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# MONROE COUNTY HERALD

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VOLUME 164 | NUMBER 82

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

ONE SECTION | 12 PAGES

## SASD sets \$7.14 mill rate for the upcoming budget meeting

By JAYME BAHL  
Staff Writer

A large portion of the 3-hour long Sparta Area School District (SASD) board of education meeting, on Monday, September 25th, 2023, was spent on discussing and setting a \$7.14 hypothetical mill rate, in preparation of the District Budget Hearing, which is scheduled for October 19th, 2023. The board ended in a disconnected, 5 for, and 2 against, vote, with Amy Lopez upholding a lower rate and Todd Wells, in another opposing direction, standing for a higher rate. Anthony Scholze, Colin Burns-Gilbert, Ashley Berendes, John Hendricks, and Pat McKenna held similar rate proposals, fluctuating under the current \$7.34 mill rate the Sparta area school district taxpayers provide. Leah Hauser, director of business services and building/departments budgets, will be using a set \$7.14 mill rate, during the finance department's presentations at the upcoming Budget Hearing.



**Amy Lopez, SASD board of education clerk, was in favor of a lower mill rate, in anticipation of the school district's upcoming budget meeting, set for October 19th, 2023. Herald Photo by Jayme Bahl.**



**Todd Wells, SASD board of education director, was in favor of a higher mill rate of \$7.59, for Leah Hauser, director of finance, to present at SASD upcoming budget meeting. Herald Photo by Jayme Bahl.**

taxes will decrease, because it is based on other factors, as well."

Hauser simplified that the total school levy is made up of three "buckets"; revenue limit tax levy, referendum-approved debt levy and community service levy.

"The revenue limit levy is calculated by what our total revenue limit is or net dollar amount per student, plus whatever we are allocated from the state," Hauser explained. "The debt levy is our required debt payments, as well as the amount we choose to defease," continued Hauser. "This is the levy that we have the most control over, as far as how it impacts our mill rate. Then, the final levy is the community service levy. We are thinking a revenue limit levy somewhere in the \$4.8 million range," Hauser

reported to the board. So, our mill rate last year was \$7.34," Hauser reminded the board. "For the sake of discussion, continuing with a mill rate of \$7.34, due to the increase in equalized property values, that means that we could increase our total tax levy, if we so chose, and still maintain the same mill rate."

"Equalized property values, we estimate that they increased 9.2%," Hauser announced. "Again, for a starting point of discussion, we would have the option, should we choose, to keep the mill rate the same as last year, \$7.34. As mentioned earlier, we could lower the mill rate, to as low as \$6.76, and still keep the same defeasance amount we did last year."

Scholze then opened the

**'SASD'**  
cont. on pg. 5



The cast of Newsies waiting for Director, Skyler Erickson to yell "Action." At any moment acting would give way to an all-out dance performance. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

## EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it!

### Newsies production set for November at SHS

By BENNY MAILMAN  
Editor

Once again, Sparta Senior High School is bringing a high-level performance to the stage this Fall. The SHS cast of Newsies will begin their series of performances on November 10th, under the direction of Skyler Erickson and musical direction of Camie Schneider. With a cast and crew that totals 60 strong, even rehearsals hold the energies of an electrical storm on the high seas.

Other major contributions

to the production of Newsies include the Choreographer - Jen TeBeest; set construction - Chris Anderson/Wil Calkins; set Design - Pat and Monica Olbert and Skyler Erickson; costumes - Irina Christel; and Orchestra Director - Andrew Nicholson.

#### The Lead

The lead for Newsies is Parker Calkins, a sophomore at Sparta Senior High. His character is Jack Kelly. Calkins has been in plays before, but never as the lead role. On what changes with being the lead, Calkins told the Herald, "I have been in shows before, but this is a lot more work, but I am having

so much fun with it. You have to have passion [for the lead role] and I feel that I do. It is an incredible experience."

Calkins informed the Herald about the tap-dancing classes the cast took over the summer, preceding their camp. "We put in a lot of work over the summer, especially with the tap-dancing classes. It really helped us get to where we needed to be. Tap involves a lot of movement and weight displacement, which is difficult to learn in a short period of time. The fact that we had these lessons before our camp was incredibly advantageous for us, as a cast."

Calkins went on to explain **'EXTRA! EXTRA!'** cont. on pg. 4

## Sparta Daycare permanently closes as investigations continue

By KYLE EVANS  
Staff Writer

Early last week, families of Great Beginnings Daycare in Sparta, received a letter from the owners of the daycare stating: "After a lot of thought and much regret, we have decided to permanently close Great Beginnings Day Care. The investigation is closed, and allegations were determined to be unsubstantiated."

According to Sparta Police Chief, Emilee Nottestad, "The allegations were not determined to be unsubstantiated, but due to the involvement of juveniles, we want to be sensitive about how we release information and that parents were all notified of the outcome of the investigation in terms of charges, first."

The Sparta Police Department sent out this release on Thursday afternoon,

in regard to the investigation: "The Sparta Police Department recently closed its investigation involving the Great Beginnings Daycare, located at 313 Central Avenue in the City of Sparta. The investigation began following a report by a parent of possible sexual misconduct at the daycare.

At this time, no adults are being recommended for charges. Due to the age of a juvenile offender, the juvenile

will be referred through Youth Justice and no further information will be released.

Assisting in this case and also conducting investigations were Monroe County Human Services and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. The status of their investigations are unknown at this time."

Any further details on the investigations will be released if it becomes available.



Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

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## Key to Comfort teams with Lennox for Feel the Love program

By BENNY MAILMAN  
Editor

On the morning of October 7th, The Key to Comfort Technicians met early, with owner, Cindy Kreibich, at the home of Jenny Koehler, to install a brand-new Lennox furnace and air conditioner, along with a new air filter and thermostat. The Key to Comfort crew was participating in the annual "Feel the Love" program. Jenny Koehler met the qualifications to be nominated for the program. Jenny received all new equipment, as well as having it installed, at no cost to her. "I am so thankful to be a recipient of the Feel the Love Program. I sincerely appreciate having been nominated." Jenny Koehler stated.

Lennox partners with local dealers, to provide the best product for each recipient. Every donated unit comes complete with an extended warranty and Feel the Love dealers donate their time and labor to complete the



**Pictured Left to Right: The Key to Comfort Technicians Seth Kenyon, Monte Aspenson, recipient – Jenny Koehler, Weber Mentzel, and Brody Mikkelson. Photo contributed by Cindy Kreibich, owner of The Key to Comfort.**

installation and make the program a success. Recipients also have a long-term impact to the environment and energy bills, as recipients' energy usage can be reduced by approximately 30% to 40%. Local dealers can help monitor the thermostat notifications and are alerted of issues, even before the homeowner is aware. "What a peace of mind this gives me!" Jenny enthusiastically exclaimed. Feel the Love was launched in 2009 (then called "Heat Up Wisconsin"), as a Lennox

local sales initiative, to support deserving families and individuals, who would benefit from newly installed heating equipment, at no cost. "I understand that in order to qualify, a person needs to be reaching out and giving to others, putting others first, volunteering in their community. To me, that's just how we should be living our lives anyway — being an encouragement to others. Do for others the same things you hope that they would do for you."

"So, I wasn't expecting to receive something back." "Hebrews 13:16 "...do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Since then, the program spread across North America, changing the lives of countless individuals in the process. "Thank you Lennox and TheKeytoComfort, for your help in making sure that my needs are being met, so I can continue to do what I can do in our community."



**Toni Anderson-Granahan (right) plays Thelma Breckenridge, in the upcoming play, All Because of Agatha, being put on by the Sparta Area Theater and Arts Guild. Granahan has been performing with the group since 1986, when she was still in High School. Pamela VanCleaf (left) plays Joan O'Hara, and Randy Pribbernow (center) plays Duff O'Hara. The play is being directed by Nancy Bell. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.**

## All Because of Agatha hits the stage in Sparta

By BENNY MAILMAN  
Editor

On October 20th, at 7:30 p.m., the Sparta Area Theater and Actors Guild will be presenting the play, *All Because of Agatha*. Written by Johnathon Troy, this production is being directed by Nancy Bell and co-directed by Edith Taylor. With a cast of just under a dozen, the show will take place at the Eagle's Club, which holds an address of 9901 WI-21, Sparta, Wisconsin. The club is set back on a gravel road, which splits Dub's Pub and The Zone drink and eateries.

Director Nancy Bell has directed five plays with the Sparta Area Theater and Actors Guild and has acted in a few of those. Nancy told the Herald that she belongs to the Eagles Club and that they are always in need of volunteers. Being a member of both groups, Bell had the vision of the two entities being mutually beneficial for each other. For five years, the Eagles Club allows the performances to take place at their facility and in turn reaps the benefits of volunteers from the guild. "I could see where the need for the theater group meshed well with the Eagles Club needing volunteers," Bell explained. "I made the suggestion, and there was a vote, which had a positive outcome, and it has snowballed from there." Bell explained that the volunteer hours helps the Eagles Club out with their Lumberjack Breakfasts, Rendezvous, and their Friday-Night fish fries.

Director Bell described the play as being funny, and the fact that the show centers around a witch, right around Halloween, is just coincidence. "Agatha [the witch], played by Ashley Valkenburg, was a practicing witch, around 250 years ago. She was eventually burned at the stake, right where the current house is built, that the play takes place in. So, Agatha has haunted the house, ever since that time. She only comes back once a year, on the anniversary date of November 22nd, which was when she

was burned at the stake — and that date is coming up." Bell continued, "It is a really cute story, where the witch does not want to give up the house to the new couple and they do not want to give it up to her. The timing is perfect, with Halloween approaching."

Toni Anderson-Granahan, who plays Thelma Breckenridge in the production, is a seasoned professional with the group. She has been performing with the guild since 1986, when she was still in High School. Other current role, Granahan says that the character is definitely not her. "She [Thelma] is intelligent, elegant, but kind of flirtatious. Her personality is really big," said Granahan.

Granahan's first lead role came when she was a junior in high school. "I played a young Asian girl and that was quite interesting, trying to get down the mannerisms and the intonations." Granahan does a character sheet for each role she plays. "I personally give my characters a name if they do not have one already, I assign them an age; where they are from; how many siblings they have; and are their parents alive or dead — divorced or married. All of this helps to develop the character a lot deeper than just reading through the words."

