie Moon Nursery.

Event times are 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. There will be informal 15 - 20-minute presentations and craft projects for kids. If the weather is conducive, Steve Kaiser from Low Ridge Honey will bring an observation beehive.

The first 50 participants will receive care packages from Prairie Moon Nursery which include a seed packet, native plant-insect interactions guide, seed starting basics brochure, and information about cultivars explaining why it's important for pollinators to "go native."

The first hour will be about how we can help pollinators in

our backyards. Joey Esterline will talk about native plants, pollinators, and monarchs. Missy Davey will read from her illustrated children's book "Rusty Bumble A Bee's Story."

The second hour will be about prairies that provide large-scale pollinator opportunities. Justin Nooker from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The Prairie Enthusiasts will talk about the importance of prairies for folks that may be interested in planting a prairie and tips/engagement for those that may have prairies. He will also compare native plants to horticultural plants and the difference in value for pollinators.

Weather permitting, we will be outdoors. Otherwise, we will be inside The Studio, which is a large, heated space inside the Elegant Barn on the first floor (where the cows used to live).

Prairie Moon Nursery, Winona Minnesota, <https://www.prairiemoon.com/search-results.html> provides the largest native plant collection available for retail sales in the United States. With a network of growers across the Midwest, they supply over 700 North American species. Their seeds and plants have been used by national parks, local municipalities, corporate planners, teachers, farmers, and backyard gardeners.

In the Upper Midwest, The Prairie Enthusiasts is the only organization solely dedicated to the preservation of the once vast, now endangered, prairies and savannas. The Prairie

Enthusiasts is a volunteer-driven prairie preservation organization that educates, protects, and restores prairies and savannas in the upper Midwest. Visit <https://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/> to learn more.

Justin Trails Resort <https://justintrails.com/> has been participating in activities to help pollinators on their 200-acre property since 2008. Twenty acres in their woodland which includes a goat prairie are part of a Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) Grant through the DNR. The purpose is to control invasive species which allow forbs and native grasses to grow. They perform controlled burns, physically remove invasives and rent goats every year. One-quarter of an acre was planted with native grasses and flowers in 4-inch pots to create a seed garden. Twenty-five acres are in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For 10 years, they won't plant crops on this land, instead, they planted a native grass and flower mix. Two years ago they planted one acre of native flowers and grasses.

Meetings

■The Tomah Police and Fire Commission meeting will be held on Tue., May 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at 805 Superior Avenue, Tomah.

■The Monroe County Health and Human Services Board will meet on Tue., May 3, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Justice Center.

■The Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Committee will meet on Thur., May 5, 2022 from 1-3 p.m. at the Justice Center.

■The Monroe County Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet on Thur., May 5, 2022 at 12 p.m. at 124 North Court St, Sparta.

■The Monroe County Board and Department Head Orientation will be on May 10, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at 1116 Angelo Rd, Sparta.

CUSTOM DESIGNS

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Pollinator Party

May 8th from 1:00 - 3:00
Justin Trails Resort
7452 Kathryn Avenue, Sparta

1st 50 participants receive Pollinator Care Packages from Prairie Moon Nursery

15 - 20-minute educational programs
Activities for kids • Free of charge
Everyone is welcome

9941 State Hwy. 173, Tomah, WI 54660
Hours: M-F 9:00-6:00, Sat. 9:00-4:00
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Baked Ham **\$4.79**
Frozen Jumbo Chicken Drumsticks **\$1.29**

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Coke (12 oz.) **59¢**
Peanut Butter Bars . . **\$1.25**
Miss Vickies Chips . . . **89¢**

FRESH PRODUCE SPECIALS

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Sweet Onions **\$1.19**
Head Lettuce **\$1.99**

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SPECIALS GOOD THRU May 6, 2022

HOMEMADE BAKERY SPECIALS

Unbaked, Frozen 10" Blackberry Pies **\$11.75**
Large Chocolate Whoopie Pies **\$1.59**
Red Velvet Cake Rolls (Frozen) . . . **\$5.25**
Monster Cookies Doz **\$3.59**

DELI MEAT & CHEESE SPECIALS

German Bologna . . LB **\$4.39**
Hard Salami LB **\$7.25**
Farmers Cheese . . LB **\$3.99**
Dill Havarti Cheese LB **\$3.99**

HOROSCOPE

May 1-7, 2022

ARIES
Expect a move soon. You'll browse home decor shops to find furniture and accessories that express your personality. Measure your words when speaking around certain people.

TAURUS
Someone will tell you a secret that leaves you perplexed. You may toy with the idea of revealing it. It's time to cut ties with some of your friends, especially if they owe you money or have betrayed your trust.

GEMINI
You'll be promoted at work, which will help ease some of your financial stress. Make the first move and ask your boss for a raise. You'll finally see a brighter future open up.

CANCER
You must take time to rest to regain your passion and drive. You'll receive enlightenment that moves you to explore your spirituality and adopt a new, more stimulating way of life.

LEO
You have an active imagination. You may complete a masterpiece that pays off handsomely. Getting your friends together for a festive gathering will take some effort.

VIRGO
You'll oversee an event with friends or an important work meeting. You'll discover a new side to yourself by overcoming your shyness and being extroverted.

LIBRA
You'll be given new and challenging responsibilities at work, which will allow you to develop new skills that could lead to a raise in the next few weeks.

SCORPIO
You'll go on a surprising adventure like a pilgrimage. This experience will broaden your horizons and allow you to develop your personal and professional skills.

SAGITTARIUS
You'll run the gamut of emotions this week. However, these feelings will bring about a transformation. You may spontaneously decide to leave home, move to another city or travel globally.

CAPRICORN
You'll be forced to make a heart-breaking decision. Think carefully before deciding. If you're in a hurry, you'll waver back and forth and lose precious time.

AQUARIUS
You'll be busy at work this week. You'll be entrusted with an important task that could make you a lot of money. You may also start your own small business, which will be profitable.

PISCES
You may fall in love at first sight with someone who turns out to be your soul mate. You'll discover that you're made for each other. However, your family may put a damper on things.

Coffee break

Sparta FAMILY RESTAURANT Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Brought to you by the best barista in town!

SPECIALS EVERY DAY

CROSSWORDS no. 121

Answers on page 13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
			18	19				20		
21	22	23			24	25				
26					27			28	29	30
31			32	33				34		
35			36				37	38		
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41	42	43			44	45				
46				47				48	49	50
51								52	53	54
55				56				57		

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DOWN

1. Colliery find
2. Pledge
3. Chimpanzee
4. Instruction
5. Actor Dean
6. A woodland
7. Ballet
8. Stags

9. Therefore
10. Deteriorated
11. Unpaid
17. Albacore
19. More damp
21. Diminishes
22. Hint
23. Suspended
25. Outcome

ACROSS

1. Face shape
5. Tease
9. Duo
12. Line
13. Adept
14. Word of inquiry
15. Bleaters
16. Dampness
18. Whisk
20. Employed
21. Canyon sounds
24. Wordplay
26. Plain-spoken
27. Color again
31. Hair knot
32. Eye drops
34. Dove call
35. Section

37. Doglike mammal
39. Auction buy
40. Composed
41. Graceful bird
44. Peeved
46. Dali's boards
48. Etna output
52. Become sick
53. Pub offerings
54. Hid the gray
55. Hog enclosure
56. Printer's term
57. Garden starter

Sudoku

Answers on page 13

PUZZLE NO. 862

HOW TO PLAY
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

8	5			1				
								4
		9	8	5				
1	7			4				
		2						
						1		5
		4	5					1
7	6				8	2		
	2	5	3			7		

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We Need a Part Time Sales Clerk

24 to 32 hours per week. Work week includes Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and every other weekend.

- Good customer service skills are a must
- Must be able to interact with people
- Cash register experience is helpful
- Antique knowledge is a plus

Pick up an application at:
Tomah Antique Mall 1510 Eaton Ave., Tomah or mail resume to P.O. Box 848 Tomah, WI 54660

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

<p>MAY 1 Jamie Dornan, Actor (40)</p> <p>MAY 2 David Beckham, Athlete (47)</p> <p>MAY 3 Eric Church, Singer (45)</p> <p>MAY 4 Will Arnett, Actor (52)</p>	<p>MAY 5 Henry Cavill, Actor (39)</p> <p>MAY 6 Bob Seger, Singer (77)</p> <p>MAY 7 Tommy Fury, Boxer (23)</p>
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OBITUARIES

JAMES (JIM) CORRY FORD

December 18th, 1925 — April 27th, 2022

 SPARTA - James (Jim) Corry Ford passed away on April 27th, 2022, at the VA Medical Facility in Tomah, WI. He was born in Chicago, IL on December 18th, 1925. His parents were William Joseph and Bertha Mary Ford.



James Ford

Jim attended St. John The Baptist Elementary School in Winfield and the West Chicago Community High School for three years. In order to speed up his senior year he attended St. Patrick's High School in Chicago starting in July 1943 and graduated from there in January 1944.

He joined the Army Air Corps in February 1944. By February 1945 he was flying combat missions over Germany as a gunner on B-17 Bombers with the 379th Bombardment Group of the 8th Air Force. On March 24th, 1945, he was on his 17th combat mission when his aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Hopsten, Germany. He was held as a POW until April 17th when he was liberated by allied forces crossing Germany. After being liberated he was hospitalized in England and the United States because of injuries he sustained when shot down. He was honorably discharged, in February 1946, as a Sergeant who received a Purple Heart, Air Medal, POW Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

In the fall of 1945 he met Kathryn Jane Stott from Forest Park, IL. They started dating in December 1945 which culminated in their marriage on July 6th, 1946. Their marriage lasted almost 60 years, when Kathryn passed away on June 21st, 2006. Kay was a good wife and good mother. Together they had two children, Michael James who was born on February 19th, 1954 and Barbara Suzanne who was born on December 4th, 1962.

After their marriage Jim and Kay moved to Houston, Texas where he attended the University of Houston under the GI Bill. He received his Bachelor's of Business Management Degree in 1949.

In the fall of 1949 they returned to Forest Park, IL. Over the years they moved around a few times until moving into their new home in Winfield, IL. The very neighborhood Jim spent most of his life. While living in Winfield he was active in the community. He served as a Village Board Trustee for two terms. In the final nine months of his first term he also served as active President of the Village. He also served as the Village Treasurer for fourteen years. In total, he served in Village offices for twenty-two years. In addition to his Village activities he also served thirteen years as a trustee for the Winfield Fire Protection Department.

Jim's primary employment years were from 1950 to 1995. In 1950, he took a job as an Insurance Agent with MetLife Insurance Company. In 1955, he went to work for the Pipeline Service Corporation. He worked there as an Accountant and was later appointed as the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. In 1972, he became a Community Bank Officer with the St. Charles National Bank in St. Charles, IL. When he retired in 1990 from full time employment, he was the Vice President for the Old Kent Bank in St. Charles. Jim came out of retirement

and returned to Old Kent to do some part-time Public Relations and Business Development work for about two years. Shortly after, he became Vice President for the Fox Valley Bank of St. Charles until June 1995.

Starting in 1947, Jim and Kay started visiting the Sparta area to spend time with Kay's sister and family. They spent many nights at the Moonlight Pavilion in Cataract dancing and playing music with Forest Johnson, Dutch West, Lyle Evans and Bob Storandt. In October 1995, Jim and Kay moved to Sparta, WI. In order to keep busy, Jim took a part-time job as a Courtesy Driver for the Brenengen Autogroup. He worked there for approximately five years.

Jim enjoyed his family and friends. He enjoyed playing golf with Father Mark Walljasper, John Revels and his grandsons; Bill and Travis, horseshoes, and other outdoor activities. He enjoyed dancing with Kay and they both enjoyed playing cards. While living in Winfield he enjoyed playing cribbage at his favorite watering hole, John's Buffet. In Sparta, he loved going to Leon Country Tavern for lunch and Harris's Crossing to visit with his good friend; Ray Harris. Both Jim and Kay belonged to several card playing groups. He was a member of the Winfield Sportsmen Tusker Fishing Club for nearly forty years. Over the years he belonged to a number of clubs. For years he was dedicated to St. Patrick's Catholic Church where he was an usher and volunteer for Summerfest. He was also very close friends with Father Mark Walljasper and Father Jim O'Leary.

