

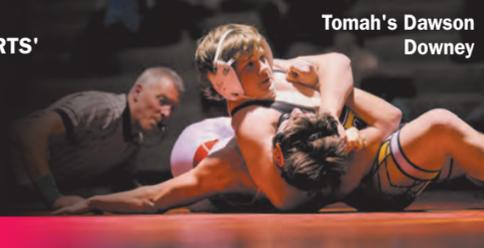
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T'WOLVES TOP SPARTANS

SEE 'SPORTS' PAGE 5

Tomah's Dawson Downey



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MONROE COUNTY HERALD

Your Local State Award-Winning Newspaper

VOLUME 165 | NUMBER 8

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024

ONE SECTION | 12 PAGES

Sparta Free Library construction continues

Director lays out year-long schedule

By BENNY MAILMAN Editor

On Friday, January 26th, Michelle Tryggestad, Director of the Sparta free Library, sat down with the Monroe County Herald and discussed where the Sparta Free Library is on current construction, and what the community and passersby can expect to see in the coming days and months, on their tentative timeline. The interview took place on the second level of the library, overlooking the slushy construction zone, where squishy mud and a mild mist painted a loathsome picture, directly countered by the heartening decrees and declarations by Tryggestad.

On the addition, which is taking place on the eastern perimeter of the Carnegie building, Tryggestad explained, "Right now, all of the under-slab plumbing is in place, and the under-slab electric will be going in next. As we speak, the elevator shaft is going in, surrounded by the scaffolding you see, near the front of the building."

Everyone is Ready
Michelle began the session

by stating that structural steel will show up next week, as we head into February. "It [structural steel] is already here, in Sparta. It has been stored at both American and city storage facilities. They will be bringing that into our very tight [construction] zone next week."

Director Tryggestad explained to the Herald that everyone involved with the tangible aspects of the construction have been busy, behind the scenes, getting the items needed to complete their tasks in the realm of their responsibility. "There has been a lot going on that people haven't seen yet," Tryggestad remarked. "Our contractors and subcontractors have ordered all the items they will need, and have them sitting in storage, on standby. They have also been coordinating all the steps on how they will proceed as soon as they are given the green light ... they are ready, in all aspects."

Wall Smash Pending

In addition to speaking on all contractors and subcontractors chomping at the bit to put forth their due diligence, Michelle expounded on the grand undertaking. "As soon as the structural steel is delivered, everyone will see those outer walls go up. Once the walls are up, they will pour the two floors, which they will do at the same time. Then we will



The Sparta Free Library is currently in the process of building an addition on its eastern perimeter, as well as remodeling the Carnegie structure, in which it resides. Director, Michelle Tryggestad, states that entire project will be completed by next January. The structural steel will arrive on site this week, and it is expected to be up within a short time. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

break into this wall, which is why this is all empty." Michelle was referring to the eastern wall, where the interview was taking place. There were bookshelves that stood bookless, simply waiting on relocation before the wall they are currently snugged up against, crumbled and tumbled, providing the fresh access point between the current Carnegie structure and the addition.

Tryggestad stated, "We are looking for that wall to come

down around March, which will allow for the flow of the construction, between the two structures, to begin. We will put in a temporary wall of course, before this is all takes place."

Proof of Needed Remodel

Director Tryggestad said that in addition to all the new construction, there were other areas that will be updated in the current Carnegie building, and a recent occurrence proved how much those updates are needed. "With the

recent lovely rain, we had a waterfall cascading inside the building, on the south side because we have old gutter and ceiling systems. When the remodel takes place, that will be further addressed."

Although the rain brought a less than favorable reminder of the much-needed remodel, Tryggestad was quick to point out that rain is not the worst weather to have during construction. "Rain is a lot better than the bitter temperatures that have

encumbered our construction efforts," she informed the Herald. "Our crews can work in rain, but in that bitter cold — not so much."

Michelle then relayed the next big tentative date for the extensive project. "That new portion [the addition] will be ready to move into, in October. So, we will take what you see in here and transfer it over there ... or store it," she quipped. "They [contractors]

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cont. on pg. 3

Tomah Chamber puts on successful Job Fair

Vendors report high levels of energy and interest

By BENNY MAILMAN Editor

On Friday, January 26th, the Tomah Chamber of Commerce put on a job fair, at the Tomah High School. The event ran from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and had three blocks of time for specific groups to walk through and volley questions to the roughly 50 vendors that had set up their temporary displays, aimed at creating interest to draw in the possible employee passersby.

Vendors at the event included Kwik Trip Inc., Mathy Construction Company, Tomah Health, Ashley Furniture, Multistack,

Wisconsin State Parks System, Creative Community Living Spaces, several Universities, as well as the United States Marine Corps, VA Medical Center, and a crowd favorite — Space Force.

Chamber Representatives

Tina Thompson, President and CEO of the Tomah Chamber, and Megan Divyak — Membership and Marketing Manager for the Chamber, were both on hand at the event, making sure that everything ran smooth and reminding attendees that were snacks and sandwiches available, back by the Space Force kiosk.

Tina Thompson explained the breakdown on the blocks of time and the groups that perused the possibilities of employers on the premises. "We brought in the eighth graders at 11 a.m. this morning, with the highschoolers

trickling in throughout the early afternoon," Thompson started out. "From 3:30 to 4:30, we held the Children and Parent Power Hour, with the general public also being allowed in, at the 3:30 mark." Thompson stated that all three groups had a strong showing.

When pressed by the Herald on the children and parent power hour, Thompson stated, "The parents, during the power hour, would ask the questions, as they had the more qualifying questions to ask. They were helping to guide their children [students], to try and help them see what types of employment they may be interested in. The parents ask the questions that the students may not even know to ask."

Thompson went on to explain that the Tomah Chamber worked with the Tomah Area School District



Abby Czynscon (left) and Andy Haffele (right) were at the Tomah Job Fair, representing the Wisconsin State Parks system. They both agreed that the student's energy levels were sky high and that they had quite a few students who kept returning, with more in-depth questions for the two experts. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

and regional employment agencies. "We have a real good relationship with them both, and we have done this

for several years now. It keeps growing every year," Thompson said.