Granahan spoke to becoming a character, like Thelma, where one has to really step outside of their normal personality, in order to become a louder personality. "For the most part, you try to be as big as you can, and if you go too far, the director will reign you in. You try to always go as big as you can because the audience will remember you and your performance then."

The play runs the last two weekends in October. On October 20th and 21st, the show starts at 7:30 p.m.. On Sunday, October 22nd, the show is at 2 p.m.

On October 27th and 28th, the shows are at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, October 29th, the show is at 2 p.m. If you have any questions, you can call 608-269-4364, or 608-377-4104.

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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. Halfprice 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. E-mail to mail@monroecountyherald.com to place your item.

Tuesday each month, 6:00 pm St. Teresa Parish, West Salem.

THE SPARTA GARDEN CLUB meets montly (except in January and February) the 3rd Wednesday of the month at both 1:30pm and 5:30pm at the Sparta Barney Center, 1000 East Montgomery St., featuring a speaker or program. Visitors welcome.

The Tri-County Chapter #1386 of NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees) meets monthly (March thru November) the 3rd Thursday of the month at Perkins Restaurant, 1015 E. McCoy Blvd. (Hwy. 21), Tomah, WI. Lunch is available at 11:30AM—order off the menu. The meeting starts at approximately 11:45AM. All members, their guests, and interested retired federal employees are welcome.

CLASS OF 64 Breakfast will be the first Monday of the month unless its a holiday then it will be the second Monday, 9 a.m. at the Family Restaurant.

BANGOR VFW POST 8278 monthly meeting. 3rd Tuesday each month, 7:00 pm Legion clubrooms. New members welcome.

BANGOR AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 & LEGION AUXILIARY monthly meeting. 2nd Tuesday each month, 7:00 pm Legion clubrooms. New members welcome.

LADLES OF LOVE is providing meals Every Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta. Doors open at 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm to people in the community. All are welcome. Join us for a hot meal and conversation.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly, (TOPS) is not about dieting or selling a special food plan. We give support and tools to make lifetime changes. Join us Mondays from 4:30-5:15 at the Sparta Methodist Church. Call Nila at 608-797-2784 with any questions.

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 the month at 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Park of Sparta, via the

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 9438 MIDDLE RIDGE - BANGOR - WEST SALEM monthly meeting. 1st

Osbourne Avenue entry; 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 9:30 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 Canasta. 1st Thursday of the month 1:00 p.m. and 3rd Saturday pot luck & cards, 11:30 a.m.

MEETINGS

The Monroe County Highway Department will meet on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 8:30am at the Monroe County Highway Administrative Building, 803 Washington Street, Sparta.

The Monroe County Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 9:00am at the Justice Center.

The Monroe County Solid Waste Management Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 5:30pm at the County Board Assembly Room, 112 S. Court Street, Sparta.

The Monroe County Finance Committee will meet on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 8:30am at the Justice Center.

The Sparta Area School Board of Education will have their Full Board meeting on October 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Meadowview Middle School.

HOROSCOPE

October 15-21, 2023

ARIES You'll feel on edge, and a particular event will encourage you to consider making life changes. In your career, a competing business will tempt you with an offer for better working conditions and opportunities for advancement.

TAURUS You'll take time to pamper yourself and indulge in a few small pleasures. You'll negotiate rates to achieve a settlement that will improve both your work and personal well-being.

GEMINI At work, you'll have to face numerous urgent and complex situations. These experiences may turn out to be beneficial, as they'll give you skills that will serve you throughout your career.

CANCER Your pride will be tested. Fortunately, you'll have an opportunity to show yourself in a positive light. If you act for the right reasons, you can't go wrong. Share accurate, useful information.

LEO You'll have some small family chores to handle. You may also have to stay at home for part of the week, perhaps to keep an eye on some work or to wait for a late delivery.

VIRGO You may need to start multitasking. The telephone may ring incessantly. Maintain harmony by avoiding criticism when you're with your significant other - or anyone else, in fact.

LIBRA Be prudent with money and try to stick to your budget. Additional expenses related to home or family may arise. You'll need to exercise discipline with your young children.

SCORPIO As the cold, gloomy weather sets in, you'll feel the need to take care of your body. It would be wise to join a gym to incentivize you to exercise regularly.

SAGITTARIUS Rather than rushing into a decision, think twice. If you let yourself be carried by the current, it'll take you to your destination. Trust your instincts over the next few days.

CAPRICORN Take care when speaking, as you could appear foolish to more than one person. Fortunately, only your pride will be affected, and it'll help lighten a heavy atmosphere.

AQUARIUS Time is valuable. Try not to schedule too many appointments on the same day and run the risk of overlap. A vacation would be beneficial.

PISCES As the days get shorter, you'll look for an activity that will bring you intense joy. You'll find yourself infused with an energy that moves you to entertain yourself more often.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- OCTOBER 15 Keyshia Cole, Singer (42)
OCTOBER 16 Bryce Harper, Athlete (31)
OCTOBER 17 Eminem, Rapper (51)
OCTOBER 18 Zac Efron, Actor (36)
OCTOBER 19 Rebecca Ferguson, Actress (40)
OCTOBER 20 Snoop Dogg, Rapper (52)
OCTOBER 21 Glen Powell, Actor (35)

Return to Wittenberg

Return to Wittenberg will highlight church services at St. John's Lutheran Church, in rural Tomah, on Sunday, October 22nd. These historic services will celebrate the 500th year anniversary of Martin Luther's Order of the Latin Mass. Services will showcase the way Lutherans worshipped in the first decades, following the Reformation.

Beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday morning will be a half hour Matins service, consisting of morning prayers, singing and Bible readings. After Matins, a continental breakfast will be served in the church Fellowship Hall. At 9 a.m., The Reverend Dagan Siepert will present a lecture on church architecture, the sanctuary of St. John's, and the red brick church itself, dating back to 1904.

A Divine Service will begin at 10:30 a.m., with the celebration of Holy Communion. Although Latin was the language of the church in the 1500s, most of this service will be in English. "There will be a lot of congregational singing," said David Moseley, chairperson, "With some Latin sung by Pastors and the choir." As was also the custom, pastors will be wearing beautiful, elaborate, and colorful vestments worn by pastors in

Martin Luther's day. At noon, the Ladies' Circles of St. John's will host a Harvest dinner, in the Fellowship Hall. All events on Sunday are without charge and open to the public.

Additional seminars and religious services, with an emphasis on Wittenberg, during the time of Martin Luther, will take place at the Sparrow's Nest, in

rural Sparta, on Friday and Saturday, October 20th and 21st. Topics to be discussed include Behold His Glory in Literature and Liturgy and Music for Children.

Registration in advance is requested. For more information, call David Moseley, at (608) 387 1336, or www.returntowittenberg.org/ behold-his-glory-2023-2/.

PAST & PRESENT Butterfest Ladies PRESENT Ladies Night Out Thurs., November 16th at Club 16 1615 W. Wisconsin St., Sparta 5:00 p.m. Social • 6:30 p.m. Dinner Tickets are \$30 per person • Reserved table of 8 - \$240 For tickets, call Mary at 608-269-3849 Menu: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Candied Carrots, Relishes & Dip, Dessert

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CROSSWORDS no. 197 Answers on page 10 DOWN 1. Popular show 2. Historical period 3. Corps 4. Fire-setting crime 5. Control strap 6. Snaky fish 7. Endearingly 8. Piggy bank feature 9. Hired car 10. Continually 11. Window part 19. More uncommon 21. Building wing 22. Willing's partner 24. Paces 26. Sleds 27. Roadway hazards 28. Links 29. Betwixt 30. Agts. 35. Organ of hearing 38. Lugged 39. Evidence 40. Sinister 41. Stack 42. Fruity drinks 43. Small mountain 46. Pair 48. Hole piercer 49. Santa's gift 51. Regulation 52. 1 + 1 53. Bar beverages 54. Auctioneer's word 55. Crafty

Sudoku PUZZLE NO. 937 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.

# OBITUARIES

**LARAYNE I. WITTMERSHAUS**  
 May 18, 1931 — October 10, 2023

SPARTA - LaRayne I. Wittmershaus, 92, of Sparta, died Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at Mulder Health Care in West Salem. She was born on May 18, 1931 to Helmer and Ruby Hagen.

grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, August (Gus) Wittmershaus; infant daughter, Vicki; 4 brothers; Joslyn, Clifford, Hilbert, and Archie; 3 sisters, Alverda, Hazel, and Inez; and son-in-law, Gene O'Connell.

A Memorial Service and time for sharing will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta. A Celebration of Life will take place afterwards at the Wayside Tavern in Sparta. Burial will be at a later time in Fairview Cemetery, in Bangor. Honorary pallbearers will be John Bell, John Schanhofer, Gary Stennett, and Tom Waters.

Family and friends are invited to a visitation from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Online condolences may be offered at [www.schanhoferfh.com](http://www.schanhoferfh.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to Sparta Area Cancer Support (SACS).

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

**Lanham-Schanhofer  
 Funeral Home and  
 Cremation**



Director, Skyler Erickson, addresses the cast of *Newsies*, right before a full run through. Erickson answered all questions put forward by the querying cast members. The energy was set on 11 for the rehearsal, foreshadowing an electric performance when the show opens, on November 10th. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

LaRayne married August "Gus" Wittmershaus on May 2, 1952 in Bangor. They moved to Sparta in 1965. They owned and operated Gus & LaRayne's Sportsman Bar until 1993. August passed away in January of 1991.

LaRayne enjoyed playing in the Grandma & Grandpa's Pool League and playing darts. She also enjoyed cooking and baking. She always looked forward to doing her springtime flower bed, planting with her daughter Candy.

La Rayne is survived by her children, Candace O'Connell of Waukesha, Lon Wittmershaus of Sparta, Mike Wittmershaus of Sparta, Bruce (Janice) Wittmershaus of

Menomonie, and Tina (Scott) Wright of Sparta; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

*Continued from Front Page*

the importance of caloric intake and hydration when the performance includes so much movement with dance, singing and speaking. "I find that I am drinking a lot more water, and when I go to bed at night, I have no problem falling asleep. The practices bring a solid level of exhaustion into our lives, but I love it." Calkins says that he carries his script around school, studying and looking it over, every chance he gets.