His favorite sports clubs were the Chicago Bears, Chicago White Sox and the Green Bay Packers. He saw his first Chicago Bears game in the mid-thirties at Wrigley Field in Chicago, the Bears defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Jim is survived by his two children, Michael (Denise) Ford of Sparta, and their sons, Bill (Beth) of Sparta and Travis (Amy) of West Bend; and Barbara (Neil) Boucher and their daughters, Chelsea (Ryan) and Courtney of Carol Stream, IL; his brother, Dick (Sarah) Ford of Minneola, FL; three great grandchildren, and many other nieces and nephews located in other parts of the country.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Bertha; his loving wife, Kathryn; his nephew, Andrew; grandparents, Jimmy (Anne Zimmerman) Ford and Oliver (Catherine Corry) Atkinson; his uncle Bill Shell and aunt Marge Shell; and his uncle Earl Monahan and aunt Marie (Atkinson) Monahan.

Jim and his entire family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff that cared for him during his residence at the VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI. He was treated with honor, dignity and love.

Graveside military honors, provided by VFW Post 2112 and American Legion Post 100 of Sparta, will be held at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2022 in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Friday at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta. Online condolences may be offered at schanhoferfh.com

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.
Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

KARL R. WALL

December 8, 1953 — April 6, 2022

SPARTA - Karl R. Wall, 68, of Sparta, died Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Center, Sparta. He was born on December 8, 1953, in Sparta to John and Doris (Richards) Wall.



Karl Wall

Karl grew up in Sparta and graduated from Sparta High School in 1972. He went on to complete a Bachelor of Science degree at the UW-LaCrosse in 1976 and the UW-Madison Graduate School of Banking in 1987. He enjoyed a 34-year career and held many roles at Union National Bank & Trust Co. in Sparta before retiring from there as President, in 2009. Karl valued working with our community and each and every employee.

Karl married Patricia (Sullivan) DeNoyer on October 23, 1982, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Sparta. He opened his heart to a ready-made family and provided all the love and support needed to raise two little boys, Bob and Brian, and later, Mark David, was born to this marriage.

Karl enjoyed history, music from the 70's, railroad memorabilia and model railroading, antiques of all kinds, woodworking, a few winters in Arizona, and especially "the healing place" at Spring Bank. He was an avid Packer fan, making game days special with dear friends and their little boys. He loved taking day trips looking for that special "find" with an old friend. Karl was faithful to old friendships from high school, college, and enjoyed making new friends. He was also an active member of the Sparta Rotary Club and an ardent supporter. Most of all, he believed in the love and bonds of family, and delighted in the expansion of his family with each daughter-in-law and the birth of each grandchild.

Karl is survived by his wife, Pat of Sparta; children, Bob (Nicole) DeNoyer of Hastings, MN, and Brian (Tara) DeNoyer of Sparta; 6 grandchildren, Mark, Jess, Riley, Stella, Gabriella, and John Karl; siblings, Ron (Karen) Wall of Sparta, Kathryn Baird of Sparta,

and Mark (Connie) Wall of Lacrosse; Brothers-in-law, Tim Sullivan of Hawaii, Michael (Gail) Sullivan of Oshkosh, and Mark Sullivan of Newport Beach, California, and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. Karl also had a special bond with Gloria Novovic, of Serbia, and Nilofar Sakhi, from Afghanistan after hosting them for their Senior year at SHS through a Student Foreign Exchange Program.

He was preceded in death by his son, Mark; his parents, John, and Doris; brother-in-law, Ron Baird; and parents-in-law, Don and Toni Sullivan.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on May 14, 2022 at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, with Father Eric Berns officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Sparta.

A visitation will be held May 8, 2022, 5-7p.m. at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, with a 7 p.m. prayer service. Visitation will continue from 10a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 9, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com

Karl's life journey was significantly altered when he was diagnosed with Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease. It changed his world and the plans he had for the rest of his life. Our family will be forever grateful for Mayo Hospice and the loving and compassionate care he received at Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Center these past 5 years, despite daily challenges brought to bear by a pandemic these past two years.

Memorials may be directed to The Rolling Hills Memorial Fund...to be used to enhance the lives of residents dealing with dementia at the new Rolling Hills, or the Alzheimer's Association - Wisconsin Chapter.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

IVAN EDWIN WITT

March 30, 1933 — April 27, 2022

KENDALL - Ivan Edwin Witt, 89, of Kendall, passed away on April 27, 2022, at Tomah Health.



Ivan Witt

Ivan was born March 30, 1933, to Edwin and Martha (Cook) Witt. He graduated in 1950 from Tomah High School. He received the American Farmer award from the FFA. He went on to take the agriculture and industrial short course through the University of Wisconsin Madison. In 1961, he married Shirley Jo Lankford at St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church, South Ridge (Ontario). They lived, raised a family, and worked the family farm the rest of their lives.

Ivan dedicated his whole life to the farming community. He was a member of the regional Associated Milk Producers Inc board and with them took several trips. He served multiple terms on the FSA county committee.

Ivan was a lifelong member of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church, South Ridge (Ontario). He served as a member of the church council several times taking

on the roles of trustee, secretary, and president.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Shirley, his son Kevin, grandson Daniel, his parents Edwin and Martha, and other brothers- and sisters-in-law and nephews.

Ivan is survived by his sons, Sterling (Jamie Bell) and Kenneth (Barbara) of Kendall, granddaughter Megan of Sparta, grandson Travis (Bridget Phillips) and great-grandson Elliot of Hillsboro, sister Verna Smillie of La Crosse, and many other relatives and friends.

A Christian Victory Service will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 11:00 AM at St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, 25525 Co Hwy P, Ontario. Pastor Jacob Limpert will officiate. Burial will be in the South Ridge Lutheran Cemetery, Township of Wellington.

Relatives and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Tues at the church from 9:00 AM until the time of the service.

Smith-Nelson/Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home as assisting the family.

Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com
Smith-Nelson/Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

KENNETH E. STUMPF

September 28, 1944 — April 23, 2022

TOMAH - Medal of Honor Recipient Kenneth E. Stumpf, age 77, of Tomah, Wisconsin, passed away Saturday, April 23, 2022, at his home. Kenneth Stumpf was born September 28, 1944, to Lawrence Sr. and Arvella (Halverson) Stumpf in Neenah, Wisconsin.



Ken was drafted into the United States Army in 1965. He served three tours in Vietnam retiring as a sergeant major after 29 years of service. During his first tour, on April 25th, 1967, he would earn our military's highest decoration, The Medal of Honor for actions above and beyond the call of duty.

His Medal of Honor Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt. Stumpf distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader of the 3d Platoon, Company C, on a search-and-destroy mission. S/Sgt. Stumpf's relentless spirit of aggressiveness, intrepidity, and ultimate concern for the lives of his men, are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army. Ken would spend the rest of his life proudly and humbly serving his county, his fellow veterans, and many organizations in various capacities.

On December 7, 1968, he married Dorothy Guralski at St. Mary Catholic Church in Menasha. The marriage was blessed with two sons, one daughter, four granddaughters, two grandsons and 46 wonderful years. Ken's strength came from being married to Dorothy, she was the glue that kept their family close.

He is survived by his son, Scott (Doris) Stumpf, Stafford, VA; daughter, Jobi (Kurt) Spolum, Tomah; and son, Adrian (Stacey) Stumpf, La Crosse; grandchildren, Miranda, Alicia, Catheryn, and Logan Stumpf and Reid and Delaney Spolum; sisters, Diane Ozuna and Judy (Ted) Birling. He is further survived by many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Sr. and Arvella; his wife, Dorothy; siblings, Lawrence "Larry" Stumpf Jr., Robert Stumpf, Shirley Schultz and Beverly Wettstein.

Family and friends are invited for visitation Wednesday, May 4, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah. Burial with full military honors will be held in the Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to one of Ken and Dorothy's favorite charities, Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter, 15560 State Highway 131, Tomah, WI 54660. Online condolences are available at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

DOROTHY L. ARENZ

March 15, 1935 — April 1, 2022

SPARTA - Dorothy L. Arenz, 87, of Sparta, died Friday, April 1, 2022, at her home. She was born on March 15, 1935 in Sparta to Claude and Dorothy Arenz (Anna (Brudos) Cade. She grew up in Sparta.



Dorothy Arenz

Dorothy graduated from Sparta High School in 1953. She married Eugene Arenz on November 26, 1955 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Sparta. She worked in the office at Northern Engraving in Sparta and in 1975, Gene and Dorothy purchased Arenz Shoe Store and she became Vice President and Secretary of E.A. Arenz Shoes, Inc. She retired in 1997.

She served as the PCCW president, Secretary of the Jaycettes, and the president of the St. Pat's Parish Council. She enjoyed playing bridge, downhill skiing, golfing, and quilting. Dorothy was the world's greatest pie baker. She also enjoyed travelling at home and abroad.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, Eugene of Sparta; brother, Ledford Cade; children, Patricia (Paul) Bickerdyke, Jeanne (Ken Johnson) Arenz, Michael (Cynthia) Arenz, and Linda (Jake Hardin) Arenz-Shaffer; grandchildren,

Sarah, Matthew, Amy, Cade, Ashley, Eric, and Austin; and 9 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Kathleen Freeman, Arlene Mudrey, Helen Moskonas, Xena Kenyon, Donald Cade, Charles Cade, and infant brother, Claude Jr.

A memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Sparta, with Father Eric Berns officiating. Burial will be in St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, with the following serving as honorary pallbearers: Sarah Sopiarsz, Matthew Rhodenhizer, Amy Weninger, Cade Arenz, Ashley Khoja, Eric Bickerdyke, and Austin Hardin.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, and 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday at the church.

Memorials may be made to St. Patrick's Catholic School and Sparta Area Cancer Support (SACS).

Online condolences may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

DEATH NOTICE

RUBY BROWN

April 24, 2022

TOMAH - Ruby Brown, 93, of Tomah and formerly of North Branch, MN, died on Sunday, April 24, 2022 at her home.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on May 21, 2022, 11:00 am at Oasis Church, 22547 State Highway 21, Tomah, WI. Pastor Steve

Brown will officiate. Burial will be in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, North Branch, MN, at a later date.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

OBITUARIES

RONALD "RON" EVERETT SANDERS

May 4, 1941 — April 27, 2022

SPARTA - Ronald "Ron" Everett Sanders, age 80, of Sparta, Wisconsin passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family on April 27, 2022 at his home in Sparta, Wisconsin.



Ronald Sanders

He was born on May 4, 1941 in Sparta, Wisconsin to Everett and Mae (Pulham) Sanders. He was married to Danielle Hornett and had two sons, Dustan and Ronnie. They later divorced. He married his soulmate, Kathy, on Valentine's Day, 1986.

Ron graduated from Sparta High School in May, 1959. He worked in several different career fields, to include serving as a City of Sparta Police Officer, Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy, Lieutenant of Police for the City of Delavan, and as Sheriff of Monroe County. He loved this profession best and the people he served. Ron was passionate about cars and racing. He was a true "Ford Man" and passed this love along to his family.

Spending time with family was very important to Ron, especially with his wife, Kathy. They traveled extensively and were able to

see many wonderful places together. They enjoyed going to NASCAR races, riding motorcycle, spending the winter months in Texas and making interesting stops along their journey...even the World's Biggest Ball of Twine! They laughed every day together and were a true example of what love and commitment should look like.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Kathy, his son Dustan (Christine) Sanders of Elkhorn, stepsons Randy (Rhonda) Culpitt, Rob (Sadie) Culpitt and Russ (Melissa) Culpitt of Sparta, his brother Lynn (Special Friend LeAnn Frank) of Sparta, Gale (Carol) Sanders of Atlanta, Georgia, brother-in-law Walter Merritt of Tomah, as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild, niece and nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, Ronnie, sisters Peggy and Nancy Katherine, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

The family would like to thank Gundersen Hospice for their care and assistance during this time.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Sparta American Legion on Sunday, May 22 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Commander Bernie Czarnecki, Adjutant Steve Krueger (seated), Chaplain Todd Fanta and Honor Guard Commander Dean Tremble (Left to Right). Photo by Tim Hyma.

Sparta American Legion post 100 conducts everlasting ceremony

John Gessner
Contributing Writer

On April 24, 2022, the Sparta American Legion Post 100 conducted a Post Everlasting ceremony. This solemn ceremony, held annually, honors those American Legionnaires who have passed away in the previous year. Post commander Bernie Czarnecki began the ceremony by announcing, "It is my sad duty to report that the following Comrades have been called from our midst and have gone to report to the Great Commander of all. We are here today to conduct the Post Everlasting Ceremony for John Abbott, William Bohn, Robert Bowen and Dale Ritter." All were military veterans and members of Post 100.

Commander Czarnecki continued, "This moment is

sacred with the almost visible presence of the ones who have gone before. We come to honor the memory of those who offered their lives in the service of country and who have now enrolled in that Great Spirit Army, whose footfalls cause no sound, but in the memory of mankind, their souls go marching on, sustained by the pride of service in time of war. Because of them our lives are free; because of them our nation lives; because of them the world is blessed. May this service deepen our reverence for our departed comrades."