Thompson told the Herald

that approximately 500 students attended - from the

'JOB FAIR'
cont. on pg. 3

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OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

LARRY GENE PETH

September 9, 1938 — January 24, 2024

WILTON - Larry Gene Peth, born to Arthur and Helen (Sonnenburg) Peth in Wilton, on September 9, 1938, peacefully passed away on January 24, 2024. On March 3, 1962, Larry Peth entered into a lifelong marriage with Marlene E. Geier (of Wilton) in Kenosha, WI. Inseparable for 60 years, Larry and Marlene shared an enduring and true love. After Marlene's passing, Larry often reflected upon and cherished their love story, which spanned over six decades.



Larry is a member of the Wilton High School's Graduation Class of 1956. During high school, Larry worked for Ranney's Dairy. At the age of 17 Larry joined the U.S. Army, where he was later honorably discharged due to an injury sustained in service. Larry returned home and worked as a landscaper before deciding to move to Kenosha, WI to work many roles at American Motors (collecting scrap metal around the plant being his favorite). Shortly after moving to Kenosha, Larry married Marlene and they bought their first house together. During their time in Kenosha, Larry started a landscaping business (alongside his employment at American Motors) and welcomed home his and Marlene's 3 children: Todd, Kelli, and Kristine. In 1972, they relocated to Tomah where he has resided since.

Larry was loved and well known in the Tomah Community for always looking out for and helping others. Larry is most notably known for bowling and pitching softball on local leagues for over 40 years, carpentry, fishing, hunting, and befriending almost anyone. Larry worked at Sorenson's Lumber, the Holiday Inn, and Mega Foods.

After retiring from Mega Foods, Larry began the activity he was

most proud of; helping raise his grandchildren. Affectionately known as "Ba" to his young grandchildren, him and Marlene were together known as Ba Nana (Marlene being Nana). Ba Nana took pride in being grandparents, from always picking "their boys" up at school to babysitting and teaching them how to fish, woodwork, puzzle, garden, and so much more. Bobby and Danny had the privilege of growing up next door to their Ba Nana. Larry and Marlene loved whenever their two granddaughters could come to visit, and always looked forward to summer breaks from school where they could stay longer. Larry will always be his grandchildren's biggest hero and most steadfast supporter.

He is survived by his children, Kelli (Rob) Mabry of Pocahontas, VA, and Krissy (Bob) Darlington of Tomah. Grandchildren, Bobby (Amber) Darlington and Danny (Ryan) Darlington of Tomah, Chelsea (Mark) Uhlott of Penfield, IL, Trisha Peth of Platteville, great-grandsons, Logan Uhlott, Enbyr and Eldyn Smethurst and sister Aleda Mosley. His sisters-in-law Berdella Butzler, Helen Sommerfield, Connie Lewis, and Bertha Geier. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, many cousins, other relatives, friends, and his unlikely companion and cat, Eleanor.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marlene, a son Todd, parents Arthur and Helen, Geier in-laws, and siblings and their spouses, Darlene and Arlie Jenks, Gene Moseley, DeVere and Shirley Peth, Gary and Mary Jane Peth.

According to his wishes a no formal services will be held at this time. Burial will be at a later date in Oak Grove Cemetery with military honors. Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

ANDREA M. WILTSIE

January 16, 1934 — January 24, 2024

TOMAH - Andrea M. Wiltsie, 90 of Tomah, passed away on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. Andrea Wiltsie surrounded by her loving family at Tomah Health. She was born on January 16, 1934, to Andrew and Laura (Lessard) Jost in Eau Pleine, WI. Andrea attended Stratford High School. On July 9, 1954, Andrea was united in marriage to Clinton Wiltsie. He preceded her in death on December 31, 2000. Earlier in life, Andrea worked as a legal secretary in Milwaukee. After relocating to Tomah, Andrea and Clinton were well known in the area as the owner and operators of the Wiltsie Vegetable and Fruit Stand. They were in business for over 40 years. She also drove school bus for the Tomah School District for several years. Andrea was a gifted artist who enjoyed calligraphy and topography art, along with the art of German rosemaling. In the fall, she would often paint different designs on pumpkins to sell at the fruit stand and to decorate around her home. Reading, watching game shows, and playing cards and bingo were also



some of Andrea's favorite pastimes. Andrea lived life to the fullest and made sure to have lots of fun along the way. She was never one to complain or want to put others out on her account. Her Christmas cookies were always a special treat and family favorite. She will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother, who was sweet as can be.

She is survived by her daughter, Connie (Thomas) Johnson of Tomah; grandchildren, Tarry Wiltsie of Tomah, Tessa Jagger of New Orleans, and Jamie Johnson of Tomah; 4 grandchildren, Gunnar, Kamryn, Felix, and Alexis; great grandchildren, Rowan and Sawyer; and sister, Leatrice Wiltsie. She is further survived by other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton; sister, Catherine Franklin; and son Bruce.

According to her wishes, a private family committal service will be held at Mount Vernon Cemetery, Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

JOYCE D. OIUM

January 8, 1943 — January, 2024

SPARTA - Joyce D. Oium, 81, of rural Sparta, WI, passed away peacefully at the Serenity House in Tomah, WI with her loving family by her side.



Joyce was born on January 8, 1943, to Carl and Juno (Falk) Johnson in Rush City, MN. After high school she began working at 3M in Minneapolis when she was introduced to a handsome man who worked in the flight tower at the airport. Fast forward to January 16, 1965, Joyce and Calvin Oium were married.

She and Calvin traveled between Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, for work opportunities before making their permanent home outside of Sparta, WI. When they lived in Sparta, she worked at Rolling Hills Nursing home for four years in the dietary department and later was a personnel clerk at Ft. McCoy until her retirement in June of 2004.

Joyce loved to fly and enjoyed traveling throughout the United States with her husband and family. She would also love to go fishing. As a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, she volunteered as a religion teacher and worked with the ladies auxiliary. Joyce cherished spending time with her children, grandchildren,

family and friends and she will be missed by many.