### Two for Les

Labeled as a protagonist in the show, the character of Les Jacobs is said to be a precious and natural newsie; an intuitive salesboy and a pint-sized charmer. Similar qualities exist within the young men cast in this role, for the SHS production. Carter Brieske (6th grade) and Gavin Declute (7th grade), split duties in the play, as Les.

The Herald had just finished their interview with Calkins, when Brieske jumped off the stage, landing a few feet from the Herald, threw out his hand for a shake, and boisterously exclaimed, "I'm Carter Brieske, I play Les in the show." The stunt landed him an interview.

It turns out that when Brieske and Declute auditioned, the directors saw them both as a strong talent, so they cast both of them for the same role. For Gavin, this will be his first production, while Carter is becoming a seasoned professional, having appeared in *Hansel and Gretel* and *Bye, Bye Birdie*. Carter told the Herald, "Bye, Bye Birdie was my first [show], and I thought, 'Hey, rehearsals are kind of fun, I should do this more

often,' and now I am here, getting one of the lead roles. It's awesome!"

Brieske and Declute say that they have a strong bond, being the same character and that the entire cast is like a big family, which makes them brothers, according to them.

### Newsies Explained by Director Erickson

*Newsies takes place in New York City, in the year 1899. Jack Kelly and his ragtag team of newsboys make a meager living selling newspapers on the city streets. But when the prices of "papers" are hiked, and the newsies are hung out to dry, there is nothing left to do but, "Open the gates and seize the day!"*

*Led by charismatic Jack (Parker Calkins) and independent, young newspaper reporting Katherine Plumber (Ava Erickson), the Newsies form a union and organize a strike against the greedy publisher of the New York World. Can a group of idealistic newsboys win against a foe, as powerful as acclaimed publisher, Joseph Pulitzer (Cody Morrow)? Inspired by the true story of the 1899 Newsboys Strike, Newsies is an ebullient, joyful, and entertaining musical, for all ages, capturing the strength that young people have when they join together and stand up against injustice.*

*With a funny, poignant book, by Harvey Feirstein, and stunning music, by Alan Menken (known for Aladdin, Little Shop of Horrors, The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast etc), including the show stopping Seize the Day and power ballad "Santa Fe" and lovely new song, like Katherine's "Watch What Happens," Disney's Newsies is a classic, with the power to inspire.*

*We knew that after last year's show of Addams Family, we needed to step up our game even more! With that in mind we decided we wanted to do Newsies. Not only is it a Disney production, but a show that has challenging vocals and a plethora amount of high-level dancing, including a tap number!*

*Our students began early this summer, with tap classes, in order to get ready and understand how hard tapping can be. Tapping is a tremendous skill that many can benefit from because you really have to focus in on the sound and have rhythmic integrity. Our kids have put in countless hours, really getting this show to the high measure of quality that it calls for.*

*This show is great for all ages of people and audience members will be blown away, not only by the dancing, but the vocal quality that it comes with. Set construction began early this summer, with lots of detail painting, to capture the*



Carter Brieske (left) stands back-to-back with Gavin Declute. The two of them are taking on the same role, as Les Jacobs. Carter landed the duo an interview by jumping off the stage and introducing himself. Gavin slipped in, a bit more stealth-like. The energies of the young actors mesh perfectly with their older counterparts. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

art of New York, back in the 1890's.

### Tap Dancing by Tebeest

The cast took tap dancing classes, which were taught by Jen Tebeest, who also teaches the art form at the La Crosse Dance Center. Tebeest taught a total of eight classes, from June 22nd to July 21st. The cast of *Newsies* were taught the basics and some combination moves by Tebeest, in the intensive eight-day instruction.

Fresh off of the tap dancing lessons, the cast went into a 5-day musical camp, where they learned music, choreography, blocking and character development. After Labor Day, the *Newsies* cast was back at it, learning vocals, more blocking and more in-depth choreography. Director Skyler Erickson says that enthusiasm and excitement for the show blossoms in the musical camp, and was intensified this year, with the tap dancing classes.

Director Erickson mentioned to the Herald that Chris Anderson and Wil Calkins have taken the lead on set building, working their personal jobs and then coming in and working late on the set

construction. Erickson says that they are two weeks out from tech week, where they will begin to implement sound, makeup, costumes, props and their amazing orchestra. On Sunday, October 15th, the cast visited the Viterbo Conservatory, for the arts production of 42nd Street, which is a top-heavy, which demonstrated the lengths you can go to for tap dancing.

### Dates and Times

Show Dates:  
 November 10th, at 7 p.m.  
 November 11th, at 7 p.m.  
 November 12th, at 2 p.m.  
 November 16th, at 7 p.m.  
 November 17th, at 7 p.m.  
 November 18th, at 7 p.m.  
 November 19th, at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/sparta-high-school>

Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors (65+). Military cost is also \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the door, the day of the show. However, it is reserved seating and shows usually sell out. There are currently have over 1,000 tickets already sold for the SHS production of *Newsies*.

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**MONROE COUNTY HERALD**

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Gregory M. Evans, Publisher  
 Benny Mailman, Editor

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# Community Flu Vaccine Clinics

## 10/16/2023 - 10/31/2023

Influenza (flu) is a potentially serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Influenza vaccines, or flu shots, protect against the influenza viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. Monroe County Health Department is holding community flu vaccine clinics this October and November to make getting your flu shot easy and convenient for you and your family!

CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older gets a flu shot each year to prevent sickness from the flu. It takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to protect against the virus, so make a plan today to get yourself and your family vaccinated.

Monroe County Health Department is offering quadrivalent vaccine for those less than 65 years of age as well as high dose vaccine for those 65 years of age and older. We can bill Medicare, Medical Assistance, Senior Preferred, and third party insurance companies to cover the \$30 charge for regular vaccine and \$65 for high dose vaccine.

**\*To pre-register or to schedule individual appointments, please contact us at 608-269-8666\***

Date	Time	Location
10/16/23	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Monroe Co. Fairgrounds / Drive-Thru - Recreation Building
County Highway CM, Tomah	**Follow Signs**	
10/17/23	10:30 am - 12:45 pm	Wilton Fire Station - 806 Railroad St., Wilton
10/19/23	12:30 pm - 2:50 pm	Kupper-Ratsch Senior Center - 1002 Superior Ave., Tomah
10/20/23	8:00 am - 10:30 am	Organic Valley / Drive-Thru - 509 Organic Dr., Cashton
10/20/23	11:15 am - 12:00 pm	Cashton Community Hall - 812 Main St., Cashton
10/23/23	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Monroe County Health Dept. - 315 W. Oak St., Sparta
10/31/23	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	Monroe County Health Dept. - 315 W. Oak St., Sparta

In addition to getting your flu shot, take these extra steps to stop the spread of germs:

- Stay home if you're sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Wash your hands often
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and objects

**SASD**

*Continued from Front Page*

floor for comment and discuss, and the board started questioning Hauser.

"I certainly understand the value of keeping the mill rate consistent, without moving up and down," Hendricks began. "My concern is, maybe my fear here, is that if we pay off our debt too quickly, and the referendum doesn't pass as soon as we like. Are we going to put ourselves in jeopardy of having the debt service falling off before we are in a position to replace that debt?"

"Great question," Hauser said. "If we continue to defease at the same amount that we did last year, meaning we have a total debt levy of \$6,560,000, we would still have three years before we are debt free. In those three years, we have a minimum of 3, or if we really stretch it, 4 opportunities, to go to referendums."

Hendricks asked, "Three years of approximately the same amount or is that third year going to be quite small?"

"The fourth year would be quite small," Hauser corrected.

McKenna asked for clarity, "And your projection this year is \$6.56 million as well?"

"Closer to \$7.7 million," Hauser clarified.

"\$1.2 extra this year, more next year... and more the following. We would be paying off considerably faster than your projection, wouldn't we," McKenna questioned.

"Kind of," Hauser explained. "One thing that would potentially skew it is we have the survey (the school district facility assessment survey), and we don't know what we are going to do with the results."

Hauser mentioned another factor that could cause the debt to not be paid off as quickly. "I know from projecting out that the mill rate is going to spike, even if we don't go borrowing through referendums. We are going to be higher than that \$7.34, within one to two years."

"One potential benefit to keeping it [mill rate] higher this year, is that it wouldn't be as drastic of an increase the following year," Hauser pointed out. "So yes, we are getting additional state aid, but the revenue limit is going to grow in the next two years, so that would help offset the local tax impact."

Lopez questioned about the 9.2% increase associated with the equalized property value, and what percentage was due to construction. "9% of the 9.2% increase was due to infrastructure," Hauser clarified. "Our net increase in equalized property values went up about \$151 million, about \$14 million of that \$151 was due to construction."

Lopez asked, "If we leave the mill rate at \$7.34, we are essentially asking the same taxpayers to assume a greater tax burden for our district?"

"Our total tax levy, if we stayed at \$7.34, would increase \$1.1 million next year," Hauser stated.

"I don't think, at a time when food costs are higher and we have people on fixed incomes, that it is the time for a referendum," Lopez shared. "I am not comfortable with increasing the total debt levy on our constituents this year. I am much more comfortable keeping the same debt levy, or something very close to it, which is reducing the mill rate to that \$6.76 or \$6.80, something like that. If we proceed and go forward with this, I don't think or foresee we will have support from the community," Lopez concluded.

The floor then took a completely different direction, when Todd Wells joined into the conversation. "Totally transparent, \$7.59 is what I voted for last year, and \$7.59 is what I want to vote for this year," Wells stated. "I believe that saving interest payments is the right way to go. I would advocate for more debt defeasance," Wells added.

"Mr. Wells, with all due respect, I strongly disagree with the comment you made earlier, during the survey portion, stating that, the reason why the referendum failed was because we did not have a unified board," Lopez said, after Board President, Anthony Scholze, welcomed her to take back the floor. "I think the reason behind why the referendum failed was because the board was not willing to take a look at what the constituents wanted. They did not move forward, in the way, they were asking. I do not support a \$7.59 mill rate; I do not support a \$7.34 mill rate," Lopez said.