Post Chaplain Todd Fanta said of the departed legionnaires, "We give thanks to God for these men. Their lives were dear to us; their names are precious in our memories. Their lives, their brave acts, their innocence and their courage touch our

hearts. We remember them in this moment and honor and give thanks for their presence on earth. May their souls rest in Peace."

The ceremony ended with the traditional Taps in honor of these veterans. Commander Czarnecki concluded, "Let

it be known that we at Post 100 do not forget each and every one of their service. At notification, our Charter is draped with a mourning cloth for 30 days and then we will transfer them to Post Everlasting. In our eyes, it is the least we can do for them."

Sparta Area School District SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Sparta Area School Board will be accepting applications to fill a vacancy due to a resignation of the Board of Education. The remaining term of this position is approximately 11 months and ends with the school board election of April 2023. The process is described in Board Policy Article 0142.5 as follows:

- A. Appointment by the Board to fill a vacancy shall be by the majority vote of the existing Board. All votes shall be recorded, preserved and open to public inspection to the extent prescribed in Wis. Stat. Chapter 19. Secret ballots may only be used when Board members are electing officers.
- B. The vacancy shall be announced in the local newspaper for a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the deadline for applications.
- C. If one or no applications are received by the deadline, the deadline may be extended by a majority vote of the Board.
- D. If more than six (6) candidates apply for the vacancy, the Board as a whole may review the applications and select six (6) candidates for consideration by the full Board.
- E. All applicants are to submit a notice of their interest, in writing, to the Board Administrative Assistant/Superintendent's Office.
- F. The Board may interview candidates to ascertain their qualifications. All applicants will be notified of their interview time and given an equal opportunity to make statements on their behalf and answer Board questions. If a candidate is unavailable during the designated meeting, the candidate may choose another person to represent himself/herself. Applicants will be requested as a courtesy to not be present while other applicants are being interviewed. Interviews of the candidates shall be done in open meeting unless the discussion involves financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data that, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of the person.
- G. If the vacancy is not filled within sixty (60) days of the date on which the vacancy first exists, the vacancy shall be filled by the following methods:
 1. If an appointment for a vacancy is not made due to a voting deadlock of the Board at the conclusion of the initial sixty (60) day period following the date on which the vacancy first exists, the final selection will be made at the first meeting of the full Board (following the initial sixty (60) day period) by a random drawing of the candidates tied with the highest number of votes during the most recent attempt.
 2. If the first solution does not apply for any reason, the Board President will appoint a candidate to fill the vacancy at the first meeting of the full Board which follows the initial sixty (60) day period.

All applicants will be notified in writing of the Board's decision. The candidate appointed to the vacancy upon being notified of the selection shall be deemed to have accepted the appointment unless, within five (5) days thereafter, the person files with the Board Clerk or Board President a written refusal to serve. Pending acceptance and filing the oath of office and Campaign Registration Statement, the appointed Board member shall be seated at the next meeting of the Board. The Board President will assign the appointee to a standing committee and other delegated responsibilities as necessary. Within ten (10) days after the appointment, the Board Clerk will report the name and post-office address of the new member to the clerk and treasurer of each municipality having territory in the school district.

Interested individuals should email a letter of interest to Wendy Markgren at wmarkgren@spartan.org or drop off a letter of interest at the District Office (900 E. Montgomery Street). **All letters of interest are to be received by 3:30 pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.** If there are any questions, please call (608) 366-3400.

LORI DEE ANTONY

June 4, 1962 — April 30, 2022

SPARTA - Lori Dee Antony, age 59, of Sparta, Wisconsin, peacefully passed away in her sleep at her childhood home on April 30, 2022



Lori Antony

following a courageous, four-year battle with cancer.

Lori was born June 4, 1962, to Erling and Alice (Baardseth) Antony Sr. After graduating from Sparta High School in 1980, she received an associate degree in accounting. She worked at G. Heileman Brewing Company. Later, Lori worked for and retired from the Business Office of the School District of La Crosse.

Throughout her life, she enjoyed playing golf, softball, racquetball, and volleyball. She traveled to many locations throughout five of the continents. These included Russia, China, Morocco, Cuba, and numerous European, South and Central American countries. She particularly loved traveling with siblings, nieces, nephews and friends. When Lori was around, no one was a stranger for long. She talked to anyone and everyone and usually had them laughing within a few minutes. She enjoyed baking, including special treats for her nieces, nephews and their children. She often gathered with

family and friends to play cards and other games.

Lori is survived by her siblings: Steven "TT" Antony; Erling (Patricia) Antony Jr.; Margaret Ball; Jeffrey Antony; Roger Antony; and Jenny (Michael) Haun. Nieces and nephews: Keith Ball; Douglas (Erika) Ball; Theresa (Jacob) Nyberg; Eric (Lauren) Haun; Kathleen (Chris Pruet) Antony; Erling (Kathy O'Toole) Antony III; and James (Kelly Bennion) Antony. Grand nieces and nephews: Landon, Logan and Liam Ball; Addison and Miles Nyberg; Tatum and Canton Haun; and Tara, Linus and Cecil Pruet.

Lori was preceded in death by her parents.

A celebration of Lori's life will be held on Saturday, May 7th at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta. Visitation from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a memorial service following.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Sparta Area Cancer Society (SACS) or Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention (WRAP). Online condolences may be offered at schanhoferfh.com

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, assisted the family with arrangements.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

Census program May 3 at Tomah Museum

In recognition of the release of the 1950 U.S. Census, archivist and author Laura Godden will give an overview of these important historical records, specifically showcasing their usefulness in research during the public program "Gaining Census: Exploring Historic U.S. Census Records." The program was held

Thursday, March 31, at 7 PM at the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum, 200 W. Main St., Sparta. An encore presentation is on Tuesday May 3, at the Tomah Museum 321 Superior Ave. A \$1 admission donation is appreciated to help defray programming costs. Masks are suggested. For more info call 608-372-1880

What's Happening

Upcoming Area Events

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS POLICY: Groups that earn profits from their event are asked to place a display ad in the MC Herald in order to be included in "Upcoming Area Events." Any non-profit adult organization or church will get a 25% discount on advertising. Half price ads are available for second run. There is no charge for youth groups. Items placed in "Upcoming Area Events" cannot contain prices, and the word "raffle" is prohibited. Regular consumption events must be run as a paid advertisement. We appreciate your cooperation. Call 608-269-9797 to place your item or e-mail to julie@monroecountyherald.com

Trinity Lutheran Church **COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE** on May 2nd from 12-5 and 3rd from 1-6 at 612 N Water St., Sparta.

CAREER FAIR: May 4th at Sparta High School from 4-6pm. Hosted by Sparta Area School District, Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce, and Western Technical College.

CLASS 66 - class reunion planning meeting #1 at The Greens on Wed., May 4 at 11:30. Join us for lunch. Pass the word.

ANNUAL SPRING

LUNCHEON Thursday, May 5, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall at: United Methodist Church 210 Court St., Sparta **SERVING FROM 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Call (608) 269-6949 for carry out, delivery orders, reservations or additional info.

Tina's K9 Rescue **DOG WASH & BRAT SALE** will be on Sat., May 7, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Theisens in Sparta. This will be the first Saturday of the month May-Sept. weather permitting.

The Tomah American Legion Post 201 wants **yard/craft sellers to rent space** for the Tomah City wide yard sale on Sat., May 7, 2022. For more information contact Todd Steffel 608-315-0077 (outdoor space) or Helene Stein 608-343-3008 (inside space).

Mother's Day **CHICKEN Q** on Sunday, May 8th, at Cashton Community Hall from 11 a.m. to ?

JERRY DAHL AND GIRLS playing at Club 16 **May 8th** from 1 to 5 pm. Donation requested at door to cover cost of band with left over funds going to charities and non profits. At our last dance we donated \$500 to Tina's K9 rescue.

History of the Tomah Indian School public program, Thursday, May

12, at 7:00 PM at the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum, 200 W. Main St., Sparta. For more info call 608-269-8680 or visit www.Facebook.com/mclhr.

The Tomah American Legion Post 201 **SPRING FLING CAR & TRUCK SHOW** will be on **Sat., May 28, 2022** at Winnebago Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The **CLASS OF 1969** will have its luncheon the **LAST Thursday** of the month at the **GREENS Restaurant and Bar** at noon.

S.A.C.S. Fundraisers: **May 27 - Brat sale** at Theisens 10-2
June 1 - Concert in the park w/ walking tacos
June 11 - Hot dog and brat sale at Hansens 10-2
June 25 - BBQ and brat sale at Theisens 10-2.

First and Third Tuesday evenings. St. Clare Health Mission of Monroe County provides **FREE MEDICAL CARE** for uninsured adults. Registration 5-6:30 p.m. at Mayo Clinic, 310 W. Main St., Sparta. For more information about services and eligibility, visit www.stclaremonroecounty.org or call 608-366-5343.

SPARTA LIONS CLUB MEETING Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Sparta American Legion starting at 6:30 pm. We are always looking for new members!

SPARTA GROUP #1 (AA) has meetings Monday through Fridays at NOON. There are also meetings seven days a week at 7 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The meetings are held at the Masonic Valley Lodge on the corner of Montgomery and South Court streets. Use the side entrance. Hotline Numbers: 608-784-7560 OR 1-866-491-8004

SECOND HARVEST MOBILE FOOD PANTRY is in Sparta on the third Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the **Sparta Hockey Rink** (1121 E. Montgomery St.); the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the **Tomah Fairgrounds** (1625 Butts Ave.); and the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the **Norwalk Village Hall** for curb pick up.

Every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Are you struggling with someone else's drinking? **AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP** is there to help. Meetings are held at the Sparta United Methodist Church, 210 N. Court St.

SENIORS AT THE BARNEY CENTER, AGE 55 AND OLDER. We play 500, Euchre, & we will probably have a table of Pinochle. 1st Thursday of the month 1:00 p.m. and 3rd Saturday pot luck & cards, 11:30 a.m.

MONROE COUNTY HERALD

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Gregory M. Evans, Publisher
Kyle A. Evans, Interim Editor

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The new warehouse for Martin Warehousing has started construction. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.



Cretestone Properties multi-tenant business suites have started construction. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

New buildings rising in Sparta

By KYLE EVANS
Interim Editor

In Sparta's South Pointe Business Park, Martin Warehousing currently has one 100,000 square foot warehouse and have started construction on yet another 100,000 square foot warehouse, right across the street. Bob Smith, of Martin Warehousing said, "the new warehouse will have both ambient and refrigerated storage." The main difference between the two are temperature. Ambient storage is maintained at a higher temperature than refrigerated storage.

In Sparta's East Side Business Park, Ken's Custom Cabinets

is nearing completion. Ken Ostrem, owner of Ken's Custom Cabinet's said, "I'm hoping to have everything completed and moved in late this Summer or early Fall." The property is located on Riley Rd. The custom cabinet maker has outgrown his shop at his home and decided to start from scratch.

Also on the east side of Sparta, a multi-tenant set of business suites is being added. The property is owned by Cretestone properties, who also has locations in Tomah and West Salem. There is no word of how many business suites will be available. The property is on the corner of Hwy 71 and Riley Rd.

Ken's Custom Cabinets is nearing completion. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.



Gundersen Sparta Clinic saves green, attracts talent with sustainable model

Gundersen Health System has been a leader in sustainable energy practices, designing new facilities and adapting existing locations to use less energy, reduce the cost of care, and support the local economy. Within the system, there's no better example than Gundersen's Sparta Clinic, which was built with the goal of being energy neutral, something it achieved following its completion in 2017.

Gundersen Sparta Clinic was designed to use as little energy as possible, and even generate some of its own. The clinic incorporated both on- and off-site solar panels, a geothermal heat pump, aggressive HVAC scheduling, and specially designed entryway systems, to name a few of the green initiatives.

That's resulted in an energy usage index of 34 kBTUs per square foot; the average clinic in the region uses 70 kBTUs. All told, the Sparta location saves \$68,500 a year on utility expenses tied to the energy initiatives.

In 2017, Gundersen Sparta Clinic was certified LEED Gold for building design and construction, and in 2019, the U.S. Department of Energy recognized Gundersen for its energy efficiencies within the clinic. More recently, the system became the second-largest private owner of solar generation in the state of Wisconsin, and with its current projects, including a new clinic in Elroy, Gundersen is projected to take over the top spot on the list.

Not only do these measures make a difference for the

Earth, but they make a difference in recruitment. According to Heather Trimborn, program manager in recruitment, it's a selling point for Gundersen.