Joyce is survived by her husband of 59 years, Calvin; children, Kim (Keith) Schuttmeier of Stoughton, WI; and Kevin (Tonya) Oium of Menomonie, WI; sisters, Linnea (Lindy) Jensen of Balsam Lake, WI, Virginia Aasmundrud of Deer Park, WI, Cindy (Randy) Weyhrauch, of Chisago City, MN; grandchildren, Brittany (Austin) Triggs, Paige Schuttmeier and Garrett and Ethan Oium; brother-in-law, David Wilmer of Cannon Falls, MN; along with nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Juno; two brothers, Roger and Edward Johnson; sister, Diane Wilmer; Calvin's parents, Lawrence and Elizabeth Oium; brothers-in-law, William Jensen, Lowell Aasmundrud, and Jimmy Oium.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 3, 2024, 2:00 p.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home, 1132 Angelo Rd. Sparta, WI. Family and friends are invited for visitation Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Sparta, WI, is assisting the family with details. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

LEWIS BEACH

January 15th, 2024

TOMAH - Lewis Beach passed away at home in Wausau on January 15th, 2024. He was 71 years old. Lewis was raised in suburban New York and suburban Chicago. Along with his parents and siblings he moved to Wisconsin in 1973. He was a long-time resident of Tomah and of Wausau. He is survived by his sons John Beach of Rib Lake, Wisconsin, and Patrick Beach of West Rhinelander, Wisconsin, as well as three grandchildren, and his sister Mary Agnes Beach of Pal Beach County, Florida, and Wausau, Wisconsin.

A Graveside Service will be held at a later date at Northwoods National Cemetery, Rhinelander with military honors. Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

Rosemary Warthan

12/16/46 - 1/31/23

On the Anniversary of the Day you went away.



Rose - Today is the anniversary of the day we lost you. And for a time it felt as though our lives had ended too.

But loss has taught us many things
And now we face each day.
With hope and happy memories
to help us on our way.
And though we're full of sadness
that you're no longer here
Your influence still guides us
and we feel you near us.
What we shared will never die
it lives within our hearts.
Bring strength and comfort
while we are apart.

We miss you - Love you

Den, Kim & Todd & Families

IN LOVING MEMORY

Jeannette (Jeanne) L Woods

December 1, 1931-January 31, 2022

Well Jeanne, it doesn't seem like it has been two years since you left us to be a heavenly angel. You are always in my heart and will forever be a part of my soul. A day doesn't go by without you being in my thoughts and prayers. I know you are always watching over us and keeping us safe. Our kids, grand kids and great grand kids keep you in their hearts and prayers.

You will be with us always and forever.

Love, Ernie

WALLACE "WALLY" H. LEWIS

August 29, 1939 — January 26, 2024

SPARTA - Wallace "Wally" H. Lewis, 84, of Sparta, WI, died Friday, January 26, 2024 at his home



Wallace Lewis surrounded by family. He was born on August 29, 1939 in Mankato, MN to Ervin and Loretta (Zinke) Lewis.

Wally served in the US Army from 1958 until 1966 and was stationed in Korea, Alaska, and Savanna, IL before moving to Sparta in 1976.

The highlight of his career as a water treatment specialist was getting to live and work in Yellowstone National Park. It was during this time that he also got to live out his dream of being a cowboy by taking several trips to the backcountry and participating in one cattle drive. Wally also loved shooting, muscle cars and

trucks. Wally is survived by his son, Scott (Tabitha) Lewis of Havre, MT and daughter, Charlotte (Mike) Peters of Sparta; 8 grandchildren, Zack, Nick, Robin, Tristan, Eric, Connor, Duncan, and Marin; 2 sisters, Devera Gruber and Diann (Jack) McGowan; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends who were very important to him.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wives, Ellen (Larson) and Phyllis (Simon).

Per his wishes, there will be no services at this time. 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

KENNETH R. "KENNY" WEISMAN

January 25, 2024

NECEDAH - Kenneth R. "Kenny" Weisman, age 88 of Necedah, formerly of Columbus, WI passed away peacefully Thursday, January 25, 2024.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 11:00 am at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in East Bristol, 1935 County HWY V, Sun Prairie, WI. Family and friends are invited for fellowship with the family at St. Joseph's parish hall starting around 12:30 pm, after completion of the Mass and burial.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorials to be made to Bristol Hospice at 206 E Olin Ave., Ste 101, Madison, WI 53713, www.bristolhospice-Madison.com,

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Necedah, WI is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com

Torkelson Funeral Home

WILLIAM JACKSON CLARK JR

January 23, 2024

MINDORO - William Jackson Clark Jr., 69, of Mindoro, WI, passed away Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah, WI. Pastor Bob Streeter will officiate. Burial will follow in the Clifton Cemetery. Family and friends are invited for visitation Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Necedah, WI is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

MONROE COUNTY HERALD

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OBITUARIES & NOTICES

JOHN R. THOMPSON

January 20, 2024

NEW LISBON - John R. Thompson, 83 of New Lisbon, passed away on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, LaCrosse.

A Visitation will be held on February 2, 2024, from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E. Monowau Street, Tomah.

A Graveside Committal Service will be held on February 3, 2024, 11:45 AM at the New Lisbon City Cemetery.

A luncheon will be held following the graveside service at the New Lisbon Community Center, 110 Welch Prairie Rd, New Lisbon. Relatives and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Saturday at the funeral home from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

GLORIA J. KOCHINSKI

January 24, 2024

TOMAH - Gloria J. Kochinski, 98, of Tomah, WI, passed away Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at the Serenity House in Tomah.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, February 2, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah, WI. Pastor Brad Lindberg will officiate. Family and friends are invited for visitation Friday from 9:00 until the time of service. The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah, WI is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

Herald Correction

In the Thursday, January 25th issue of the Monroe County Herald, in the "Lemonweir Elementary 45/15 faces challenge" article, on the front page, the Herald incorrectly identified the Tomah Area School

District board member as Cathryn Flock. The correct identification should have been Cathryn Rice. This happened in the article, as well as the photo on the front page. The Herald regrets this error.