McKenna asked Hauser, "How much does a dime move the mill rate?"

"This is only for the publication of the minutes," Superintendent Sam Russ interjected, while Hauser performed some impromptu calculations, to answer McKenna's question. "We are not setting the mill rate, tonight, and we are not telling the annual meeting what to do. This is the document that will go forth."

"Roughly, \$200,000," Hauser answered, after a minute.

"I appreciate the interest payoff, I do," McKenna stated. "I think I am comfortable somewhere around the \$7 flat mill rate."

"Like I said earlier, I value keeping the mill rate consistent," Hendricks said. "I would not support going all the way down to \$7."

"I think I was landing closer to that \$7.17 range," added Burns-Gilbert.

"I don't think we should raise it," Berendes stated. "I am close to where Colin is. I think \$7 is too low."

"I was thinking a 20-cent reduction," Scholze voiced. "I want to show our constituents that we are being responsible. A reduction in that mill rate is going to ensure that, and it allows us to defease... so my number is \$7.14."

"Knowing that we are going to have another opportunity to hear from our constituents, I do make a motion, to recommend the mill rate for the budget hearing on October 19th, of \$7.14," McKenna motioned. The motion was seconded by Hendricks.

"I am not okay with increasing the total debt levy on our constituents, right now," Lopez said. "I would vote to stand firm on that, right now. I am very much interested to hear what goes on at the annual meeting."

Roll call was taken, and Scholze stated the results. "Motion carries, 5 to 2, with Ms. Lopez and Mr. Wells being the nays."

The Sparta area school district annual 2023 budget meeting will take place at 7 p.m., on Thursday, October 19th, 2023, in Meadowview Cafetorium, located at 1225 North Water Street.



**From left to right: Dennis Otto, Jimmy Zebell, Brian Bergy, Cody Bergy and bottom left: Mandy and Molly Otto. Contributed photo.**

**Car, Bike and Truck show contributes to Save Second base**

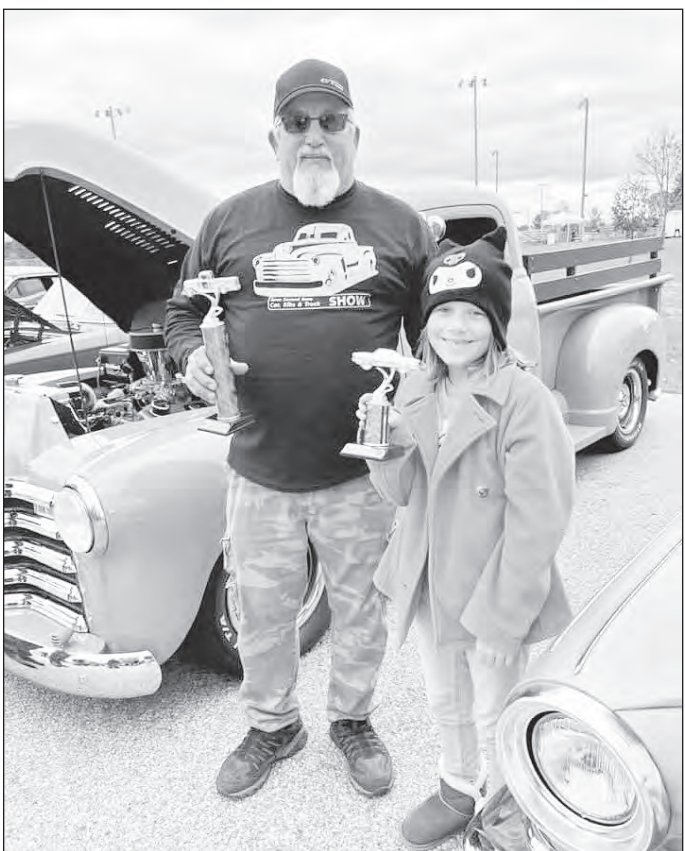
The Save Second Base Car, Bike & Truck Show, was held on Saturday October 14th, at Sparta's Memorial Park. This annual event is held in support of the Save Second Base Co-ed Softball tournament. The event features entries in six categories and awards three trophies in each one.

This year's winners were as follows: 1st place Adult Car - Randy Shepard with his 1970 Chevelle SS; 2nd place Adult Car was Chris Barlow with a 2020 Corvette; and 3rd place Adult Car went to Roger Cook with his 1968 Pontiac GTO.

1st place in the Adult Truck category went to John Bell for his 1953 Chevy 3100; 2nd place went to John Richagan for his 1984 GMC Sierra; and 3rd place went to Jimmy Zebell for his 1987 Chevy 1-ton SB.

The adult bike category only had two entries and the awards went as follows: 1st place went to Ben Burkhardt for his lowered 1100 v-star Yamaha; 2nd place went to Jon Harrison for his 1985 Harley-Davidson Dyna Wide-Glide.

The kid's categories were running a little lean this



**John Bell and grand-daughter Josie Swofford show off their trophies in front of JB's 1st place '52 Chevy truck. Contributed photo.**

year, with only one entry, and that meant 1st place in the kid's car category went to Josie Swofford and her totally pinked out Club Car. The event netted over \$650 for the fight against breast

cancer and highlights included better-than-expected weather and an awesome turn-out of spectators and participants. Event organizers would like to THANK all that helped to make this day a success.

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**Science Made Easy**

*by Larry Scheckel*



**QUESTION**  
 Can you drown from drinking too much water?

**ANSWER**  
 My six regular readers may recognize that this question was the first entry in Chapter 1 of our first book, *Ask Your Science Teacher*, which came out in 2011. Some 1,150 columns later, the question has popped up several times.

On January 12th, 2007, Jennifer Strange, a 28-year-old woman and mother of three children, was found dead in her Rancho Cordova home, by her mother. Rancho Cordova is a city of 80,000, just east of Sacramento, California. She had taken part in radio station KDND's "Hold Your Wee for a Wii" contest, trying to win a Nintendo Wii game console that went to the contestant who drank the most water without urinating. It is estimated that she drank two gallons of water in a very short period of time.

Nearly all deaths related to water intoxication (hyperhydration) have occurred because of drinking contests, hazing incidents, marathon or Ironman contests, and parents or babysitters

punishing a kid.

Too much water too soon pushes the normal balance of electrolytes in the body outside the safe limits. The level of sodium in the blood must be held within very narrow limits.

Water enters the body orally and exits the body in the forms of urine, sweat, and water vapor. If water enters the body more quickly than it can be removed, body fluids are diluted. Cells swell due to osmosis, whereby the concentration of electrolytes, mainly sodium and magnesium, in the blood, drop, relative to the concentration of electrolytes in the cells. Water seeps into the cells from the blood, causing the cells to swell.

If this swelling occurs in the brain, pressure builds up because the bones that make up the skull don't budge. The brain gets squeezed. Brain function is impaired. The result may be headaches, nausea, impaired breathing, disorientation, muscle cramps, coma, and even death.

Drinking too much water also puts a heavy burden on

the kidneys. The kidneys have to work overtime to filter out the excess water in the blood circulatory system. The kidneys don't work like plumbing pipes, whereby the more water you flush through them, the cleaner they become. Over time, the specialized capillary bed, called glomeruli, can get damaged by unnecessary wear and tear.

The body is marvelous at letting us know how much water we need. Diet, exercise habits, and the environment all play a role. If you eat lots of foods that are naturally rich in water, such as vegetables, fruits, and whole grains, you may not need to drink very much water. If you don't eat salty foods, you need less drinking water. Doctors say that the best guide to how much water we need is our sense of thirst.

Sources: <http://sportsmedicine.about.com> and [www.mayooclinic.com/health](http://www.mayooclinic.com/health)

Please send comments and questions to: [lscheckel@charter.net](mailto:lscheckel@charter.net)

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## THROUGH MY LENS

### Friday the 13th yields unforgettable night of football

By ZACH RASTALL  
Assistant Sports Editor



A Friday the 13th in October is a rarity — something that's now only happened four times in the 2000s. But even that isn't as rare as the sort of football Friday we got for our area teams this past weekend.

It's not often that we get so many of the teams we cover here at the Monroe County Herald playing games with such high stakes in the final week of the regular season. Rarer still is the fact that most of them weren't fully decided until the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

I had a front-row seat for the action in Onalaska when Luther hosted Cashton and was figuring that the Eagles would handle their business fairly comfortably.

I had been at the previous week's game between Luther and Bangor. The Knights more than hung around in the opening half before the Cardinals pulled way over the final two quarters to win 31-7. My takeaway was that Luther was clearly a good team, though one that was a tier below Bangor and Cashton.

That's now how they played Friday night. Luther led 3-0 for a long time and didn't allow the Cashton offense to get almost anything going for most of the night. Yet the Eagles kept themselves in it with their own excellent defense in the gloomy conditions and put together one dominant touchdown drive on the ground in the fourth quarter.

Sometimes the great teams don't paint a Michelangelo with their performance yet still find a way to do just enough to get the win. That's exactly what Cashton did to survive its Friday the 13th scare, just like they did by beating Bangor on a last-minute touchdown in Week 6.

Speaking of Bangor, the Cardinals trailed fellow playoff qualifier New Lisbon throughout the entire second half until scoring the game-winning touchdown with 47 seconds left in regulation in a 19-16 road win.

Similarly, Sparta looked to be in deep trouble when Baraboo took the lead with under two minutes left in the fourth quarter. Instead, the Spartans engineered the winning touchdown drive and scored with 26 seconds to go to win 32-28. Tomah, on the other hand, shook its tendency to play close games and blew out an Onalaska team previously unbeaten in MVC play 38-13.

Cashton and Bangor are both established teams at this point who figured out ways to win on the road without their best form. Sparta and Tomah saved their seasons and punched playoff tickets with home wins that won't soon be forgotten.

You can't ask more than that in terms of October thrills to end the regular season.

## SOCER TOMAH 4 LA CROSSE CENTRAL 0

# MVC CHAMPIONSHIP: Sparta's Carney earns top-five finish in MVC meet debut;

By ZACH RASTALL  
Assistant Sports Editor

Sparta freshman Ben Carney left his mark in his debut performance at the MVC conference meet, earning himself a top-five finish on a rainy, chilly autumn day to begin the postseason home stretch.