"Potential employees want the values of an organization they're working for to reflect their own personal values," Trimborn said. "Salary, benefits and healthcare are important, but working for an organization that values the environment and is reducing its carbon footprint is equally important. Gundersen is ahead of that curve."

For Sara Frank, a West Salem High School graduate,

sustainability played a big part in her decision to work at the Gundersen Sparta Clinic.

"I try to decrease my carbon footprint whenever I can, be as green as possible," said Frank, a Gundersen physical therapist assistant. "It's important to me that my workplace also has the same values of trying to use renewable resources for energy production and decrease its carbon footprint. I appreciate that Gundersen tries to be green in any area because healthcare is required to be so sterile and 'single use' in practice. I see it as Gundersen trying to balance out the scale."



Heather Trimborn



Sara Frank



Gundersen Sparta Clinic. Contributed photo



MAKING MORE POSSIBLE

TOMAH SOFTBALL

Tomah softball earns two wins

By MAURICE SAVAGE
Sports Writer

The Tomah softball team was able to secure back-to-back victories on Thursday and Friday against two conference opponents to stay perfect in the MVC. On Thursday night the Timberwolves were able to secure an 8-3 victory over Aquinas. On Friday night Maddie Johnson was able to throw a no-hitter against Onalaska to coast to a 19-0 victory in just four innings.

The Timberwolves move to 7-2 on the season as they get ready to take on Holmen on Monday at home at 4:30 pm.

Tomah 8 Aquinas 3

On Thursday night the Timberwolves were able to close out Aquinas behind three huge runs in the sixth inning. In the sixth inning, Olivia Wall bunted and reached on an error by the third baseman. Hannah Van Treese was able to score a run on the play. Lauren Noth singled on a line drive the next play and Wall went in for the score. Maddie Johnson singled on a fly ball to the right field and Lauren Noth was able to go in for the score.

Van Treese finished the night with two hits, and two runs on four at-bats. Lauren Noth finished with two hits, two runs, and two RBIs on three at-bats. Libby Mathison finished with two hits and one RBI on four at-bats.

Johnson pitched seven innings. She allowed four hits and three runs. She finished with ten strikeouts on the night.

Tomah 19 Onalaska 0 (4)

On Friday the Timberwolves dominated Onalaska behind ten runs in the third inning.

In the third inning, Hagen singled on a ground ball to left field. Lauren Noth was able to go in for a score. Mathison singled on a ground ball to center field. Hagen and Maddie Johnson were able to each score a run. Van Treese singled on a ground ball to second base. Mathison was able to go in to score a run. On the next play, Wall gets out on a sacrifice fly to left field. Asha Eckleberg was able to score a run on that play. Lauren Noth



Tomah's Lily Noth makes a catch at first for an out. Herald photo by Nate Beier

singled on a line drive to left field allowing Van Treese to go in for the score. Hagen singled the next play on a fly ball allowing Lauren Noth to score. Mathison singled a pop fly to left field allowing Hagen and Johnson to score a run.

Van Treese finished the game with five hits, three runs, and three RBIs on five at-bats. Hagen finished with four hits, three runs, and three RBIs on four at-bats. Lauren Noth finished with three hits, two runs, and one RBI on four at-bats.

Johnson all pitched four innings and did not allow a single hit. She finished with eight strikeouts on the night.

TOMAH TENNIS

Tomah doubles team powers team to first MVC win

By MAURICE SAVAGE
Sports Writer

The Tomah boys tennis team secure their first conference win of the season on Thursday against Holmen, winning the match 4-3.

In the singles section, Jonah Nick of Tomah was able to easily defeat Adam Troyanek in two sets, winning each set 6-0. Holmen high school would go on to win the rest of the singles matches.

The Timberwolves were able to sweep Holmen in the doubles competition. In the first match, Nick Schaitel and Gavin Richer were able to defeat Drew Shay and Jacob Zagrodnick 6-0 in set one and 6-1 in set two. Match number two saw Karson Hoag and Eric Erdman defeat Spence Mathison and Shawn De Ruyter 6-2 in set one and 6-4 in set two. In match three we saw Logan Boulton and Ethan Libbey defeat Kong Xiong and Jemison Vang 6-2 in set one and 6-1 in set two.

TOMAH 5 BARABOO 2

Tomah topped Baraboo on Friday, April 29 in non-conference action.

The Timberwolves picked up wins from all four singles players and the number three doubles team. Joe Venner won the one singles match 6-3, 6-0. Jonah Nick won his second match in as many nights with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Sean Zuzunaga.

Anthony Lord and Greg Klouda wrapped up singles play with straight set victories as well. Lord won 6-0, 6-1 and Klouda claimed a win 6-1, 6-4.

Ethan Libbey and Logan Boulton's win as the number three doubles team was the icing on the cake for Tomah as the duo earned a 6-3, 6-1 victory.

The Timberwolves have two matches this week. On Tuesday they will travel to La Crosse Central in an inner conference game at 4:30. On Thursday the Timberwolves will play another inner conference match against La Crosse Logan at 4:30.



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Brookwood girls basketball's Berg steps down as head coach

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

Bob Berg never could have imagined that coaching basketball would play a significant part in his life for nearly 25 years.

Berg coached at various levels of basketball in different capacities for over two decades, with the last five coming as the Brookwood varsity head girls' basketball coach. But with a baby grandson joining the family back in October and his youngest daughter graduating high school this spring, Berg decided to step down from that position following the conclusion of the 2021-22 season.

"It was a hard decision. It wasn't one I was totally committed to doing because I really enjoyed coaching the kids and, for the most part, I thought most of the juniors — there's going to be about eight coming in as seniors (next season) — really wanted me to stay," Berg said. "But I was just at the point in my life where I've coached for that long and I never thought I was going to do what I did. I just wasn't spending as much time with the rest of the family."

It marks the end of a basketball coaching career that first

saw him coach the Brookwood boys' junior varsity team from 1998 to 2000, followed by stints at the youth level, in the Great Northwest Basketball League and the Brookwood girls' JV team before eventually becoming the Brookwood girls' varsity head coach in 2017.

Berg made many fond memories along the way, including dying his hair pink after the Brookwood JV team went undefeated during the 2011-12 season. Many of those players helped the varsity Falcons win their first conference and regional titles in 2012-13 and then capture another Scenic Bluffs championship the following season.

Though he never thought he'd do much more than youth coaching when he first got into it, Berg would eventually get his shot as the girls' head varsity coach starting with the 2017-18 season. That first year saw Brookwood finish 19-4 — tying a program record for most wins in a season.

The victories were tougher to come by for the Falcons for the remainder of his tenure — during which they went 34-77 in five years — but the experiences and impact that go far beyond wins and losses were what mattered most to him.

"The lives I hopefully positively affected was the reason I was doing it," Berg said. "Obviously wasn't for the money and wasn't for anything else — it was just the kids."

Berg is deeply grateful that he got coach all three of his daughters — Mackenzie, Amy and Kristin — at different stages of their careers growing up. With his last daughter leaving high school and a grandson in the family fold, he felt it was an appropriate time to step away and spend more time with family away from the basketball court.

He did note that he won't close the door on possibly coaching again down the line — including perhaps eventually coaching his grandson, — and is willing to still help the program in any way he can, especially as they search for a replacement. But regardless of what happens next, Berg is thankful for everything he both gave and received through coaching over the years.

"We had such great kids through the school and I always wanted to make them better, even the ones that were kinda out of sort and needed a little guidance. I know I stuck up for them and tried to help them along all the way through," Berg said. "That I'll miss because they looked to that, and they knew they could trust me and I could help in any which way I possibly could."

Brookwood boys basketball's Blackwell steps down as head coach

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

Jesse Blackwell knew there wouldn't necessarily ever be an ideal time to step aside as the Brookwood boys' varsity head basketball coach.

But with a one-year-old son and his family moving from Monroe County to La Crosse as he pursues different professional opportunities, he felt now was the time for him to leave the Falcons — even if he felt there was still work left to be done.

"Logistically, it would've been tough for me to stay coaching at Brookwood," Blackwell said. "I just had a lot going on and I felt it wouldn't be fair to put my family or my team through the mountain of stress that would occur."

Blackwell made the decision to step down as Brookwood head coach after three seasons at the helm following the conclusion of the 2021-22 season. The Falcons went 13-56 under Blackwell — who took over from Travis Anderson prior to the 2019-20 season

— but his tenure was one that coincided with the program being in a state where they needed to build toward the future.

"We didn't have that much success in the win-loss record, but getting better and help growing healthy relationships was a positive," Blackwell said. "The growth was there."

The team was heavily impacted by COVID-19 during the 2020-21 season that prevented them from ever having their full roster of 15 players available at any point in the year, but they saw progress during this most recent season.

After going 6-37 the previous two years, the Falcons improved their record to 7-19 during the 2021-22 season and were competitive in plenty of games — including their regional semifinal loss to Blair-Taylor where they were tied at halftime.

Blackwell is disappointed he won't get to continue to be part of the program as they look to continue to make progress, but hopes he's helped set them on a better path forward.

Blackwell also noted that he could very well return to coaching in the future somewhere in some capacity, which would come as

no real surprise for someone who has been deeply involved with basketball for so long.

After a standout high school career with La Crosse Logan, Blackwell played Division I college basketball at University of North Dakota and also junior college ball at Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa. He then coached both youth basketball and AAU before winding up at Brookwood.

But regardless of what his future holds, his time with the Falcons is something he'll always treasure.

"I had a great time at Brookwood. The community, (athletic director) Ken Clinton and the administration at Brookwood really stood behind me and I can't thank them enough for having my back," Blackwell said. "And I can't thank the players and the families enough for having my back. Coming in as an outsider to Brookwood into a small town, it wasn't easy at first. But once we got rolling, the acceptance was there."

Central Sparta soccers ends losing streak in shutout win over Altoona

Central
outlasts
Sparta
sluggers

By NICK LEONARDELLI
Sports Writer

The Sparta girls soccer team had no time for rest at the end of the week. Sparta had a game Thursday against La Crosse Central. Then the team traveled to La Crosse to play in the La Crosse Central Invite where they played Altoona/Fall Creek on Friday and Driftless United on Saturday.

Thursday was the first game of the three with a conference bout against La Crosse Central.

Central found the back of the net in the first 46 seconds of the matchup. Then just before the 42nd minute mark, Central fired one into the back of the net again.

Central went on to beat Sparta 2-0. Nadia Tovar had 24 saves in the game. Head coach Amy Russ was especially pleased with Ellie Erickson shutting down Central's Lily Wehrs in the midfield. The team falls to 3-5 overall on the season and extends their losing streak to 5.

Friday was right around the corner with a matchup against Altoona/Fall Creek in the La Crosse Central Invite. Sparta was able to break the losing curse with a 7-0 win and improve to 4-5 for the season.

Malory Russ ended the game with four goals. The team also saw goals from Jade Intiha, Ellie Falkner and Maddi Schauf. Sparta gets the much needed win but, get no rest with a game just the next day.

Saturday the Lady Spartans

hoped to continue their winning ways with a matchup against Driftless United. Malory Russ scored two goals and assisted on a goal to Anna Blaha Sparta ended the game with three goals. Driftless United also scored three goals themselves.

The game ended in a 3-3 tie for the first tie of the Sparta season. Sparta now improves to 4-5-1 for the season.

A successful weekend for the head coach Amy Russ and her squad. Russ hopes

this "past weekend's success will bring us renewed energy and focus. We were missing a few players for Saturday's game but we fought through a tough match up and used the opportunity to increase the amount of passing coming from our midfield."

Sparta will be back in action Tuesday with a road matchup against Aquinas. The game is set to start at 7pm.

Bangor wallops New Lisbon with 32 runs in league doubleheader

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

The Bangor Cardinals have been a dominant, well-oiled machine so far this softball season, and their doubleheader sweep over New Lisbon may have been their finest work so far.

The Cardinals (7-0 overall, 7-0 Scenic Bluffs) dismantled the Rockets (0-6, 0-5) in both games played between the two sides Thursday, April 28 in

Bangor.

In the first game of the doubleheader, Bangor wasted no time with its scoring barrage in a 16-0 shutout victory in five innings. The Cardinals put up eight runs in the bottom of the first, scored four more in the second and then tacked on four more in the fourth.

Emma Fortier led the way at the plate by going 3 for 4 with a double and three RBIs, Madeline Janisch was 2 for

2 with an RBI and Gabby Schroeder finished 1 for 2 with a double and three RBIs.

In the circle for Bangor, Aliyah Langrehr pitched a shutout in which she allowed one hit, one walk and struck out 12 batters in five innings of work.

It was more of the same for the Cardinals in game two, leading to a 16-1 win in four innings.