UW Oshkosh Fall 2023 Dean's List, Honor Roll released

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have released the names of students who qualified for the Dean's List and Honor Roll, in fall of 2023, across its three campuses of Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh.

The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for University Honor Roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a

minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades below a "C" and no incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run.

Sparta, WI

Bryce Edwards, Honor Roll
Macie Wieman, Dean's list
Mahra Wieman, Dean's list
Bret Von Ruden, Honor Roll

Tomah, WI

Alexis Spiers, Honor Roll

Warrens, WI

Shaylee Malinger, Honor Roll

CONSTRUCTION

Continued from Front Page

will then come in and it will take them three months to remodel this space and then we will reconfigure everything. So, it will be interesting for a while."

Tryggestad then told the Herald that, "They are looking at next January as being completely done and moved off of the site."

What to Expect from the added Space

When pressed by the Herald on what changes the community can expect to see, as a result of the structural addition and remodeled space, Tryggestad said, "We have done some really smart design moves. We wanted to keep that old, historical aspect, but also reconfigure things a little bit." Tryggestad then described the plans. "Downstairs, in what is now our children's area, will become our new programming space. We will be able to divide that into two sections, so that we can have a children's program going on and a totally different adult or teen program in the other." Tryggestad quipped that they have been using one little multi-purpose room, and that the room has "Done it all."

One of the more unique additions will be the full kitchen in the program room, with the possibility of community members being able to use the space for an event.

On the children's current space, Michelle said that the area is so jammed that they do not even have room to display a book. "All you can see now are the skinny spines of the books. It will be so nice to be able to display the front of the books. Kids, and even adults, like to be able to see the art on those book covers. We are visual, as human beings, and that cover sells it [the book] to us."

Discovery Zone

Tryggestad also brought up the new Discovery Zone, which will be sponsored in part by Kwik Trip and by the Shovelmen. "We will have a dedicated area where kids can explore and discover many different things, including career paths. Currently, we only have a movable shop front, where we swap out different things for them [the kids] to look at."



The new addition for the Sparta Free Library is going up on the eastern side of the building. The new elevator will be located where the scaffolding is located in this photo. Currently, the conditions are very muddy, but Director, Michelle Tryggestad says that rain is better than frigid temperatures, for the continuation of the expansive project. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

The answer is Space

During the Herald's gleaning of knowledge from Director Tryggestad, it was obvious that what they have been after, for a while, at the Sparta Free Library, is space. "As you can, our computers are right next to each other, offering very little privacy for those who come here to get work done," Tryggestad said. "We are going to have study rooms as well. Where you see our circulation desk [where books are returned and checked out] that space will become two study rooms, where people can have some quiet and privacy. They may even Zoom with their doctor, in a private setting, away from noisy areas."

Tryggestad also mentioned that there will be donor-sponsored conference rooms that may be used for interviews or a meeting, with at-home businesses. "We provide very reliable WIFI here at the Sparta Free Library. It will be comfortable, quiet, and private for them. The coffee shops can get noisy at times, so we offer an alternative venue that is very reliable."

"There are individuals that run their businesses out of their home, and sometimes they need to get away from the kiddos, in order to concentrate and be effective. We offer that here."

Teen Room

Michelle pointed out the small space, in the front-south-east corner of the Carnegie building, informing the Herald that that was the current teen room in the library. She said that on Wednesday nights it will be so packed, that the

teens will overflow into the Carnegie room and other areas of the library. Then she pointed out the back, north-west area of the building. "That whole section over there will be the new teen room," she started out. "It will have floor-to-ceiling windows, with two large doors, giving them their own space, with a separation from the rest of the library visitors. We love having them here."

Michelle was quick to point out that the new addition will also have a massive window, as well. The eastern elephantine window will frame many sunrises, giving early library goers quite a view. "It will be a really good space, where people can read the newspaper, listen to nice music on their earbuds, and enjoy the sunrise."

Staff Included

Director Tryggestad explained to the Herald that the library staff works, and has been working, in cramped conditions. "[The additions and remodel] will be providing staff with those workroom spaces that are so needed now. We are so cramped tight in both of our circulation desk areas." Even though she is the director of the Sparta Free Library, Michelle's office is a remodeled closet that is difficult to even locate, sandwiched between two bookshelves.

Elevator going up

With the addition, laws and regulations stipulated that the elevator needed to be in closer proximity to the new parking area. This is the reason for the new elevator being built on the eastern side of the

building. "The old elevator is getting a little quirky, so this is a positive action," Tryggestad stated. "We will turn the old elevator space into storage, on both floors."

Editor's Note

My interview with Michelle was very informative, in both the plans for the construction and what the finished-future structure will look like, for both the community and the staff members. I think what gets overlooked about the library is its importance to a vast majority of the community. Not everyone has a computer, and the library provides for these community members. Not everyone has a quiet space at home, so if they are running a home business or need to get schoolwork done for college or high school, the library provides that space for them. Not all families have relatives here in Sparta, and the library provides a vast space and resources for them to accomplish tasks or even just catch a breather from the hectic every-day.

The library has open arms, welcoming those in need of a space for reading, studying, group meetings, and family activities, providing both privacy and areas for use as a social gathering. The library lets the lonely know that they are not alone; the teens know that we see them and understand the importance and sanctity of their privacy; the writers, dreamers and creators to know that their talents deserve fostering, inspiration and space; and the kids know that the magical reality they live in can be captured in books, craft sessions, movie events, story time and art.

JOB FAIR

Continued from Front Page

high school, and around 140 students attended - from the middle school. "As far as the general public, we are nearing 150 attendees for the day," Thompson stated.

Business Vendors

Thompson said that many of the vendors have come every year, but that some of them specifically held interest in attending this year's event because of the closing of TC Transcontinental, in Tomah. The official full closure of the facility will be this February 2024. TC Transcontinental employed 89 people in their Tomah plant. "It [the closure] is devastating to so many of those people, who have been working there over 20 to 30 years," Thompson said. "People from the DWD [Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development] have been working day and night with the staff over there, to make sure that they knew about this opportunity and other regional job opportunities as well."