Carney crossed the finish line in a time of 16 minutes, 25.4 seconds to place fourth overall in the boys' 5,000-meter race at the 2023 Mississippi Valley Conference Championship Meet. This year's conference meet was held Thursday, October 12 and was hosted by La Crosse Central at the Maple Grove

Venues in West Salem.

Carney, the only freshman to finish inside the top 10 in the boys' race, was behind only Onalaska junior Manny Putz (15:09.4) in first, Onalaska senior Blake Burnstad (16:05.6) in second and Aquinas senior Jonathan Skemp (16:06.9) in third.

Rounding out the rest of the top 10 were Onalaska junior Arlo White (16:28.4) in fifth, Aquinas senior Joey Hirschboeck (16:34.6) in sixth, Holmen senior Sam Horman (16:35.2) in seventh, Aquinas junior Declan Gregg (16:35.9) in eighth, Holmen sophomore Josiah Kulmaczewski (16:38.2) in ninth and Holmen senior Ethan Archer (16:40.8)

in 10th.

Other Sparta finishers included junior Nicholas Lueth (17:27.5) in 13th, sophomore Joel Johnson (17:41.6) in 15th, sophomore Milo Everson-Riley (18:20.8) in 23rd and sophomore Braedyn Novak (18:23.8) in 24th.

Also running for the Spartans were sophomores John Schanhofer (19:09.5) and Carter Miller (19:42.1).

## TOMAH

Freshman Tyler Boettcher led the way for Tomah by placing 12th overall with a time of 17 minutes, 27.3 seconds. He was joined by senior Logan Larson

MVC cont. pg 8



Sparta's Ben Carney finished fourth at the MVC championships on Thursday, October 12 in West Salem. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

## SCENIC BLUFFS CROSS COUNTRY BANGOR 38 BROOKWOOD 42



# 'Give Me Guts'

Bangor's Jacey Michek (left), Anna Fronk (center) and Kiera Cavadini (right) share an embrace after learning they had captured the Scenic Bluffs title following Saturday's race in Cashton. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

## Fronk, Bangor girls eek by Brookwood to take place atop SBC for first time since 2007

By NATE BEIER  
Sports Editor

You could tell there was a different tension around the starting area for both the Bangor and Brookwood girls cross country teams.

If you listened to each team's pre-race pep talk, you would get a sense that each squad was dialing in their focus in order to be ready for race day. The stakes were high and the margin for error narrow. Even though there were only two legitimate contenders for the team title, there were still other teams with strong runners that would factor into the final score.

Still though, the two-time defending conference champs, Brookwood, appeared to be the easy frontrunner in Saturday's race. For an upstart team like Bangor to de-throne the perennial powerhouse, a sizable effort would have to be had.

The Cardinals' first year head, coach Dan Rampetsreiter, felt the same, but he knew his small team stood a chance nonetheless.

"I knew our girls had a shot coming in as the underdogs. What I told my girls is, 'give me guts.'"

Guts were exactly what either team would need to bring home the gold, especially with every placement point a factor in the final score.

I knew our girls had a shot coming in as the underdogs. What I told my girls is, 'give me guts.'

- Dan Rampetsreiter, Bangor cross country head coach

And every point did matter.

Royall's twin threat of senior Marah Gruen and freshman Katie Field (Wonewoc-Center) could have caused some chaos with the final score, but the Panthers' co-op only competed with four runners. Gruen became the third girls runner in Scenic Bluffs history to complete the championship four-peat joining Hillsboro's Annie Haas (2014-2017) and Brookwood's Miranda Berendes (1997-00).

Field cruised across the finish line in third place

overall.

The rest of the top 15 runners all scored team points, starting with race runner-up Anna Fronk of Bangor. Fronk tallied just one point while Jaycee Michek and Bliss Knox added five and seven points, respectively, to the mix equaling 13 for the top three runners.

Brookwood's Amelia Muellenberg was the fourth to finish and count for team points. Miranda Arndt was eighth in team scoring and Ruby Muehlenkamp ninth to bring the Falcons' total to 21. Brookwood's pack running actually produced four-straight finishers as Maggie Stenerson and Brynn Thurston followed suit, adding 21 more points to the mix.

Brookwood's total of 42 points may have been enough to capture the SBC crown, but Bangor's final two runners held their own and finished ahead of the next team scorer with about 30 seconds to spare. Marissa Eckler was 12 in scoring and Kiera Cavadini 13 and set the Cardinals final tally at 38.

Savvy coaches and parents were doing the quick math as runners crossed, so just a few minutes after the final two ended, the news of Bangor's

GUTS cont. pg 8

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**GUTS**

cont. from pg 7

win - though not official - was out in the open.

About a half hour later, it became official at the awards ceremony. Bangor had knocked off the two-time defending champs, but more importantly, had captured the program's first SBC title since 2007.

"There were a lot of emotions," said Bangor's coach Rampetsreiter. "I know that a lot of my returning runners wanted to make a goal to win conference and they knew they were the underdogs going in and they wanted it so badly that's the reason they got it. They really strive for excellence."

Rampetsreiter also praised the effort from the fourth and fifth scoring runners, - Marissa Eckland and Kiera Cavadini - who's efforts to stay with the lead packs paid off in the end. "They came here to race today. They ran with their heart on their sleeve. They

gave me guts at the end and that's what I want to see."

For lead runner, Anna Fronk, it was a sweet moment and another step forward for a program that, just two years ago, didn't have enough girls to score as a team.

"Going in, we knew the last time the girls won conference was in 2007," said Fronk. "So, Ramp (coach Dan Rampetsreiter) talked a lot about guts and it was going to take greatness to win. Hearing the final 38-42 it was kind of unreal until we had the trophy in our hands."

**Bangor's Marissa Eckland leads Hillsboro's Kristianna Britzke and Brookwood's Brynn Thurston and Maggie Stenerson along with teammate Kiera Cavadini into the second half mile during Saturday's race. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.**



**MVC**

cont. from pg 7

(18:40.0) in 30th, sophomore Marshall Reiman (19:00.2) in 34th, freshman Andrew Lindberg (19:04.1) in 36th and sophomore Cale Ollendick (19:04.4) in 37th.

The Timberwolves also had sophomore Thomas Evans (19:06.5) and freshman Jackson Tackmann (19:11.9) running in the race.

Onalaska won the boys' team conference title with 41 total points. The rest of the team standings featured La Crosse Aquinas (57 points) in second, Holmen (62 points) in third, Sparta (79 points) in fourth, Tomah (149 points) in fifth, La Crosse Logan (157 points) in sixth and La Crosse Central (157 points) in seventh.

**GIRLS**

In the girls' 5,000-meter race, it was Holmen who completely dominated the rest of the field. Vikings runners occupied six of the slots of the top 10 with sophomore Sabrina Lechnir (19:28.9) in first, senior Sydney Valiska (19:47.4) in third, senior Anabella Filipis (19:55.4) in fourth, sophomore Naomi Wedan (20:12.7) in fifth, junior Bailey Sommerville (20:14.4) in sixth and senior Sheryl Wang (20:49.3) in ninth.

The rest of the top 10 consisted of Aquinas sophomore Alexa Myre (19:44.5) in second, which prevented Holmen from a second-straight perfect score at the MVC championships.

Aquinas freshman Emily Bagniefski (20:30.6) was seventh, La Crosse Logan freshman Kareena Ramakrishnan (20:38.9) in eighth and freshman Francesca Vriens (21:05.4) in 10th.

**SPARTA**

Sparta's top runner was senior Chole Allen, who placed 14th overall with a time of 21 minutes, 38 seconds. The Spartans had a trio of back-to-back-to-back finishers with sophomore Abby Gilbertson (21:44.2) in 16th, sophomore Madeline Ziegler (21:47.8) in 17th and junior Leah Modjeski (21:57.2) in 18th, while sophomore Aaliyah Pastick (22:21.7) wound up in 22nd.

Also running for Sparta were senior Serena Swanson (23:08.4) and freshman Kallie Modjeski (23:49.0).

**TOMAH**

Tomah senior Josie Bailey (22:07.0) set the pace for her team by placing 20th. Additionally for the Timberwolves, sophomore Ruby Joyce (23:10.7) took 33rd, senior Avery Hagen (23:25.9) came in 37th, freshman Yesenia Ruiz (24:00.8) was 42nd and senior Lupita Ruiz (25:00.2) wound up in 45th.

Freshman Madison Henze (25:04.0) and senior Lydia Boettcher (25:50.2) also ran for Tomah.

Holmen ran away with the girls' team title by placing first overall with just 19 points.

The rest of the team standings played out with Aquinas (59 points) in second, Sparta (87 points) in third, Onalaska (118 points) in fourth, La Crosse Central (124 points) in fifth, La Crosse Logan (126 points) in sixth and Tomah (177 points) in seventh.

**SECTIONALS**

Sparta and Tomah will both be part of the field at the Division 1 DeForest sectional, to be held Saturday, October 21 at the Linde Sports Complex in DeForest. The boys' race starts at 10:45 a.m. with the girls' race to follow at 11:30 a.m.

Bangor senior Nolan Lan-

**CROSS COUNTRY BANGOR 38 BROOKWOOD 38**



**Bangor's Nolan Langrehr** accepts the 2023 boys Scenic Bluffs Conference trophy from Cashton athletic director Jered Hemmersbach following Saturday's league meet in the Cashton Village Park. Bangor won with 38 points to claim the program's fourth overall title. **Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.**

**Cardinals continue dynastic bid**

**Bangor cross country becomes first team not named Brookwood to win three-straight SBC titles since Cashton four-peat in 2002**

**By NATE BEIER  
Sports Editor**

In the past two decades of Scenic Bluffs Conference cross country, there has been one constant - Brookwood wins titles.

However, Bangor is hoping to change that narrative after capturing a third-straight SBC on Saturday, October 14 in Cashton.