Bangor raced out of the gates with four runs in the top

of the first. The Rockets got their first and only run of the evening in the bottom half of the inning, but the Cardinals scored four times in the third and added another eight-run rally in the top of the fourth to ensure a second blowout victory.

Sam Nelson went 3 for 4 with two RBIs, Janisch finished 2 for 4 with a triple and four RBIs, Schroeder was 2 for 3 with two RBIs and Fortier went 1 for 2 with a

double and two RBIs.

Langrehr again pitched for Bangor, this time giving up one run on one hit and two walks while striking out eight in four innings.

The two wins gave the Cardinals even more of a cushion atop the Scenic Bluffs standings as they seek a conference crown. They now sit at 7-0 in league play, two games ahead of second-place Hillsboro and its 4-1 conference record.

Cashton defense holds against Brookwood

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

The good times keep rolling for the Cashton softball team, who have now won six of their last seven games following a conference win over Brookwood.

The Eagles (7-4 overall, 3-2 Scenic Bluffs) jumped ahead with a four-run rally in the fourth inning and held on to beat the Falcons (1-8, 0-6) 6-5 in their Scenic Bluffs clash Thursday, April 28 in Cashton.

Brookwood's Bella Erickson gave her team a 1-0 lead with an RBI single in the top of the second, only to see the Eagles pull ahead 2-1 in the bottom half of the inning when runs scored on a couple errors.

The Falcons leapfrogged them thanks to an Emily

Cunitz two-run home run in the top of the third to regain a 3-2 advantage, though the biggest rally of the evening came courtesy of Cashton in the bottom of the fourth.

A Marlee Schroeder two-run RBI single and a Grace Leis RBI double fueled a four-run rally that put the Eagles ahead 6-3. Another Cunitz two-run bomb in the top of the fifth slashed the Brookwood deficit to 6-5, but the Falcons were unable to score again and fell just short of their first conference win.

Despite the loss, it was a stark improvement for Brookwood from its 12-2 loss to Cashton back on April 11 in Ontario.

In this past Thursday's meeting, Cunitz went 3 for 3 with two home runs, four

Cashton, Bangor baseball continue winning ways against league foes

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

Sophomore Jack Kleba and his scintillating performance at the plate helped power Cashton past Brookwood in a Scenic Bluffs baseball clash.

The Eagles (7-2 overall, 4-1 Scenic Bluffs) took down the Falcons (2-7, 2-4) in an 8-1 victory Thursday, April 28 in Ontario. The game was supposed to be played in Cashton, but had to be moved due to field conditions. The Eagles were still designated as the home team.

Brookwood scored first in the top of the third on an error, then Cashton took a 2-1 lead in the bottom half of the inning on a Jack Kleba RBI double and a Henry Brueggen RBI single.

A Presley Brueggen two-run single, another Kleba RBI double and a run scored on an error pushed the Cashton advantage to 6-1 in the bottom of the fourth, then the Eagles tacked on two more in the sixth inning on RBI singles by Kleba and Henry Brueggen.

In the win, Kleba finished 4 for 4 with two doubles, three RBIs and a run, Henry Brueggen was 2 for 4 with two RBIs and Connor Butzler

went 2 for 4 with two runs. For Brookwood, Nate DeWitt finished 3 for 4 with a double.

BANGOR SWEEPS NEW LISBON

After suffering their first loss of the season, the Bangor baseball team bounced back in a big way with a doubleheader sweep over the New Lisbon Rockets.

The Cardinals (7-1 overall, 5-1 Scenic Bluffs) emphatically won both games over the Rockets (3-4, 2-3) in a Scenic Bluffs doubleheader Thursday, April 28 in Bangor.

In the first five-inning game, Bangor picked up a 12-3 victory. Ashton Michek went 2 for 2 with a pair of doubles, a walk and two RBIs. Chase Horstman got the win on the mound by giving up three unearned runs on one hit and one walk with six strikeouts in five innings of work.

The second game saw a 9-2 win for the Cardinals. Eli Tucker got the win with six strikeouts and no walks, while also recording a double and an RBI at the plate.

Additionally for Bangor, Mathieu Oesterle finished 2 for 2, Will Reader went 2 for 3 with a double and two RBIs and Samuel Cropp was 2 for 3 with a double.

Sparta surrenders 7 run lead at Central

By NICK LEONARDELLI
Sports Writer

Still looking for that first victory of the season, Sparta softball traveled to La Crosse to take on La Crosse Central this past Thursday. Finally seeing some success scoring eight runs in the game, Sparta thought they had this one in the bag. Central put up 11 runs in the game to keep sparta scoreless and defend their homefield with a 11-8 win.

The Lady Spartans continue with their losing woes. The team was up by 7 after the fourth inning but couldn't hold on to the large lead by the end of the game. Sparta's Hallie Burton went 3-5 at the plate. Emma Blackdeer went 2-3 at the plate. Defensively, Blackdeer made a phenomenal diving catch in center field and threw out the girl going back to first. Madissy Bolen went 2-4 at the plate.

Sparta thought they could break their losing spell in a game where they saw themselves up 7 but, Central had other plans. The team is now 0-7 overall for the season. Their next game is Monday against Luther. First pitch is set at 5 pm.

Tomah takes loss from league-leading Aquinas team at home

By NICK LEONARDELLI
Sports Writer

The Tomah baseball team was not able to rally back against Aquinas on Thursday as they allowed seven runs in the second inning during their 11-5 loss.

The Timberwolves were able to score two points in the second and sixth inning. During the second inning, Andrew Brookman doubled on a fly ball allowing Tanner Matthias and Ethan Buch to each score a run. During the sixth inning, Josh Gerogeson singled on a ground ball allowing Matthias and

Brookman to score runs.

Brookman finished the game with three hits, two runs, and two RBIs. Shane Prielipp finished with two hits. Geogeson finished with one hit and two RBIs.

Benny Pierce pitched four innings and allowed nine hits and eleven runs. He recorded four strikeouts on the night.

On Friday, April 29, Tomah lost both games of a non-conference doubleheader with Wisconsin Rapids 4-1 and 12-0 in five innings.

This loss moves their record on the season to 5-7-1. The Timberwolves will be on the road at Baraboo on Monday at

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(Above) A fine smallmouth bass caught by Mark Walters on the Mississippi River near Trempealeau.



(Left) This was Mark Walters camp on the Mississippi River near Trempealeau.

Prairie Fire

Natural Connections

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



Flames crackled at my feet and the sunset clouds reflected a little of their orange glow. The heat on my face contrasted with cold water on my back as I held the nozzle of a backpack sprayer at the ready. Glancing downhill, I could just see my dad's head above the smoke and flames as he walked the fire line with a drip torch, a magic wand of destruction.

As luck would have it, I'd arrived home just as the weather had given us the perfect evening for burning prairie.

The house where I grew up in Northeast Iowa sits on top of a hill that was once planted to corn. When my parents bought the land in the late 1970s, they started planting native species even before they drew up plans or built the house. Each fall, Dad mows paths through the big bluestem for sledding and skiing, and each spring, those paths turn into fire lines for a prairie burn. It's been years since my timing has been right to help.

Driving around the Midwest, I often squint at the fields of corn and beans and try to imagine the waving oceans of prairie grass that once were. While Iowa sits at the edge of the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains, it's not lack of rainfall that kept the land in grass instead of trees; it was fire.

My dad wasn't walking the trails with a drip torch back then, so how did early prairie fires ignite?

In a study just published last October, a group of researchers in Illinois combed through records of prairie fires between 1673 and 1905 in an area that spanned from North Dakota to Ohio, and included Wisconsin. They found evidence of 795 fires in newspapers, diaries, explorers' journals, and other historical documents. Of those, only five were started by lightning. Native Americans—already being pushed off their land—only set 32 of the fires. The rest were ignited by Europeans, either accidentally, or because they'd learned from the Native Americans how useful fire could be.

For many reasons, the practice of burning prairie diminished. Today, though, wherever people are trying to restore or reconstruct native prairies, fire is recognized as an invaluable tool.

While my yard in Wisconsin is still mostly covered in snow, lawns and weeds had both begun to green up in Iowa. Woody shrubs were beginning to swell their buds, too. Burning in mid-spring maximizes the impact of the burn because the fire will knock weeds back and force them to struggle.

In contrast, prairie grasses and flowers are mostly "warm season" plants who haven't begun growing. Fire clears out the thick thatch that can smother new sprouts. Black ashes absorb sunshine, warm the soil, and provide prairie plants with an extra boost. Fire is a form of decomposer, and makes nutrients from dead vegetation available for new growth.

While most land managers advocate for burning prairies only every few years, my parents burn around the house on an annual basis. Their hope is that regular burning prevents the buildup of fuel and reduces the danger from an unplanned fire. They also hope—with some science to back them up—that burning around the house will reduce their chances of getting Lyme or one of the many other tick-borne diseases that seem to become more common each year.

As a campfire-poking kid, I love the idea that setting fires has a scientific and ecological purpose. But burning prairie safely requires skill and planning. Mom and Dad have their system down so well that they often manage all by themselves, although they were grateful that I offered to carry the heavy water pack, and my partner was there to rake vigorously at the fire lines.

Long before Dad set a match to the drip torch, we'd waited for the gusty winds to die down, hosed down the sledding run on the east side of the hill, wet down the strip of lawn near the house, watered the few shade trees, raked around the bluebird house, and cleared a space around the electrical box. Dad even put a barrel over a tiny seedling oak—supposedly descended from Aldo Leopold's "Good Oak." Hoses, jugs, and rubber flappers all stood at the ready to put out stray sparks.

The first fire Dad set was a backfire—sandwiched between the mowed path and the westerly winds—and it crept along slowly, using up the fuel. When Dad's slow, glowing walk finally reached the bottom of the hill, and then the windward edge, we had enough guardrails in place that I could laugh with glee as flames whooshed up the hill. Sparks danced skyward toward a full moon as darkness descended.

By the time we were done, there was no wind left to fan new flames and evening humidity was curtailing the rest. Deep below the blackened soil, a web of roots, burrows, insects and more bided their time.

When the Sun rose on the scene, the pair of bluebirds was already foraging in the ash. Rain in the forecast would bring with it a flush of new growth. The fire's destruction would soon become renewal.

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.

A Cold Spring on the Mississippi

Hello friends,

If you are a farmer, work outside construction, or an outdoor writer, this spring has been a tough one to get the job done. Rain, snow, always a solid wind and an air temp consistently 10-25 degrees below normal has been making it very difficult if not impossible to get the job done.

This week my plan was to paddle troll with my canoe on Lake Michigan near Milwaukee for salmon and brown trout. A never-ending wind killed that plan three times. With three days left before my deadline I had a brainstorm. How about I explore the backwaters of the Mississippi River near Trempealeau. I have duck hunted and winter camped this area but have not open water fished it, that is until this week.

Tuesday, April 26th
High 36, low 25

As I drove into Trempealeau today it was snowing. I launched my canoe and began paddling downstream in a 100% uninhabited area, at least as far as humans are concerned, then a northwest wind and current pushed my 17-foot canoe so that all I had to do was control it.

My plan was to put out a left



An Outdoorsman's Journal

By Mark Walters

and a right fishing pole with a planer board on each and a crankbait 5-20 feet behind each one. Due to the winter type conditions I figured the fish bite would not exist.

I had traveled maybe a mile when the board with a blaze orange/yellow husky jerk behind it vanished and my pole started bending. Fish number one was never seen but fought well and got away. Fish number two came soon after and hit the same rig. Shortly into the fight I was flying from a hard current and tail wind and I did a soft crash in a bed of last year's wild rice, I then hand landed a 27-inch northern pike. Nothing mattered anymore, I had caught a fish!

For the next three hours I explored in an area where I have spent at least 60-nights of my life winter camping and had a nonstop show of water fowl, hard wind, and raw natural beauty. My second and last fish of the day hit the

always reliable blue/chrome HJ12 and it was a 19-inch smallmouth bass.

I built camp on a narrow island with the main channel ten feet from my bedroll and a waterfowl loaded backwaters 15-feet on the other side. I put out two poles with minnows on each and both tonight and the following morning neither was hit by a fish.

I had caught a chill so naturally I opened a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon, lit a fire, and watched the world around me. Towards dark I decided I needed to man up so I skipped the tent and slept in the open on the ground, that was a wise decision.

Wednesday, April 27th
High 44, low 24

Here is a reality check as to how much worse things could be. The island I slept on was eroding; ever since beaver trapping as a sport has become less popular, the beaver populations have exploded, and in this example the beavers were eating at every tree that holds this island together. Now in part because of the loss of root base, this island is eroding away.