Thompson told the Herald that there is a small fee for the companies to set up a booth, but the amount is just enough to cover the costs for the day. At the end of the Herald interview, Tina Thompson pointed out a banner on the south wall, that was of an athlete, with the name Jack Thompson. "That is my son, he is a senior this year," Thompson said, while laughing, as she included the

remark as part of the interview. "I am very proud of him."

Space Force Vendor

Air Force and Space Force recruiter, Staff Sergeant Nicholas Rittenhouse was at the Tomah Job Fair on Friday. Headquartered in Rochester, Minnesota, Rittenhouse made the 110-mile drive to the event, which falls within his geographical area of coverage. He says that some of the students asked some silly questions. "The students have come up to me, asking some pretty goofy questions," Rittenhouse said. "They have asked if they get light sabers, and that is due to most people not having an understanding of what Space Force does."

Rittenhouse went on to explain that Space Force deals mainly with cyber security. "We [the Air Force] invented Space Force, to deal mainly with Russia and China because they upped their satellite programs, so we had to do that as well. Positions in the Space Force will be responsible for satellites, cyber security, radar and GPS [global positioning system]."

Rittenhouse informed the Herald that the process to get to Space Force goes through the normal steps it takes to get into the Air Force. "Once they get officially qualified through MEPS [Military Entrance Processing Stations], and they qualify for Space Force, we will transfer them to the Space Force recruiter, who is in

Waterloo, Iowa," Rittenhouse explained.

Wisconsin State Parks

Abby Czyncon and Andy Haffele were at the job fair, representing the State of Wisconsin's park system. Haffele, Superintendent of the Wildcat Mountain Team, said, "We have enjoyed the day. We have interacted with a lot of students and the experience has been quite positive."

Czyncon, who operates out of Buckhorn State Park, in Juneau County, said that she talks with college students, primarily at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, and has done so, for the past five years, at their job fair. "I recruit for our summer positions, but also for our fulltime positions," Czyncon told the Herald. She went on to state that the energy levels of the Tomah students were very high.

When pressed on what degree one must attain, to work in similar jobs to theirs, Haffele stated, "Our best suited candidates are going to be people that have degrees in either Natural Resource Management, Parks and Recreation Management, and other conservation related degrees."

Both Czyncon and Haffele work in parks around this area. "We are both in the same work unit," Haffele said. "We cover the state parks that are right here in this area. I am at Wildcat Mountain and Abby is over at Buckhorn, in Juneau county. We cover Sparta and the La Crosse River 400 State



Air Force and Space Force recruiter, Staff Sergeant Nicholas Rittenhouse, stands by his booth. He received some goofy questions about Space Force, including students wondering if they would receive a light saber if they joined. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

Trails, Grandad Bluff State Park, and we thought it would be a great idea to come here and do some local recruiting."

Creative Community Living Service

Danielle Waltemath, from Warrens, was representing Creative Community Living Services, a disability services and support organization. Waltemath works out of the Black River Falls location. When pressed on what questions students were asking, Waltemath stated,

"The main question they asked was what type of degree was needed to work with us. We do not require any degree to work with us, only that they be 18 years old, which was another question they asked. We let them know that we love to have people grow within the company, and we are a great company to get your foot in the door, for this field of work."

Danielle went on to say that they are a great landing spot for students who are going

after nursing degrees, or other health related fields. "The students were very intrigued with our business. They were interested in what we do, from providing care for those who have mental and physical disabilities to caring for people in their homes - simply helping them out with their daily living. We also have day centers." Waltemath said that there are many opportunities in the La Crosse area, for students looking for work.

THE MABEL E. DUPEE FOUNDATION

Announces that applications for grants to assist in college education are available at the River Bank, 124 West Oak Street, Sparta, and the Sparta Senior High School. Applications are also available at www.spartan.org.

Those who were graduated from Sparta High School or a parochial school while their parents or guardians were residents of the Spart Area School District are eligible, as are those who will be graduated this year.

Return the completed applications on or before:
March 22, 2024 to River Bank.

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. E-mail to [mail@monroecountyherald.com](mailto:monroecountyherald.com) to place your item.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE. January 29, 1-5pm and January 30, 1-6pm. Call 877-232-4376 or Karen Edwards 608-269-5243 to schedule.

HI 69ERS! COME TO THE CLASS LUNCHEON the last Thursday of every month. We'll meet at the Leon Country Tavern at noon.

THE SPARTA BACKPACK PROGRAM sends food to Sparta's food challenged kids. All volunteer program. Not affiliated with the school district. Makes checks to: Sparta Backpack Program, 900 E Montgomery St., Sparta, WI, 54656.

VFW Post 2112 monthly membership meeting, first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Auxiliary meeting second Tuesday at 7:00pm. All meetings at the Post Home, 121 South Husk.

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

SPARTA FREE LIBRARY hosts TR-I-N-G-O (BINGO Trivia) at VFW Post 2112 (121 S. Rusk) on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Game starts at 5:30pm. No admission fee. Join the fun as we play four games, each game being a different

category.

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 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 3:00-3:45 at the Methodist Church for the winter months, January through March. 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 the third Monday of each month at the new time of 2:30 p.m. at their winter location, 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 9:30 a.m. at the **Norwalk Village Hall** for curb pickup.

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.

Goals and Vision for Monroe County 4-H

By **JASON HORNICKEL**
Monroe County 4-H Program Educator

The motto "To Make the Best Better" has been the guiding principle of 4-H for nearly a century, inspiring youth to embrace a growth mindset and strive for continuous improvement. As a 4-H Program Educator in Monroe County, through the Positive Youth Development Institute of UW-Extension, I believe this aspiration extends beyond individual endeavors and encompasses the very essence of our program.

Future, Present, Past
As we look towards the future, our challenge is not to surpass the commendable work of our predecessors but to expand opportunities, deepen engagement, and empower our youth to thrive as responsible, respectful, and compassionate citizens.

Monroe County 4-H boasts a rich legacy of dedicated educators, passionate club leaders, and multigenerational families. We celebrate these traditions, while recognizing the need for adaptation and evolution. We aim to always foster a welcoming

environment for all, promote individualism along with collaboration, and showcase the talents of our youth through the vast project options available. From photography and woodworking to performing arts and STEM, there is truly something for everyone in 4-H.