Bangor, yes the same Bangor that's mostly known for football success in the fall, has taken serious strides forward on the 5K raceway following the peculiar 2020-21 COVID-influenced schedule when the Cardinals were among the minority of teams that opted to run in the alternative season in the spring of 2021. The latest of those strides was a 10-point team win over previously mentioned Brookwood in Saturday's conference championship race. Bangor's 38 points outdid Brookwood's 48. It is the first time since the 2003 season that Brookwood has been denied a piece of the SBC title three times in a row.

Bangor senior Nolan Langrehr paced the Cardinals with a second place overall finish behind SBC champ, Cooper Powell of Brookwood. Langrehr ran the course in a time of 18:29.9, which was about seven seconds behind Powell's mark of 18:22.1.

Langrehr wasn't alone in the top ten, however. Teammates Traevon Delaney (18:56.2) and Alex Felch (19:13.6) placed fourth and ninth, respectively. Cian and Evan Buchholz finished just outside of the top ten, taking 11 and 12 places.

Brookwood also managed to squeeze three runners into the top ten. Powell's first place finish was complimented by August Rueckheim (19:04.3) in sixth and Caston Gosda (19:13.4) in eighth. The final two scoring runners, Drew Powell and Josue Nicolas were 13 and 20 overall. Bangor senior Nolan Lan-

grehr explained that Saturday's team title was a product of workouts both in and out of season. This year's version of the Cardinals had to find a way to replace former SBC champ, Gavin Benzing who graduated last spring. Growth from returning members of the team and an influx of newcomers continued a role in Bangor's continued success.

Langrehr said, "So basically we wanted to have a winning mentality again because we just came off of two conference championships. We had done a lot of work in the

season to live up to this moment and next week we'll hopefully be looking forward to hopefully getting back to state as well."

First year head coach Dan Rampetsreiter cited the team's ability to pack run as a major reason for success.

"What we strive off of our boys team is our pack. They practice together as a pack and that's what their game plan was - stick with their teammates. I told some of the seniors in that pack -lead them. If it's time to go, how do you want to end your career?"

Rampetsreiter continued, "We made history (winning) three years in a row. That's something that they've been striving for."

Complete results will run in Thursday's edition of the Herald or can be found on Winona Nordic Timing.

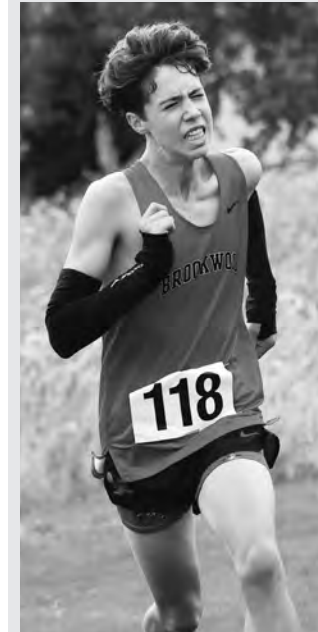
**UP NEXT**

Bangor, Brookwood and Cashton will all run at the WIAA Division 3 sectional in Westby on Saturday, October 21. The opening race is set for 11:15 a.m. with the girls race staring at 12:30 p.m.



**Brookwood's Caston Gosda and Bangor's Alex Felch** dash across the finish line in tandem at the end of the Scenic Bluffs Conference race Saturday. Gosda finished with a time of 19:13.4 while Felch was just two tenths of a second slower. **Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.**

**CROSS COUNTRY BROOKWOOD**



**Brookwood's Cooper Powell** finishes the final 10 meters of the boys race in Cashton on Saturday, taking first place overall with a time of 18:22.1. **Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.**

**New Era Afoot: Brookwood's Powell surges to individual title**

**By ZACH RASTALL  
Assistant Sports Editor**

Brookwood freshman Cooper Powell may be the face of the next generation of success for the Falcons, and perhaps, the Scenic Bluffs.

Powell, a freshman, won the Scenic Bluffs Conference boys race with a time of 18:22.1, which was seven seconds better than second place in Saturday's race in Cashton.

Despite trailing Necedah's Alex Hite for most of the first mile in Saturday's race, Powell found a way to overtake the NHS junior by the start of the second mile and then set in on creating distance between him and the field of about 50 runners.

However, things won't get easier for Powell now that he will enter next year as the standard to beat following his championship run on Saturday. Bangor's Nolan Langrehr was the only senior to finish in the top five last weekend. Langrehr was the runner-up as he helped Bangor win a third-straight SBC title.

Both Necedah's Jake Hite and Max Vogeles as well as Bangor's Traevon Delaney all return next year.

If we expand the vision and look at the top 10 SBC placemen on Saturday, only two others - New Lisbon's Malakai Dunham and Hillsboro's Sawyer Postel - will be lost to graduation. That means seven of the top 10 from this year's race should be back (and better) for next year's conference meet.

Brookwood's Powell was one of three freshmen to end in the top 10 at Cashton. Teammate August Rueckheim was sixth overall.



VOLLEYBALL SCENIC BLUFFS CONFERENCE

# Eagles finish SBC schedule tied for third

By ZACH RASTALL  
Assistant Sports Editor

The book is officially closed on the 2023 Wisconsin high school volleyball regular season, and the Cashton Eagles have plenty to build on heading into the playoffs.

The Eagles (15-11 overall, 9-5 Scenic Bluffs) continued their stellar run that's spanned over the last few weeks, capping off the regular season by overcoming a slow start and defeating the Necedah Cardinals 19-25, 25-17, 25-11, 25-15 Thursday, October 12 in Necedah.

Cashton was led in the four-set win by sophomore Vivie Dempsey with 19 kills and nine digs, senior Sydney Helgerson with seven kills, 17 assists and nine digs, senior Quinn Cook with six kills and eight digs, junior Sammi Kleba with 11 aces, 14 assists and 13 digs and junior Lauren Huntzicker with six aces.

Necedah's stat leaders included junior Syvanna Schumer with eight kills, junior Brianna Hendricks with 15 digs, sophomore Liza Kovalev with 5.5 blocks and junior Addisyn Schumer with 19 assists.

The Eagles roll into postseason having won 15 of their last 19 matches, including nine of their previous 10 conference contests. Thanks to this run, they ended the regular season in the top half of the Scenic Bluffs standings by tying Hillsboro for third.

## BROOKWOOD 3 NEW LISBON 0

After a brutal stretch of matches against the teams making up the top half of the Scenic Bluffs standings, Brookwood got back in the win column in its regular season finale.

The Falcons (18-12 overall, 6-8 Scenic Bluffs) snapped a five-match losing streak by sweeping the New Lisbon Rockets (5-23, 0-14) 25-17, 25-11, 25-13 Thursday, October 12 in New Lisbon.

Leading the charge for Brookwood were senior Vanessa Anderson with 10 kills, seven aces and six digs, sophomore Calista Zimmerman with eight kills, sophomore Reagan Muehlenkamp with seven kills, eight digs and three aces, junior Emily Cunitz with nine assists and five digs, senior Kylie Powell with 11 assists and sophomore Ruby

Muehlenkamp with five digs. New Lisbon's stat leaders included junior Claire Haske with seven kills, junior Abby Steele with 12 digs and three aces and junior Janiah Pfaff with 15 assists.

## ROYALL 3 BANGOR 1

Even though Bangor wasn't able to hand Scenic Bluffs champion Royall its first conference loss of 2023, the Cardinals did manage a feat accomplished by only two other teams this year in SBC play: taking a set off the Panthers.

Royall (28-3 overall, 14-0 Scenic Bluffs) finished off a perfect run through its Scenic Bluffs schedule this fall by downing Bangor (11-18, 4-10) in four sets 25-19, 25-10, 24-26, 25-15 Thursday, October 12 in Elroy.

The Cardinals were led in the defeat by senior Gladys Bores with nine kills, senior Emily Warsing with 16 assists and five aces and the trio of junior Aubrey Langrehr, senior Alycia Felch and senior Natalie Kadrmias with six kills each.

Royall's stat leaders included senior Marah Gruen with 23 kills, 16 digs and two aces and senior Brooklyn Gruen with 48 assists.

## AROUND THE SBC

Wanewoc-Center held off Hillsboro 3-2 in the final night of the SBC season on Thursday, October 12.

The Wolves maintained their second place standing after winning a fifth and decisive set 15-12.

W-C ends the regular season 24-2 overall with both losses coming at the hands of neighboring Royall.