Another example, I am a swallow that flew up from Texas to live here for the

summer, raise a family and then head back to Texas. I eat flying insects and the only thing flying in the air is snow. I am extremely hungry; it is the only time of the year I get any action from Mrs. Swallow, and I have zero energy!

Today I watched a muskrat hanging out in this patch of rotting wild rice stalks; he was above water. About 5-feet above the water was a bald eagle and it was using a solid east wind to perfectly hover above Mr. Muskrat. I am totally amazed at how long the eagle could stay in one place.

With perfect precision the bird of prey flawlessly dropped onto its prey, was up in the air and flew to its nest without missing a beat.

This adventure was inexpensive, and I honestly think it was meant to be.

If you can't make up your mind if your best friend is the fridge, your recliner or a screen, throw them all away and you will be better off than the island, the swallow or the muskrat! **Sunset**

PS. A friend that was going to get one of Ruby's pups that is now 5 weeks old had to back out. This male is a dandy, get ahold of me if you are interested!

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History Highlights

from the Monroe County Local History Room



Cashton Village Hall, taken around 1898, which was providing temporary classroom space while the new Cashton school was being built. The Cashton Volunteer Fire Brigade are pictured in front of the Hall. Contributed photo.

“Belle Kern: Teaching in Monroe County in 1900”

By Adam Balz,
Monroe County Local History
Room Volunteer Researcher

Author's note: Among the items housed at the Local History Room in Sparta are seven letters written by Isabelle “Belle” Kern, who worked as a teacher in southern Monroe County in the late 1800s. In these letters, which are addressed to a Mrs. Wartman, Kern wrote of her struggles as a teacher, her social life in the communities where she lived, and her longing for home. Belle Kern was born in 1871 in Sauk County, Wisconsin, but her family moved to Monroe County a few years later.

By October 1899, Belle Kern was desperate.

After almost a decade into her career as a teacher, the 27-year-old found herself at the school in Cashton, which she considered “the loneliest place” she had yet “struck.” Writing to her friend, Mrs. Wartman, Kern complained that “I have been nearly homesick ever since I came here and how many times I wished I was back in Spring Valley again.”

Originally, she had wanted to teach at “our school at home.” That “school at home” was Spring Valley School located in Sheldon Township. But she admitted that she had waited too long and lost the position. Another teacher, Edith Root, from the town of Tomah, applied to Spring Valley and got the job. “I am glad she has,” Kern wrote. “I went home with her one Friday night from Tomah and had a nice time.”

In fact, many of the teachers in Monroe County knew one another, and often swapped jobs. In a letter written on August 1, 1899, Kern noted that a teacher named Sadie “is going back to Big Creek to teach again....She has the school that Nellie Freeman taught so long and Nellie goes to Kendall this year.”

Though Kern did admit in one letter that Cashton was “real pretty,” she shuddered at some of the local customs. “They have no regard for Sunday here,” she wrote. “They play ball and every girl in town goes to see them play. And the young ladies even go hunting on Sunday.” She also bemoaned the lack of peers her own age, writing, “If there were only some real nice young people here.”

Making matters worse were the students. “I have forty scholars and among them are some of the worst children I have ever saw in my life,” she wrote, adding that their



Leon Public School with unidentified students in front. Belle Kern taught at this school in 1900, about the same year the photo was taken. Contributed photo.

behavior “keeps me busy thrashing some of them most of the time.”

By November, Kern’s attitude toward the school—and her students—had mellowed somewhat. “I whipped only four scholars one day last week,” she stated, suggesting that this number was a marked improvement.

In this era, it was customary for teachers to board with members of the community. Often this meant living with a student’s family. In Kern’s case, she and another teacher intended to stay with Mr. Beck, their principal. However, Beck was building a new house, and Belle lamented that “no one else in the town would take us in.” Instead, the two young women took up residence at the Union House. It was a “bummy place,” she wrote. “Things aren’t clean, and the flies are so thick that we can hardly stand it to sit down to the table.” [note: Kern may have had the name of the hotel wrong as Cashton had two hotels in 1899—Hotel Byer and The American House Hotel].

Kern and her roommate, Miss Ordway, were the only female boarders at the hotel, adding to the unpleasant environment. She wrote that the men “sit out in the office and play cards till about eleven o’clock and swear and make so much noise that we can hardly stand it.”

At this time, Cashton was building a new schoolhouse. During construction, classes were held “in all the empty buildings there are.” For Kern, this meant holding class in a space above the Cashton village hall. “I have a pleasant room,” she wrote, “but there is a gasoline engine [that] makes us all sick, to say nothing of

the noise it makes. I have the headache nearly every night.”

These conditions only added to her homesickness.

At Christmas, school let out for a week of vacation, which went “so quickly that it seems as if I hadn’t been home at all.” In January of 1900, the new school opened, a few weeks later than expected. She described the building as “much pleasanter than where we were before.” Her classroom was large and well-lit, with “lots of nice blackboard in it,” though they would have no curtains or recitation sheets “for a couple weeks yet.” Despite the improved setting, the students were still unmanageable.

“We have to punish so much to keep order,” she wrote.

Thankfully, Kern’s attitude towards children did not carry over into her personal life. Writing in the summer of 1899, she wondered if Mrs. Wartman’s girls were having “good times since school is out,” then added, “I wish they were here with me today.”

By November of 1900, Kern had left her job in Cashton for a position in Leon. “I like Leon so much,” she wrote to her friend, “and there are nice young people here. Leon has no saloon or ever had so there are no rough young people here as there was in Cashton.”

In Leon, she stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Austin, whose daughter Eleanor was around her age. “You would never think we were two ‘old maids’ if you could see how we act sometimes,” she wrote. At this time, Belle Kern was 28 years old, while Eleanor Austin was about 31.

In early 1901, Kern wrote to Mrs. Wartman that “I’m getting so old and gray that I don’t have my picture taken

anymore.” In a few months, she would celebrate her thirtieth birthday, an event clearly weighing on her. She ended on a note of resignation: “I think Lena and I will be old maids. There is no hope for us anymore.”

However, she would not remain an “old maid” for much longer. In October 1901, she married John H. Davis, a lumberman from Adrian. Like many young women of her day, Kern gave up teaching once married. Together, she and John had one child, a daughter named Dorothy Gertrude Davis.

Almost six decades later, in October 1958, the *Sparta Herald* featured a small article noting the couple’s 57th anniversary. John and Belle were both in their late eighties at the time. According to the newspaper, the couple marked the occasion by “putting up their storm windows” in preparation for winter, among other chores.

Eventually, the couple moved to Union City, Michigan, to be near their daughter. John Davis died on January 3, 1961, at the age of 88. Belle’s health soon declined, and she died on December 16, 1962, nine days shy of her 91st birthday.

The Spring Valley School, where Belle Kern had graduated and wished to teach, closed in 1958, two years after hot water and indoor plumbing were added to the building.

The Belle Kern letters are part of the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum archives. You can search the archives online at www.MonroeCountyHistory.org or visit the History Room in person. The History Room is located at 200 West Main St., Sparta, and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9-4.



Forester Charles Mentzel presents COL Mike Poss with the 2021 Forest City Award. Herald photo by John Gessner.



COL Mike Poss and children from the Child Development Center with the Tree City USA flag. Herald photo by John Gessner.

Arbor Day celebrated at Fort McCoy

By JOHN GESSNER
Contributing Writer

Fort McCoy Garrison Commander Colonel Michael Poss, and Forester Charles Mentzel, joined with children and adult leaders from the Fort McCoy Child Development Center to plant trees in celebration for Arbor Day 2022. The group assembled near Gate 5 (formerly known as the Sparta gate) to plant upwards of 400 red pine saplings on Friday, April 29.

Arbor Day was started 150 years ago by Julius Sterling Morton of Nebraska who saw the need to replenish the nation’s trees. For its efforts, Fort McCoy has been designated a Tree City USA for 32 years running. A tree City flag will continue to be flown at the old main gate.

Mentzel said the Fort McCoy Arbor Day event is always coordinated by the installation Forestry program. In addition to the hundreds of trees planned for planting during the observance, thousands more will be planted on post.

“Planting thousands of new trees is an effort that is repeated every year on post,” Mentzel said. “Fort McCoy has more than 46,000 acres of forested land managed by the Forestry Office, and it’s

important to maintain those forested areas.”

Several other tree plantings have been conducted on Fort McCoy this month by the Forestry department along with volunteers. The events on the Friday commemorate the actual Arbor Day. When these trees fully mature, they will provide a natural wind and snow break for the area around Gate 5.



4-year old Brinley handling a shovel to plant a red pine. Herald photo by John Gessner.

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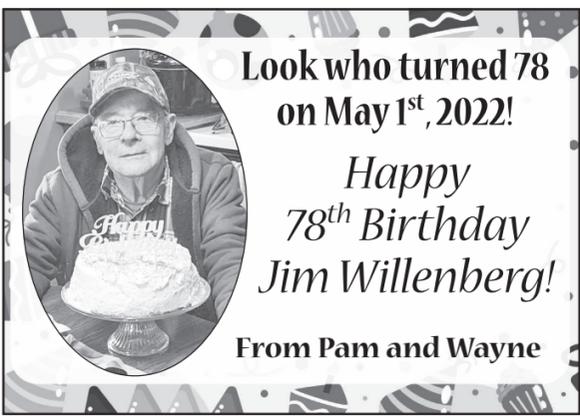
Continued from Front Page

said Jan Bruder, from Brighter Tomorrows. “We provide survivors of sexual assault with the essential items they need. We work together with each of these organizations on a lot of cases. The march generates a lot of questions from the community about sexual assault, which is great.”

Brighter Tomorrows helps about 400 people annually in Monroe County but Bruder said, “still, a lot of people don’t know that we exist. So events like this help get the word out.”

Brighter Tomorrows staff includes Bruder and Lynn Buhl as the victim advocates, Kari Olson is the therapist, and Sol, who is going to be a full-time therapy dog at the end of the summer, Bruder said. “He is about three months away from a full year of training required to become a therapy dog,” she said.

Brighter Tomorrows takes donations year-round. No donation is too small to make a difference. Contact Brighter Tomorrows at 608-269-7853.



Look who turned 78 on May 1st, 2022!
Happy 78th Birthday Jim Willenberg!
 From Pam and Wayne

State Highways 16 and 27 to get 1.5 miles repaved

State highway 16 in Sparta from State highway 71 to a half mile east of the I-90 east bound ramps, totalling 1.5 miles, is slated to start construction today (Monday) and go through July 12.

State highway 16 will be completed in 2 stages, using full closures and flagging operations. Traffic will utilize signed detour routes on STH 27/STH 71 and I-90 to navigate around construction. Theatre Rd. will maintain access throughout the project.

State Highway 27 in Sparta from Icon/Idyllview Ave. (South of Sparta) to River Rd, totalling 1.5 miles is slated to start construction July 18th, with a completion date of September 30th. I-90 eastbound and westbound ramps at both interchanges will also be resurfaced.

State highway 27 will be completed using a full closure from Avon Rd. to River Rd. and flagging operations/ single lane closures from

Icon/Idyllview Ave. to Avon Rd. The I-90 eastbound & westbound ramps will be completed at night under a full closure. Traffic will utilize signed detour routes on I-90/STH 16/STH 71 to navigate around construction while STH 27 and I-90 ramps are in full closure.

The work, which will be done by Mathy Construction, will include asphaltic surface milling, rubbilizing, hot mix asphalt pavement, base aggregate, guardrail replacement, pavement marking, concrete deck overlays, joint repair, earthwork and new traffic signals.

The work will provide an improved riding surface, upgraded guardrail, interchange safety enhancements, and structural improvements.

State highway 16 project will be completed before work starts on State highway 27 project. State highway 27 cannot start before July 17th.



Firefighters battle a blaze as smoke billows from inside a home near Warrens. The fire also totaled a vehicle at the scene. Contributed photos

Warrens area fire causes serious damage

Firefighters from the Town of Lincoln Fire Department responded to a fire Wednesday, April 27.

They were dispatched to 2832 Crescent Road, Warrens, for a report of a van that was on fire that was close to a house and a second vehicle. When firefighters arrived the house was fully engulfed with another nearby structure and vehicles at risk.

One individual at the residence was transported via ambulance due to burn injuries.

Exterior fire suppression

operations started immediately. Due to structural components and fire load at the home, along with close proximity of other structures, efforts to contain the blaze were unsuccessful.

A house, three sheds/outbuildings and two vehicles were a total loss due to the fire. Forty firefighters spent approximately seven and one half hours on the scene fighting the blaze and hot spots in the buildings.

Providing mutual aid for the TLFD was Tomah Fire Department, Oakdale Fire

Department, Sparta Fire Protection District and Fort McCoy Fire Department.