While animal projects remain integral to 4-H and our Monroe County Fair, we encourage inquiry and exploration of a multitude of interest areas, to spark new hobbies, lifelong learning, and introduction to innovative careers. Our clubs provide a safe space for positive youth development, equipping members with confidence, critical thinking, and leadership skills. Whether working to master communication through presentations, or honing agricultural knowledge through animal caretaking, each project contributes to shaping well-rounded individuals.

Personal Journey to 4-H
My own path to 4-H was unconventional. In my adolescence, I was unaware of the program's diverse offerings and never joined. Later in life, I became a

project leader and realized all the valuable experiences I had missed out on. This personal connection fuels my passion for raising awareness and dispelling myths about what 4-H truly represents. I hope sharing my story resonates with others, who might feel excluded, demonstrating that 4-H welcomes everyone with open doors, regardless of previous exposure or family background.

Everyone is Invited
Monroe County 4-H aspires to offer every member the opportunity to fully experience all program benefits. This includes actively advocating to reduce financial barriers to participation in state and national events, like Summer Camps and Leadership Academies, through scholarships. Increasing access to these enriching experiences will enhance individual growth and strengthen our community — as a whole.

Our ultimate vision is to inspire current youth members to become the next generation of 4-H champions. We envision a future where today's members continue their 4-H journey as volunteers, mentors, and role models, as so many

before them have done. In return, perpetuating the spirit of service and ensuring the program's continued vitality.

While "making the best better" may seem to be an infinite goal, it is a motivating 4-H motto for continuous effort in raising the bar of youth achievement. By nurturing inclusivity, celebrating diverse skills, and expanding access to transformative experiences, we can empower our youth to become confident leaders, contributing citizens, and proponents of positive change. This is the future we strive for in Monroe County 4-H, and we invite you to join us in shaping it together. Keep 4-H growing strong!

For more information you can call the Monroe County Extension Office, at 608-269-8722 and ask for Jason, or send an email to jason.hornickel@wisc.edu

Sparta Senior Citizens News

1/4/24 - Regular Meeting. 19 members present. President Tom Feldkamp led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Happy Birthday was sung for Jody Langrehr. 500 winners - 1st: John Roehrl. 2nd: John Langrehr. 3rd: Kay Austin. No Canasta players today.

Euchre - 1st: Jim Wagner. 2nd: Jim Miller. 3rd: Tom Feldkamp. Low: Jeff Kitt. Door prizes were won by LaVonne Rivers, Mary Feldkamp, & Jane Chapiewsky.

1/20/24 - Pot luck & cards with 19 members present. President Tom Feldkamp led us in the table prayer. A nice lunch as usual. 500 winners 1st: LaVonne Rivers. 2nd: Char Roehrl. 3rd: Jody Langrehr. Canasta - Lyn Reinert & Karen Betts. Euchre - 1st: Bob Richert. 2nd: Hugo Miller. Low: Tom Feldkamp. Door prizes were won by Helen Miller, Jane Chapiewsky, & Joe Rivers.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Jody Langrehr

Area students named to Dean's List at UW-River Falls

The fall semester Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been released by Registrar, Kelly Browning. It honors 1,656 students.

To be named to the Dean's List, a full-time undergraduate must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a scale of 4.0, or midway between an "A" and "B" average. Area students are listed below by name, hometown and major.

About UW-River Falls
UWRF is a student-centered institution that provides excellent accessible academic

programs, serving the needs of our region, the state and beyond.

Cashton, WI
Isobel Gronemus, Dairy Science

Norwalk, WI
Megan Culpitt, Crop and Soil Science

Sparta, WI
Breanna Anderson, Social Work

Kelsey Baker, Health and Human Performance
Serenity Fennigkoh, Animal Science

Kalysta Foster, Elementary Education and Psychology

Alana Ramirez, Animal Science

Tomah, WI
Kyla Johnson, Elementary Education
Jordan Kuehl, Agricultural Education

Abigail Nick, Art
Sarah Purdy, Psychology

Colby Von Haden, Agricultural Business

Warrens, WI
Lauren Noth, Exploratory

Wilton, WI
Serena Leis, Animal Science

IF YOU'RE READING THIS... ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSPAPER WORKS AND THEY SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWS

HOROSCOPE

January 28-February 3, 2024

ARIES
This week will be marked by big responsibilities, both at work and at home. You'll strive to keep your space spotless, which will bring you great satisfaction. It will also help you be more efficient in your daily life.

TAURUS
You'll have a boost in self-confidence, which will pave the way for significant progress in your professional and personal life. You'll have the opportunity to stand out and be recognized in your community.

GEMINI
Whether you're single or in a relationship, you'll experience love at first sight and feel an unprecedented level of affection. You'll learn of a birth in the family, which will be a source of great joy.

CANCER
You'll expand your network of friends and professional contacts. Your great communication skills, at work or elsewhere, will enable you to establish fruitful agreements and resolve disagreements that were undermining the smooth running of activities.

LEO
Before making a major purchase, carefully assess your budget and determine if this expense is necessary. If you're patient, you'll be more satisfied and score a better price.

VIRGO
Get ready for an eventful week! A few unforeseen circumstances could arise. At work, you'll be delighted to get a promotion. This will help you feel more secure in your future or allow you to embark on a new life path.

LIBRA
Sometimes you must take a step back to see things from a new perspective and achieve a remarkable feat. The artist in you will be dazzlingly creative! You could also get involved in a charitable cause aimed at bettering society.

SCORPIO
Your friends will invite you to take part in a fun activity or trip. You'll have a brilliant idea, which will offer a partial solution to your financial problems, if you have any. Trust the experts in this field.

SAGITTARIUS
You'll organize an event that will attract many people. Both at work and at home, you'll successfully handle an urgent situation. You could have the opportunity to celebrate a success.

CAPRICORN
New knowledge will deeply inspire you and contribute to your transformation. You'll explore a new spiritual dimension or start a new ritual that brings great joy to your life.