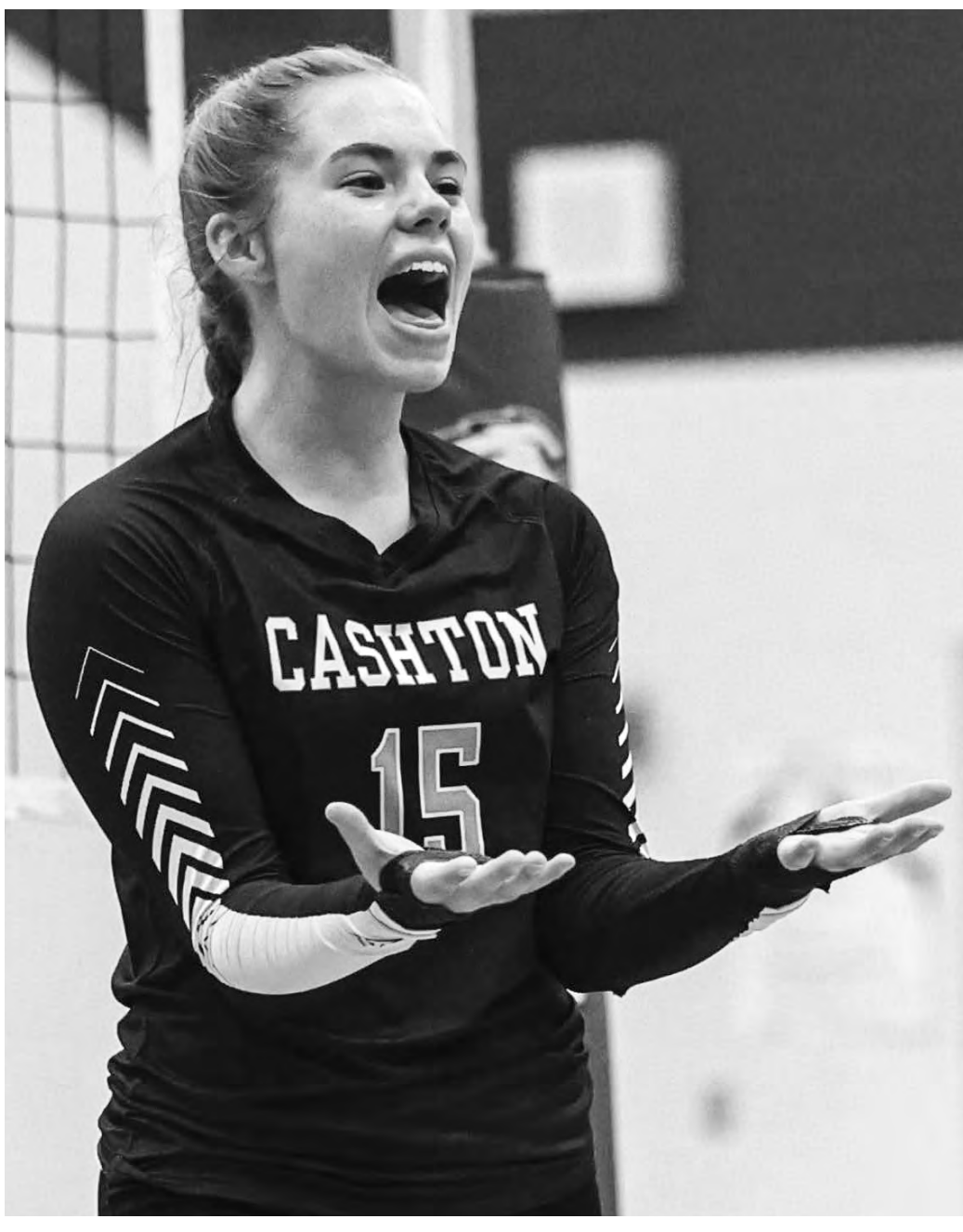
Hillsboro, led by 1000 kill club newcomer Michelyn Hansen, finishes the regular season 21-9 overall and 9-5 in the SBC, good enough for a third place tie with Cashton.

Royall and Wanewoc-Center enter the postseason on a collision course in the sectional semifinal round.

The Panthers are the top seed in their D-4 bracket that includes #2 W-C, #3 Hillsboro and #4 Seneca.

The other side of the sectional bracket feature top-ranked Marshfield Columbus Catholic and #6 ranked Athens. The duo are the top two seeds in the bracket and played each other at the La Crosse Logan invite on October 7 with Columbus winning 2-0.

For updated brackets visit [wiaawi.org](http://wiaawi.org).



Cashton's Sydney Helgerson celebrates an Eagles' point during a recent game. Helgerson and the Eagles finished tied for third in the Scenic Bluffs after winning 9 of the team's last 10 league games. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

## Cashton to host opening round WIAA regional contest

By ZACH RASTALL  
Assistant Sports Editor

Cashton earned a No. 6 seed in the Division 4 playoff field and will thus get a home match in the opening round. The Eagles host No. 11 seed De Soto (6-19) in a regional quarterfinal matchup Tuesday, October 17 at 7 p.m. in Cashton. The Eagles defeated De Soto 2-0 at the Cashton invite a week ago. The Pirates were seventh in the Ridge and Valley Conference.

### BROOKWOOD

The Falcons are a No. 9 seed in the Division 4 playoffs and are set to hit the road to take on No. 8 seed Wauzeka-Stauben

(10-7) Tuesday, October 17 at 7 p.m. in Wauzeka. Wauzeka-Stauben finished fourth in the Ridge and Valley Conference, with a 8-6 record. Seneca won the RVC with a final tally of 13-1 with Ithaca ending as runner-up at 11-3 overall

### BANGOR

Bangor drew a No. 13 seed in the Division 3 playoff field and will be on the road to face No. 4 seed Marathon (14-11) in an opening round match Tuesday, October 17 at 7 p.m. in Marathon.

Marathon finished tied for third in the Marawood South Conference with a mark of 2-3. Stratford won the league and was 5-0 in MSC play.

## VOLLEYBALL MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONFERENCE

# Sparta, Tomah swept in regular season finales

By ZACH RASTALL  
Sports Writer

Sparta will need to brush off a straight-set loss as it shifts focus to the looming postseason.

La Crosse Aquinas (17-10 overall, 7-5 Mississippi Valley) swept the Spartans (11-21, 2-10) 25-16, 25-11, 25-23 in the final match of both teams' regular season schedules Thursday, October 12 in La Crosse. The Blugolds previously swept the Spartans 25-17, 25-15, 25-23 on September 15 in Sparta.

In the loss, Sparta was led by a group of juniors: Ellie Falkner with five kills and 12 digs, Loren Schanhofer with five kills and 11 digs, Brooke Evans with seven digs, seven assists and two aces and Madison Pedretti with 12 assists.

Stat leaders for Aquinas included junior Addison Foor with 15 kills, junior Tessa Miskowski with 14 digs, senior Maddie George with five aces and junior Tessa senior Mary Niegelsen with 15 assists.

## ONALASKA 3 TOMAH 0

Tomah is going into the playoffs on a two-match losing streak after closing out the regular season with a defeat at the hands of one of the MVC's top teams.

Onalaska (21-9 overall, 10-2 Mississippi Valley) came into town and swept the Timberwolves (16-20, 3-9) 25-10, 25-19, 25-14 in a conference clash Thursday, October 12 in Tomah. The Hilltoppers previously defeated Tomah in four sets 25-16, 22-25, 25-6, 25-17 on September 14 in Onalaska.

The Timberwolves were led by senior Aisha Fritsche with nine kills and five digs, junior Libby Mathison with four kills and three aces, senior Brin Rewey with four kills, senior Olivia Wall with 16 assists and five digs and junior Kam Kinner with eight digs.

Onalaska's stat leaders included senior Claire Pedretti with eight kills, senior Anna Skemp with eight digs, junior Ellie Mascotti with 14 assists and senior Jenna Richgels with three blocks.

## REGIONALS

The Spartans will begin the playoffs by heading out on the road. No. 10 seed Sparta squares off against No. 7 seed Monona Grove (18-17) in a WIAA Division 1 regional semifinal matchup Thursday, October 19 at 7 p.m. in Monona.

Tomah is a No. 11 seed as part of the Division 1 field for the upcoming postseason. The Timberwolves are on the road to take on No. 6 seed Middleton (14-12) in the regional semifinals Thursday, October 19 at 7 p.m. in Middleton.

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- School Van Driver- Substitute and Permanent
School Bus Driver- Substitute and Permanent
Job #776- Technology Data And Support Specialist- Tier 3- Year Round!
Job #775- Oakdale Certified Aide
Job #771- Middle School Certified Aide
Job #770- Miller Certified Aide
Job #769- Lemonweir Breakfast Cook and Lunch Cook
Job #756- High School Certified Aide
Job #745- Lemonweir Certified Aide (45/15)
Job #744- Lemonweir Non-Certified Aide (45/15)
Job #734- Miller Certified Aide
Job #713- Middle School Certified Aide
Job #672- High School Certified Aide
Job #626- RKLC Non-Certified Aide
Job #585- High School Certified Aide

LEGAL NOTICES

SPARTA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Sparta, Wisconsin
NOTICE FOR ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING/BUDGET HEARING Section 120.08(1)
Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the Sparta Area School District, that the annual meeting/budget hearing of said district for the transaction of business will be held in the Meadowview Middle School, Cafetorium, 1225 N. Water Street, Sparta, on the 19th day of October, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Accommodation Notice: Individuals who have a disability and are requesting an accommodation under the ADA in order to attend this meeting must contact Wendy Markgren at the District Office at 608-366-3400 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to see if the District can reasonably accommodate the individual's request without placing an undue hardship on the district or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others.
(signed) Amy Lopez District Clerk
10/12, 16 WNAXLP

Case 2023CV000123 Document 7 STATE OF WISCONSIN Vs. 1ST COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION 1000 W. Wisconsin Street Sparta, WI 54656 GINA L. MURRAY 15115 County Highway N Tomah, WI 54660 THE STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT Plaintiff, Filed 08-17-2023 Defendant. Dated: August 17, 2023 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Page 1 of 2 Case No. 23-CV-123 MONROE COUNTY FILED 08-17-2023 Clerk of Circuit Court Monroe County, WI 2023CV000123 To each person named above as a defendant: Gina L. Murray You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within 40 days after August, 21, 2023, you must respond with a written demand for the copy of the complaint. The demand must be delivered to the court, whose address is Monroe County Courthouse, 112 S Court Street, Sparta, WI 54656, and to Anthony R. Gingrasso, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Johns, Flaherty and Collins, SC, 205 5th Avenue South, Suite 600, La Crosse, WI 54601. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure or property. Case 2023CV000123 Filed 08-17-2023 Document 7 Page 2 of 2 JOHN, FLAHERTY & COLLINS, SC Electronically signed Anthony R. Gingrasso Anthony R. Gingrasso Attorney for Plaintiff State Bar No. 1070846 205 5th Avenue South, Suite 600 La Crosse, WI 54602-1626 608-784-5678 10/2, 9, 16 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 23cv237 In the matter of the name change of: bladden cj owen By (Petitioner) Bladden Owen NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: (First) bladden (Middle) cj (Last) owen To: (First) bladden (Middle) cj (Last) sanchez Birth Certificate: (First) bladden (Middle) cj (Last) owen IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Monroe County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: Todd L. Ziegler Place: Monroe county justice center -Branch 1 112 South Court Street, Sparta WI 54656 Date: October 31 2023 Time: 8:15 am If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-269-8745 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Monroe County Herald, a newspaper published in Monroe County, state of Wisconsin. BY THE COURT: Dated this 25 day of September 2023 Todd L. Ziegler Circuit judge 10/2, 9, 16 WNAXLP