Volk Field Fire Department responded with a portable air pack fill station. A portable pump site to shuttle water was set up by the Cutler Fire Department nearby. Tenders from Warrens, Oakdale, Tomah, and Cutler shuttled water from the pump sight to the fire scene.

Hixton Fire Department provided a change of quarters at the Warrens station to cover the remainder of the Town of Lincoln Fire district.

Tomah Area Ambulance Service provided medical care and a rehab station for the firefighters.

Along with local departments who provided mutual aid, TLFD chief Mike Morphey extended thanks to the Wisconsin DNR, Monroe County 9-1-1 Communications Center, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Oakdale Electric Cooperative and Johnson Excavating for immediate response and assistance on the scene.

Tomah Health Foundation nonevent supports future health care students

Officials with the Tomah Health Community Foundation are enthusiastic about a special event designed to support future health care professionals.

For the last 14 years, the foundation has held its nonevent fundraising effort that has raised more than \$75,000 to support future health care providers.

"When this first started our nonevent, we saw it as an opportunity to do something a little different, while continuing the work of the hospital foundation," said Foundation president Pete Reichardt. "Our nonevent guarantees that you don't have to worry about showing up to an event; all you have to do is consider a donation for a great cause that benefits our future health care."

Reichardt said instead of a traditional fundraising banquet, a mailing has been sent to area businesses, residents and friends of the foundation seeking support for the fictitious affair.

Reichardt said the foundation's program has special importance to future health care. "Over the years the organization has awarded more than \$75,000 to support students studying for a future health care career," he said. "We truly appreciate everyone that supports the effort and are always looking for additional businesses and individuals to get behind our project." He added that the foundation's annual educational scholarship program funds three \$1,500 scholarships to students planning a health care career.

Reichardt said the foundation continues to support area not for profit wellness programs throughout Monroe County through events, including its annual Golf Outing scheduled Aug. 5. He said anyone who did not get an official nonevent mailing, but may be interested in taking part should visit www.tomahhealth.org for a donation form. Donations are accepted thru May 20.

There will be a celebration of the return of bikes to the Elroy-Sparta State Trail on Saturday, May 7, at the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce building, 111 Milwaukee Street, featuring a variety of activities throughout the day. Although people are welcome to use the state trails throughout the year, the Chamber celebration follows the annual opening of the three tunnels on the Elroy-Sparta Trail.

The day's activities begin at 8:30 AM with homemade breakfast sandwiches being served up by the Sparta Ambassadors as a fundraiser. Have a quick tune up by Speed's Bicycle Shop. Then take advantage of a free shuttle service from Sparta to Norwalk at 9:00 AM. To be sure you have a seat on the shuttle, call the chamber office for a reservation. Following the bike ride back to Sparta, the ceremonial bike trail ribbon cutting takes place at 2:00 PM.

Throughout the day, the public is invited to visit the vendor booths which will include IUP, a bicycle rack company, Bike Wisconsin out of Madison, the Monroe County Nutrition Coalition with the Monroe County



The BMX stunt show returns for this year's Rails to Trail Celebration on Saturday, May 7. Herald file photo.

Dairy Promotions and Dairy Breakfast will be making bike blender smoothies again this year, the Deke Slayton Museum, the Monroe County History Room, and the return of the BMX Stunt Show at 11:30 and 1:00 PM. Learn about trout fishing in the area, and the NEW Friends of the Trail group and how you can be more involved. Additional vendors are welcome, but must contact the Chamber office at 608-269-4123 to reserve a spot.

Be sure to walk through the collection of bikes that will be on display throughout the day. Don't forget to pick your

favorite. Grab a brat from Dub's and wash it down with a beverage from the BEER Shop. Follow that with a tasty treat made by one of our local bakers. Snag a photo with Ben Bikin'. Stop inside the office to purchase some of our BRAND NEW Sparta swag. Hang around for music and our official tunnel door ribbon cutting ceremony. Play some games with your kids before you call it the end of the day.

Daily and seasonal trail passes are available for purchase at the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce during regular business hours and after May 2nd, 2022. Cyclists

16 and older are required to have a state trail pass. A daily pass costs \$5.00 and a season's pass costs \$25.00.

The Elroy-Sparta State Trail is the first rails to trails conversation in the United States. An estimated 60,000 people utilize the trail annually. Sparta is also the junction of the Elroy-Sparta Trail and the La Crosse River State Trail.

For more information on the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce's services, activities, and programs, please visit: <http://www.bikesparta.com/> or call (608) 269-4123.

April celebrated the Month Of The Military Child

By JOHN GESSNER
 Guest Contributor

As April draws to a close, so does the Month of the Military Child, but certainly not their service and sacrifices as they support their military parents. Held annually at military posts and communities worldwide, the month recognizes and honors the service of over two million children of military families, the youngest heroes of the families who serve. In addressing Sparta and Tomah School District meetings, Fort McCoy Garrison Commander COL Michael Poss said, "This year's theme was military children and youth, standing strong and proud." He thanked the school districts for their great partnership with Fort McCoy and the military families. Thorough the month, Fort McCoy has conducted numerous activities to honor military children. Garrison Command

Sergeant Major Raquel DiDomenico stated that, "Fort McCoy is very fortunate to have a great partnership with the Tomah, Sparta and other area school districts. This demonstrates tremendous support to our military children and families." Attending area schools along side of their civilian family friends, these military children are just like any other young students. They attend classes, participate in sports and activities, and live their youthful dreams. But, there is another aspect that defines a military child. Deputy Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Chad Maynard defines this as "resiliency." The average military family moves every 2-3 years. The average military child change schools 6-9 times in their K-12 years. This means that at least one-third of friends move on every year. This can lead to sorrowful farewells but it also means that lifelong friendships

exist all over the world. If you ask a military child where are they from, they typically will say, "what tour or timeframe are you speaking of?"

When military families are stationed overseas, military children normally attend Department of Defense Schools (DoDS). These schools have the same educational requirements as stateside schools with the added benefit of worldwide cultural experiences and language classes. Many of these students return to the United States with a working knowledge of the language and customs of the countries where their parents served. In one such case, serving in Germany, Command Sergeant Major O'Neal's young son was a product of the DoDS school system. This young man later went on to be a professional basketball player in the NBA. We know him as Shaq O'Neill, who spent his middle and high

school years in Germany.

Beyond relocations, military deployments can last from 6 months to well over a year. For the military child, this means the possibility of their parent missing a year's worth of holidays, birthdays and special events such as graduations. With the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, hundreds of military children have lost a parent due to wartime experiences. Some military members have never met the child they left behind. Being a child and not understanding why or where they go is sometimes difficult to explain. To have strength, courage and faith at such a young age is one of the most admirable things qualities of a military child. Not only in April, but throughout the year, we honor these young people for all the sacrifices they too have to make. The army calls it "Army Strong" and they live up to that motto.

Names released from death investigation

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office was investigating the death of two people on the morning of Friday, April 22.

Shortly after 6:00am the Monroe County 911 Communication Center received a phone call about a deceased person at an address on Leixcon Ave in the Town of Ridgeville. The caller indicated that they had caused the death of that person and planned to do the same to themselves. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the Monroe County Combined

Tactical Unit responded to the scene. Once inside the residence, the two victims were located in the house.

There was not believed to be any danger to the public. The decedents in this case are Wayne and Konnie Bach.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the Monroe County 911 Communications Center, Monroe County Combined Tactical Unit, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wilton Police Department, and the Monroe County Medical Examiner.



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Rummage Sale, 3 miles out of Sparta, 11719 State Highway 21. Tires, fireplace insert, clothes & lots more. May 6 - 7, 8a - 4p.

HUGE CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE! Sat., May 7, 7am-1pm. New Hope Fellowship, 211 N Black River St. In Jones Plaza next to Papa Murphy's. Everything priced to sell. Books 25 cents each, clothes fill a bag for \$1! Two huge projector screens, welcome desk, tv, play kitchen + food, toys, games, home decor, housewares, high chair, bouncer, kids table + chairs, winter gear, and much more.

GARAGE SALE: 118 Sarah St. Thurs. May 5, 3-6, Fri. May 6, 8-3, Sat. May 7, 8-12. Plus size women's clothes up to 2X, jeans size 16, capris, shoes, men's jeans, boys clothes, 6-10 1/2. Jewelry, books, kitchen items, purses, knick-knacks, toys. Remote control crane & John Deere Gator, tools, hardware, 2 wrought iron patio chairs, file cabinet, wooden garbage can holder, trunk. Lots of misc.

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CLINIC COORDINATOR: St. Clare Health Mission of Monroe County is seeking a part-time (15-20 hours/week; flexible hours) clinic coordinator to manage volunteers for the twice monthly evening clinics and provide overall administrative support for clinic operations. High School Education or equivalent required. Experience in health care preferred, not required. Call the clinic 608-366-5343 for application information.

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Community journalism is still alive and well in Monroe County Wisconsin!

We are in search of an **EDITOR/REPORTER** for our twice-weekly family-owned publication, the prime media source for Monroe County including Sparta and Tomah, situated around Ft. McCoy. The position directs the news end of our operation, writes stories, takes pictures and directs pagination and website efforts while managing two full-time staff members and correspondents for our award-winning products. The editions are even printed and designed in-house! Great benefits and solid operation that is growing with over 5,000 circulation.

If you're a proven community journalist, like living in a recreational paradise, and love getting involved in the community you live, please apply.

Contact Publisher/Owner Greg Evans

at Evans Print & Media Group
1302 River Road, Sparta, WI 54656
Call (608) 269-9797

or email greg@monroecountyherald.com with your resume

90 HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE STAFF: Sparta Parks and Recreation is hiring for seasonal parks maintenance staff. Must be 16 or older with a valid drivers license. Job includes ball field prep, mowing, trimming, general repairs and upkeep of park facilities with a flexible schedule. To apply contact Brad Gilbertson, Parks and Recreation Director, parkdir@spartawisconsin.org or 608-269-6322

HIGHWAY OPERATIONS ASSISTANT: Do you have experience operating motorized equipment and enjoy being outside? If so, Monroe County's Highway Department might have the job for you! We're hiring for a full-time Operations Assistant. Successful candidates will have the ability to operate dump trucks, tractor mowers, hand-held power equipment, etc., under varying climatic conditions and following oral and written instructions. Wisconsin Commercial Driver's License, minimum Class B at time of application is preferred. Our Operations Assistant operates motorized equipment in the maintenance, repair, and construction of highways and rights-of-ways. Considerable overtime may be required especially during the winter months. Starting salary for this position is \$18.00/hr. with an approved wage increase to \$19.87/hr. effective June 26, 2022. Monroe County also offers a remarkable benefits package to include health, dental, term life, Wisconsin Retirement System, and more. A Monroe County application and addendum are required. Application and required addendum are available on our website: <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/personnel/current-job-openings/> or can be obtained at the Personnel Department located at 124 N. Court Street, Sparta. Those interviewed may be placed on an eligibility list for future vacancies in the Highway Department. If you have further questions, please contact Personnel at 608-269-8719. **Applications will be accepted until the positions have been filled.** AA/EOE

SERVICES 120

SHIPPING SERVICES: Need to mail a package? Large or small. You can ship it UPS or Fed Ex right here in Sparta or drop off your pre-paid packages at Evans Print & Media Group, open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays at 1302 River Road, Sparta, 608-269-9797.

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MISC. 130

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LEGAL NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given by the Town of Little Falls, Monroe County, Wisconsin, that it will receive bids for **Asphaltic Chip Seal Surfacing** for Pavement Maintenance and Preservation until 7 p.m. on Wednesday May 11th, 2022. Bids will be opened and reviewed at the regular monthly town board meeting. Bid specifications will be available at the town shop, 4124 Cty Hwy I Sparta WI (608-272-3175). Bidders interested in bidding may also receive specifications by emailing cataractshop@yahoo.com. Please ensure that bid envelopes are marked with "Sealed Bid" on the outside. The Town of Little Falls reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, or accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the town.
Cassie Schober
Town of Little Falls Clerk
4/25, 5/2 WNAJLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 22 PR 37

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
Elmer J. Holm
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 6-6-1941 and date of death 3-2-2022, was domiciled in Monroe County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 6500 Cty Hwy BC, Sparta, WI 54656.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 29, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Monroe County Courthouse, 112 S. Court Street, Sparta, Wisconsin, Room 2300.