AQUARIUS
Your emotions will be palpable this week. This could lead you to have deeper conversations with those closest to you. You'll experience a form of enlightenment that opens you up to new possibilities and gives you a unique experience.

PISCES
You must take time to think before making a crucial decision. If you want to reach your professional goals, you must make changes to move in the direction you want and experience satisfaction.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- JANUARY 28** Joey Fatone, Singer (47)
JANUARY 29 Adam Lambert, Singer (42)
JANUARY 30 Kid Cudi, Rapper (40)
JANUARY 31 Justin Timberlake, Singer (43)
- FEBRUARY 1** Harry Styles, Singer (30)
FEBRUARY 2 Gerard Piqué, Athlete (37)
FEBRUARY 3 Warwick Davis, Actor (54)

Coffee break

Sparta FAMILY RESTAURANT Breakfast, lunch, dinner
SPECIALS EVERY DAY

Brought to you by the best barista in town!

CROSSWORDS no. 211

Answers on page 10

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				58			

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ACROSS

- Chooses
- Make clothes
- Jam
- Faucet problem
- Floral wreath
- surgeon
- Tinter
- Lawn tree
- Biblical travelers
- Fleecy mama
- Threw
- Play host
- Cultivate
- Relay portion
- Dwindle
- Get free (of)
- Saw logs
- Bubbly beverage
- Shady
- Crossed letter
- Variety show
- Auditors
- Breakfast fare
- State further
- Opera star
- Breakfast meat
- Not difficult
- Raw minerals
- Watch carefully
- Range
- Charter
- Crimson or scarlet
- Smell

DOWN

- Different
- Move with leverage
- Knot
- Binges
- Icy rain
- Snakelike swimmer
- More timid
- Female parents
- Important times
- Kitchen herb
- Lost one's footing
- Struggle
- Provoked
- Makes a boo-boo
- Capture
- In order
- Hand-cream ingredients
- Overhang
- Hazy image
- Spelling contests
- Nor's partner
- Make beloved
- Curbed
- Smell
- Muck's partner
- Equal in quantity
- Persist
- Popeye's yes
- Be
- Espy
- Tibetan wild ox

Sudoku

Answers on page 10 **PUZZLE NO. 951**

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.

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

GIRLS BASKETBALL BANGOR 56 ROYALL 36

Cardinals sink sixth-ranked Panthers; take two-game lead in SBC race

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

Heading into the final stages of Bangor's pivotal road matchup against the Royall Panthers, it looked like the Cardinals were finally about to be locked in a tight battle in crunch time for the first time this season in conference play. Naturally, that just didn't happen. This is the Bangor Cardinals, after all, and they made a statement that no one is about to deny them another conference championship that would punctuate a decade of dominance in the Scenic Bluffs Conference.

The Cardinals (14-3 overall, 10-0 Scenic Bluffs) grabbed total control of the battle for the Scenic Bluffs title by going on the road and taking down the second-place Royall Panthers (16-2, 8-2) 56-36 Thursday, January 25 in Elroy.

One would not have expected such a lopsided final score watching the game live. The Panthers more than held their own in the early going, hanging right with Bangor in a defensive slugfest of an opening half.

The Cardinals did create some separation late in the first half, building their lead to as much as 10 and eventually holding a 23-17 advantage at the intermission.

Royall responded by quickly closing the deficit to two after coming out of the break and continuing to hang around throughout the second half, despite never tying or taking the lead.

With under six minutes to play, Royall was still well within striking distance only trailing by six

points. But when it was closing time, the Cardinals put the pedal to the floor and pulled away, finishing the game on an 18-4 run to turn it into a late rout.

When it came to explaining how his team was able to kick into a higher gear and leave the Panthers in the dust in the final minutes of Thursday night's tilt, Bangor head coach Merlin Jones had a simple explanation: patience.

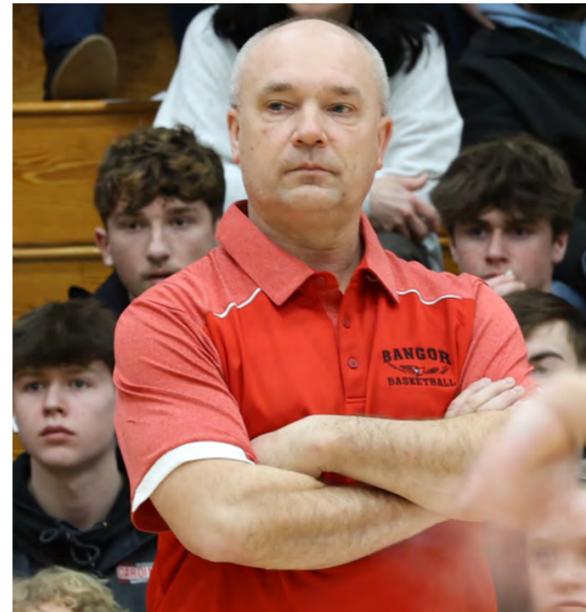
"We talked about slowing the game down and moving the ball throughout the game and late we were able to spread the

BANGOR cont. pg 8

STANDINGS
SCENIC BLUFFS
CONFERENCE
AS OF 1-28-24

GIRLS BASKETBALL		
SCHOOL	OVERALL	SBC
BANGOR	14-3	10-0
ROYALL	16-2	8-2
CASHTON	14-4	7-3
BROOKWOOD	11-7	5-5
HILLSBORO	6-13	4-6
WONEWOC-CENTER	8-8	3-7
NEW LISBON	4-14	3-7
NECEDAH	1-16	0-10

Scenic Bluffs girls basketball action plays this Tuesday and Friday and wraps up with games on February 8 and 13