BANGOR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education (Wednesday, September 13, 2023) Generated by Jean Reigel on Thursday, September 14, 2023 1. Adjourn to Closed Session Under WI Statutes 19.85(1)(c)(e) A. Closed Session 6:00 pm. Discussion of specific personnel related issues including adjustment of appointment, new hires, and administrative contract technical corrections. 2. Return to Open Session A. Return to Open Session Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Lori Horstman to return to Open Session. Motion carried 7-0. 3. Meeting Opening A. Call to order Julie Meyers called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. B. Roll Call All Board members present: Joanie Wilcox, Tina Mathison, Lisa Horstman, Shelly Piske, Julie Meyers, Lori Horstman, Kelly Kruchten. C. Attest to Publication: Joanie Wilcox. D. Approval of Agenda Motion by Lori Horstman, second by Shelly Piske to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0. E. District Mission, Vision, and Values: Read by Kelly Kruchten. F. Board of Education Collective Commitments: Read by Kelly Kruchten. G. Public Comment: None. 4. Approval of Minutes A. August 9, Board Meeting Minutes Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Lisa Horstman to approve August 9, 2023 minutes with verification of vote on Teacher Compensation Adjustment II. (Piske opposed). Motion passed 5-0 with Tina Mathison and Lori Horstman abstaining. 5. Student Report A. Student Report: Jeremiah Vecchioni reported. 6. Board President's Report A. WASB Fall Regional Meetings October 5th at G-E-T. 7. Committee Reports A. None 8. District Financials A. Financial Documents Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Lori Horstman to approve the financials as presented including the Fund 21 Checks, General Acct. Checks, and September 2023 Financial Report. Motion carried 7-0. 9. District Reports A. Facility Projects Updates David Brokopp updated the Board. 10. District Action Agenda A. MS/HS - Nexus - G.M.P. Amendment Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Kelly Kruchten to approve the amendment to our construction agreement with Nexus Solutions to reflect a new G.M.P. of \$19,256,856. Motion carried 7-0. B. Purchase - Concert Piano(s) Motion Lori Horstman, second by Lisa Horstman to approve the purchase of 2 Concert pianos for District use at a cost of \$12,633 each. Motion carried 7-0. 11. Personnel (Board may convene to closed session under WI statute 19.85 (1)(C)) A. Letter of Appointment Change - Custodian Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Kelly Kruchten to change the Letter of Appointment for Nathan Jones to reflect his last day with the district as 8/23/23. Motion carried 7-0. B. Hire - Custodian Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Joanie Wilcox to approve the hire of MS/HS Custodian Kendra Rentz with a start date of 8/22/23. Motion carried 7-0. C. Increase of Hours - Special Education Para Professional Motion by Lori Horstman, second by Lisa Horstman to approve the increase of 6.25 hours per week for Jessica Jacobson effective at the start of the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 7-0. D. Hire - 4k Paraprofessional Motion by Kelly Kruchten, second by Joanie Wilcox to approve the hire of 4k Paraprofessional Myah Kenyon effective 8/21/23. Motion carried 7-0. E. Hire - Bus Driver Motion by Lisa Horstman, second by Shelly Piske to approve the hire of bus driver Ron Copher to drive the West Salem route and sub as needed on regular routes effective for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 7-0. F. Hire - Part Time Speech and Language Teacher Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Joanie Wilcox to approve the hire of part-time speech and language teacher Vicki Burritt for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 7-0. G. Hire - Part Time Speech and Language Teacher Motion by Lori Horstman, second by Kelly Kruchten to approve the hire of part-time speech and language teacher Jeanne Juenger for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 7-0. H. Hire - MS/HS Vocal Music Teacher Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Tina Mathison to approve the one-year contract for Dean Gunnarson as MS/HS Vocal Music Teacher for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 7-0. I. Hire - MS/HS Athletic Director Motion by Lisa Horstman, second by Shelly Piske to approve the hire of Paul Laxton as MS/HS Athletic Director for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried 7-0. 12. Administration Reports A. Administrative Reports Josh Chaplin, Michael Johnson, Rick Muellenberg and David Brokopp reported. 13. Removal of Items from the Consent Agenda: None 14. Consent Agenda A. Current Openings: Full-time custodian, full-time and part-time van drivers and paraprofessionals to ide vans with students, substitutes for classroom teachers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, custodians and food service positions. B. Maternity Leave Request: Carlene Baurichter starting on or about March 1, 2024 for the remainder of the school year. C. Hire - MS Cross Country Coach: Andrew Cook. D. Administrative Contracts: Technical corrections under guidance of legal counsel. E. 23-24 - 66.0301 Early Childhood and Severe ID agreement: Agreements with West Salem School District. F. 23-24 - Food Service Agreement: Agreement with West Salem School District. Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Lori Horstman to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 7-0. 15. Adjourn A. Adjourn Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Lisa Horstman to adjourn. motion carried 7-0 at 7:35 pm. 10/16 WNAXLP

CITY OF SPARTA COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

CITY OF SPARTA SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES September 27, 2023 PRESENT: Jim Church, Kevin Brueggeman, Bruce Humphrey, Matthew Hoffland, Josh Lydon (arrived at 5:35 p.m.), Robert Arnold, David Kuderer, Mayor Riley ABSENT: Troy Harris ALSO PRESENT: Todd Fahning, Mark Sund, Brea Grace, Emilee Nottestad, Booker Ferguson Mayor Riley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call was done by the City Clerk. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Kuderer. A motion was made by Matthew Hoffland and seconded by Kevin Brueggeman to approve this agenda. Motion carried 6-0. A motion was made by Matthew Hoffland and seconded by Kevin Brueggeman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the last regular meeting of September 13, 2023. Motion carried 6-0. RESOLUTIONS RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROJECT PLAN AND ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES FOR THE CREATION OF TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT #10 (TID #10) Mayor Riley read the Resolution the first and second time. Matthew Hoffland moved to read the Resolution third time by title only, rules be suspended and placed before the Council for immediate action, seconded by Kevin Brueggeman. Motion carried 6-0. Mayor Riley read the Resolution third time by title only and the Resolution was approved on a roll call vote 7-0. There were no items for future consideration. A motion was made by Jim Church and seconded by Matthew Hoffland to adjourn at 5:36 p.m. Motion carried 7-0. Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Lydon, City Clerk 10/16 WNAXLP

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# All Abilities Trail a welcomed enhancement to Amundson Park

By JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ MORAN  
Staff Writer

An enhanced trail, which now welcomes and entices all abilities to partake in and enjoy, has become the latest addition to Amundson Park. The new asphalt trail, which was laid over the old dirt and gravel trail, starts at the Amundson Park parking lot and extends to Hammer Road. The Sparta Parks and Rec Department worked with the City of Sparta Administration to make this beautiful park more accessible, utilizing funds, provided by the Federal Government to municipalities, during the pandemic shutdowns. The city earmarked the funds for this project and followed through with their promise.

Klaetsch Paving was commissioned with bringing the project to fruition. Work on the paved trail took place during the first week of October. The old trail was graded, to create a smooth, uniform surface, for the paver. Once the asphalt was laid, it was quickly ready to be enjoyed. Gravel has been added to each side of the trail, providing protection for the trail. Next, larger rocks will be layered over the gravel, to make sure that the area surrounding the trail is flush with the trail. The addition of gravel and rocks around the trail will reduce the likelihood of water getting under the pavement and causing damage, during a flood.

The City of Sparta is pleased with the results. The city estimates the longevity of the trail to last 25-30 years or more, with just foot traffic. At a time when other parks in Wisconsin are upgrading to paved trails, Sparta wanted to provide the same to residents



From left: Mark Sund – City Administrator/Finance, Mark Van Wormer – Sparta Public Works Director, Brad Gilbertson – Sparta Parks and Rec Director, and Sparta City Administrator/Community Development – Todd Fahning, stand in front of the newly paved trail at Amundson Park. Herald photo by Jennifer Rodriguez Moran.

and visitors at the city's newest park. Amundson Park includes a playground, dog park, frisbee golf, archery range, scenic bridge, picnic area, oak trees and pine trees, and, in the future, it will have a public lake and beach, at the site of the sand mine, which is modeled after Lake Wazee.

Karen and Duane Abata noticed the grading during a hike, with their dog Sophie, and were a bit saddened to lose the natural trail. Later, when they saw community members using wheelchairs on the paved trail, they were overjoyed to see how all of the community can easily enjoy the beautiful park. Sparta is joining other Wisconsin cities in providing an all-abilities

trail and in the near future, an all-abilities park.

Melissa Jacobson, Nicole Berendes, Jenny Berendes, and Tracy Cuda were delighted to find the trail paved. They have used the gravel trail before, and the park is so beautiful that they were prepared to struggle across it to get to the scenic Five Shovelmen Bridge, La Crosse River, and forested areas. "The new trail is wonderful, so much better than before!" chimed the quartet of ladies.

Amundson Park is located at 1130 Aspen Boulevard in Sparta, Wisconsin, and includes over 100 acres of land, and is open year-round for everyone's enjoyment.



Melissa Jacobson, Nicole Berendes, Jenny Berendes, and Tracy Cuda were delighted to find the trail at Amundson Park paved. They have used the old gravel trail before, and the park is so beautiful that they were prepared to struggle across it to get to the scenic Five Shovelmen Bridge, La Crosse River, and forested areas. Herald photo by Jennifer Rodriguez Moran.

## Week 4 pick em's winner

In week 4 of the Herald's Pick em's contest, there was a three-way tie for first place with only three losses. Teresa Brown, of Sparta Had the closest guess for the tiebreaker. She received a \$50 gift certificate to the Vault in Rockland. In second place was Mary Olson of Sparta, who received a \$50 gift certificate to Sparta Family Restaurant.

Rule change: in the rules, it formerly said need to be postmarked by Thursday at midnight now says before kickoff.

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- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
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<b>SUNDAY OCTOBER 22ND AT 1PM</b>	<b>FRIDAY OCTOBER 27TH AT 7PM</b>
<b>SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH AT 1 PM &amp; 7PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY OCTOBER 29TH AT 1PM</b>

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**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: JOEY RUIZ DAVIS**

**CAST**

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<b>MOTHER SUPERIOR - ELAINE REICHARDT</b>	<b>PAUL - BOYCE (BJ) WILCOX</b>
<b>SISTER MARY CATHERINE - ALECIA MILLER</b>	<b>SALLY - CLAUDIA NEVE</b>
<b>FATHER CHENILLE - JOE MINNEY</b>	<b>GEORGE - BLANE BARBEAU</b>

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