Diane Berendes
Probate Registrar
April 13, 2022

Dan Arndt
101 W Oak St
PO Box 349
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-1200
Bar Number 1008016
4/18, 25, 5/2 WNAJLP

Public Notice:

As part of the federal requirement pursuant to Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA) of 2008 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), CP wishes to inform the general public of our intentions to install two (2) 60-foot Positive Train Control tilt towers within the CP TOMAH Subdivision in Monroe County, Wisconsin. The towers will be installed in disturbed land along the railroad right-of-way. **Tower #23628** will be located at railroad mile post 236.28 north of US Highway 12 and northeast of the intersection of US Highway 12 and Griffin Road, east of Tomah, Wisconsin 54660. **Tower #24385** will be located at railroad milepost 243.85 north of Flag Avenue and west of the intersection of Flag Avenue and County Road M, northwest of Tomah and west of Tunnell City, Wisconsin 54660. The towers will include antennae for Positive Train Control (PTC) applications along with other railroad communication requirements. If members of the public would like to submit comments regarding the potential for the poles to cause adverse effects to historic properties, they may do so by contacting CP's Community Connect Line (Tel: 1-800-766-7912; community_connect@cpr.ca). Comments must be received within 30 days of the publication of this Notice.
Any other questions or comments regarding CP implementation of Positive Train Control or ongoing operations can be directed to:
Media
Breanne Feigel
Tel: (403) 319-3932
Media Line: 1-855-242-3674
E-Mail: breanne_feigel@cpr.ca
General Public
Community Connect Line
Tel: 1-800-766-7912
E-Mail: community_connect@cpr.ca
5/2 WNAJLP

PUBLIC NOTICE OF OPEN BOOK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town of Leon will hold OPEN BOOK will be held after the reassessment for the Town of Leon has been completed later in the year. Timely notification and posting will be made at that time.
NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW TOWN OF LEON Monroe County, State of Wisconsin
Board of Review will meet on the 11th day of May, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall for the purpose of calling the Board of Review into session during the 30-day period beginning on the 2nd Monday of May, pursuant to Wis. Statutes Sec. 70.47(1). Due to the fact that the assessment roll is not completed at this time, a date for Board of Review and Open Book will be determined at a later date and appropriately posted.
Notices for the Open Book and Board of Review will be posted at least 15 days prior to the anticipated dates scheduled above. This notice meets the requirements pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes for adjournment of Board of Review to a later date, based on the assessment roll not being completed at this time.
Kristy Brown, Clerk
Town of Leon
5/2 WNAJLP

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(608) 269-9797

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 22-PR-032

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
DAVID L. GRIFFIN
DOD: 11/30/2021
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 8/14/1943 and date of death 11/30/2021, was domiciled in Monroe County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 302 W Clifton Street, Tomah, WI 54660.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 29, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Monroe County Courthouse, 112 S. Court Street, Sparta, Wisconsin, Room 2300.

Diane Berendes
Probate Registrar
April 7, 2022

Katelyn K. Doyle
205 Fifth Avenue S., Suite 600
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-784-5678
Bar Number 1104693
4/18, 25, 5/2 WNAJLP

NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME FROM THOMAS B. EARLE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TRUST

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that all applications for distribution of the income from the THOMAS B. EARLE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TRUST for 2022 must be mailed or delivered to Tomah Area School District, 129 W. Clifton Street, Tomah, WI 54660 by June 1, 2022. Applications received after June 1, 2022, will not be considered.
Applications are available at the Tomah Area School District Office, 129 W. Clifton Street, Tomah, WI, during business hours. Instructions regarding filing are on the application.
No application will be reconsidered in any subsequent year. Applicants must file annually.
Distribution will be in accordance with the terms of the Thomas B. Earle Charitable Foundation Trust as recommended by the Distribution Committee and approved by the Trustees of the Thomas B. Earle Charitable Foundation Trust.
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE OF THE THOMAS B. EARLE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TRUST
5/2, 5 WNAJLP

NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME FROM THE FRANK G ANDRES CHARITABLE TRUST

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that all applications for distribution of the income from the FRANK G ANDRES CHARITABLE TRUST for the year ending June 30, 2022, must be mailed to POST OFFICE BOX 753, Tomah, Wisconsin 54660 and be post marked no later than midnight on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. Applications received after Tuesday May 31, 2022, will not be considered.
Applications are available at Bank First in Tomah, WI and CCF Bank in Tomah, WI during banking hours. Instructions regarding the filing of the application are on the applications.
No application will be reconsidered in any subsequent year. Applicants must file annually.
Only the annual income of the Frank G Andres Charitable Trust may be distributed by the Trustees. Distributions will be made as of June 30, 2022.
All distributions shall be made for charitable, scientific or educational purposes for use within the City of Tomah or the immediate vicinity thereof. Distributions may be made only to the City of Tomah or a political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin within the above described geographic area exclusively for public purposes, or for the benefit of one or more organizations within the above mentioned geographic area, which qualify as non-profit and tax exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.
Trustees of the Frank G Andres Charitable Trust.
4/21, 25, 28 5/2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23 WNAJLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 22-PR-032

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
DAVID L. GRIFFIN
DOD: 11/30/2021
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 8/14/1943 and date of death 11/30/2021, was domiciled in Monroe County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 302 W Clifton Street, Tomah, WI 54660.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 29, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Monroe County Courthouse, 112 S. Court Street, Sparta, Wisconsin, Room 2300.

Diane Berendes
Probate Registrar
April 7, 2022

Katelyn K. Doyle
205 Fifth Avenue S., Suite 600
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-784-5678
Bar Number 1104693
5/2, 9, 16 WNAJLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 22-PR-1

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
MARK S. GABOWER
Deceased.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 6-16-1955 and date of death 11-8-2021, was domiciled in Monroe County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 30582 Horizon Avenue, Camp Douglas, WI 54618.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 29, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Monroe County Courthouse, 112 S. Court Street, Sparta, Wisconsin, Room 2300.

Diane Berendes
Probate Registrar
April 14, 2022

Attorney Dennis Marcou
1206 Caldonia Street
La Crosse, WI 54603
608-784-8100
Bar Number 1011500
4/25, 5/2, 9 WNAJLP

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R	O	P	E	A	B	L	E	H	O
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

8	5	7	6	1	4	3	9	2
6	3	1	7	2	9	5	4	8
2	4	9	8	5	3	6	1	7
1	7	3	9	4	5	8	2	6
5	6	2	1	8	7	4	3	9
4	9	8	2	3	6	1	7	5
3	8	4	5	7	2	9	6	1
7	1	6	4	9	8	2	5	3
9	2	5	3	6	1	7	8	4

Sparta VFW to distribute poppies starting this weekend

By KYLE EVANS
Interim Editor

Newly elected Sparta Mayor, Kevin Riley, proclaimed May 2022 as Poppy month last Wednesday. The reasoning behind this, is that the General R.B. McCoy Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2112, of Sparta each year provides the service of reminding the public of the sacrifice of lives from all wars. To remind the public, the VFW distributes red poppies, which stems from World War I. There were red poppies that bloomed all over Europe following World War I.

According to VFW Post Commander Rick Coffin, millions of Americans have served in the United States Armed Forces, and millions more have lost their lives in battle to preserve and defend the freedoms and quality of life enjoyed by people throughout the U.S. We must be reminded of the price of war and the debt owed to those who have died fighting for our country.

The poppies are made by disabled veterans and



Picture from left to right: Sparta VFW Auxillary President Laurie Coffin, City of Sparta Mayor Kevin Riley, and Sparta VFW Post Commander Rick Coffin. Contributed photo.

distributed to local VFW posts via the National VFW.

The local VFW will be out at various locations in Sparta

every Friday and Saturday mornings throughout the month of May, starting May 6. Any donations collected go to

support veterans. All money collected locally will stay with the local VFW.

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Park Bank proudly holds the award as Wisconsin's SBA Largest Volume Lender, in banks of same size. We have won this award 20 years in a row and strive to continue to offer area small businesses the financial backing needed to make our local economy strong.



A Fort McCoy Prescribed Burn Team member lights a prescribed burn along the railroad tracks on South Post at Fort McCoy, Wis. (Photo by Scott Sturkol, Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office)

Prescribed burn operations underway at Fort McCoy

By Scott Sturkol
Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office

Team members conduct a prescribed burn April 25, 2022, on South Post at Fort McCoy, Wis. Burns will continue as necessary, as long as weather conditions are ideal.

Prescribed burns improve wildlife habitat, control invasive plant species, restore and maintain native plant communities, and reduce wildfire potential.

Prescribed burns benefit the environment in many ways and are one of the tools we can use on a large scale to improve our wild habitat, said Fort McCoy Forester Charles Mentzel with the Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch.

Mentzel said prescribed burns help set back invasive species, and they burn up their seed banks. Burns also give native species an opportunity to compete against some of the non-native species, as many native species depend on fire to help stimulate them and set back non-native species.

The post prescribed burn team includes personnel with the Fort McCoy Directorate of Emergency Services Fire Department; Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division Natural Resources Branch; Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; and the Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, under a cooperative agreement with the post.

Bangor SD exploring childcare options

The Bangor School District is exploring options to provide or support family childcare, wrap around care, and summer programming needs. To make sure that the district is focusing their efforts in the right places, they will be hosting a childcare community engagement session on Thursday, May 12 at 6:00 pm. The session will take place in the Middle/High School Cafetorium. Any family or community members interested in joining this conversation are welcome to attend.

sure that they hear directly from families about their needs and challenges, as well as from the community that may have ideas for potential solutions. The Bangor School District is incredibly fortunate to be a part of a small but growing rural community where people come together for the good of our children. We look forward to this conversation and thank you in advance for your participation."

If you have any questions or are not able to attend but would like to contribute to the conversation, please reach out to Mr. Johnson at Bangor Elementary, or to Dr. Brokopp in the District office.

**WE SHIP
SPEE-DEE**
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AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE
907 Kilbourn Ave.
Tomah, WI 54660
May 12, 13, 14, 19, 20
at 7:00pm
as well as the afternoons of
May 14, 15, 22
at 1:00 pm.
Notes that there will be
TWO performances on May 14.
There will not be a show on the evening of May 21
Adults \$20
Students \$10
Tickets: T-F 10am-3pm
at Box Office
Tickets can be purchased online at www.tomahact.com as well as at the ACT box office starting on May 9 for the two week duration of the play. Box office hours will be from 10am-3pm on Monday through Friday. You may also call us at (608)374-7469 for tickets. If nobody is there to take your call, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA
Presents MARRYING WALT
A Comedy Written by James Danek,
Directed by Sharon Larkin; Assisted by Lori Ripley
The play includes unpredictable senior citizens, their unique offspring, nosy neighbors and broken toasters. Director Sharon Larkin has assembled a stellar cast including Jerry Fushianes and Dr. Bridget Owens as Mary and Walt. ACT newcomer Natalie Divyak plays the neighbor Jackie while Shannon Wilcox and Amy Kleepsies play the characters of Lory and Randy. Father Tom is played by Stuart Beverly and the taxi driver will be Pete Reichardt. Audiences will not want to miss what promises to be one of the most hilarious comedies ever performed at ACT. This play is guaranteed to help you forget your troubles and be taken to a world of mayhem, mistaken identities, and matrimony.

TOMAH Chamber & Visitors Center
TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOB & CAREER FAIR
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12 PM - 5 PM
TOMAH HIGH SCHOOL
901 LINCOLN AVE
Students Only
12 pm-3:20 pm
Student/Parent Power Hour
3:30 pm-4:30 pm
Open to the Public
3:30 pm-5 pm
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER A BOOTH
Tomah Chamber & Visitors Center
608-372-2166 | info@tomahwisconsin.com
Visit or Register
bit.ly/thscareerfair22
STUDENTS
Gain valuable knowledge of what employers are looking for in candidates.
Apply for summer, afterschool, and post graduation positions.
Learn about the opportunities available for high wage, high demand positions.
Gain knowledge about a career field or pathway.
Students are encouraged to:
• Ask questions about what it is like to work in career fields of interest.
• Dress for success.
• Bring copies of your resume!
BUSINESSES
Accept applications and resumes onsite to fill immediate vacancies.
Build your talent pipeline by making valuable connections with youth.
Showcase the scope of services your business offers and what day-to-day operations entail.
Connect face to face with prospective employees; sometimes you don't get the whole picture with just a resume.
Learn about employer resources available through various workforce agencies.
Businesses are encouraged to:
• Register as soon as possible to get the maximum exposure for your organization.
• Promote your participation in the event on your website, your Facebook page, and within your business.
• Bring equipment or tools to demonstrate what you do in your business.
JOB SEEKERS
Meet hiring representatives in person.
List of businesses attending will be outlined on the Facebook Event.
Resume reviews and job search assistance.
Mobile computer lab will be available to apply right away onsite.
Job seekers are encouraged to:
• Research employers before the event.
• Dress for success.
• Bring copies of your resume!