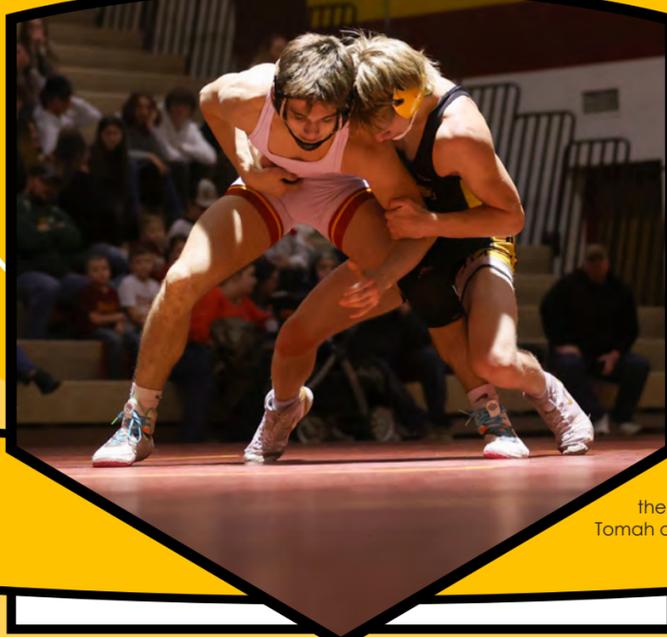


Bangor's Merlin Jones has his team positioned to complete the program's second-ever 10-peat in conference play following Thursday's 56-36 win at Royall last week. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

WRESTLING TOMAH 39 SPARTA 36

LATE PIN SEALS

VICTORY



See page 6 to follow the Sparta and Tomah dual, weight-by-weight.

Sparta's Devon Lietzau and Tomah's Jacob Van Hoof battle for position during the 132 pound bout at last week's MVC dual. Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media

GIRLS BASKETBALL TOMAH 58 OSSEO-FAIRCHILD 42

Timberwolves halt seven-game losing streak with win over Thunder

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

Having been unable to find themselves a win against Mississippi Valley Conference competition in eight tries so far this season, the Tomah Timberwolves took a detour into non-conference play hoping to snap a losing skid. That wound up being exactly what they needed.

The Timberwolves (4-14) ended a seven-game overall losing streak by defeating the Osseo-Fairchild Thunder (9-10) 58-42 on Thursday,

January 25 in Tomah.

The two teams battled tightly throughout the entire opening half and were tied at 18-18 with under 1:45 remaining until halftime. Tomah used a little 7-3 spurt to close out the half to take a 25-21 lead into the locker room.

The Timberwolves' first half effort was boosted by freshman Avery Brohmer, who splashed a pair of 3-pointers in her varsity debut during the opening 18 minutes.

Tomah's strong play continued in the early minutes

of the second half with a 14-3 run that allowed the Timberwolves to extend their advantage out to 15. Their biggest lead of the evening came when they went ahead by 18 in the final minutes of regulation.

After Tomah pushed its lead to double digits nearly right away to start the second half, the Thunder never managed to get their deficit back into single digits the rest of the way and succumbed to their opponents for the third-straight game. The previous

two opponents were Western Cloverbelt Conference leading Chippewa Falls McDonell which is ranked second in Divisino 4 and Fall Creek which is second in the WCC. O-F is currently fourth in WCC standings.

The Timberwolves were led in the victory by senior forward Victoria Miles with 12 points, sophomore forward Anna Wall with 11 points and eight rebounds and junior forward Lily Noth with 10 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double.

On top of that, Tomah also had contributions from senior guard Olivia Wall with nine points, five rebounds and four assists, Avery Brohmer with six points, freshman guard Brielle Plueger with five points, six rebounds and four assists and senior forward Yvette Miles with five points.

Meanwhile, Osseo-Fairchild leaders included senior guard Chloe Gunderson with 18 points and senior center Addisyn Koxlien with seven points.

Thursday night's win

marked the first time the Timberwolves found their way into the win column here in 2024. Prior to this losing streak, Tomah had defeated Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau and Black River Falls in back-to-back games around the holidays to close out 2023.

UP NEXT

The Timberwolves end the month hoping to notch a second consecutive non-conference win when they host the Luther Knights (8-10) from Onalaska on Tuesday, January 30 at 7:15 p.m.

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EDITORIAL

Do We Confuse Convenience For Quality?

THROUGH MY LENS

By NATE BEIER
Sports Editor



is quantity or affordability, it would appear to me that we may have lost our ability to identify something of quality.

I'll apply this to the world of sport. Look at any win a team collects, is it good? What defines it as 'good'?

I think for any local fanbase, any win is considered a good win. The objective is to win, no matter how ugly it may be. Collecting the largest number of wins means you're better than a team with less wins.

Surely, having 20 wins isn't bad, but just because one team is maybe 20-0, it doesn't mean that the team is the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Individually we can look at players that score a ton of points - is that the mark of a good player? Does simply pouring in 30 points or more points a night mean you're a better player than the one that only scores 15?

A 40 point scorer that takes 50 field goal attempts in a game may actually be harming the growth and development of a team. If that individual isn't sharing the ball, or if teammates only expect that one individual to do all the scoring, that team isn't going to win a lot as a unit.

Yet I know there will be

people out there that will consider the player a human highlight reel simply because they're the one thing that's entertaining to watch - but I ask, is it good?

I've lamented the level of our basketball in the Coulee Region this year - especially on the girls side of things - but do I have a right to do so?

On the large school side, our two biggest school leagues, the Mississippi Valley Conference and the Coulee Conference, only have four teams with winning overall records. That means that the remaining 10 teams are under .500, and under .500 they are. Most hover around 8-9 games below being even.

The smaller schools fare much better, with half of the Scenic Bluffs and Ridge and Valley holding winnings marks, but then again, how many those wins are only due to head-to-head clashes between lesser teams?

Our boys basketball is actually is worse shape as just one team in the Large Dairyland, two teams in the Mississippi Valley and three in the Ridge and Valley are better than even at this point. The Coulee and Scenic Bluffs have half of its squads

winning more than losing, but if you've been studying our area teams, you know that the actual number of true quality teams is lower than our current headcount of ones in the over .500 club.

Again, my point is that the easy acquisition of wins may actually give a false impression of the quality of a team. Fans will quickly point to the win total despite not knowing or admitting the truth behind the quality of some of those victories.

The convenient wins against lesser teams do count, but the excitement should be tempered. Quality opponents? Go check your favorite team's schedule and see how many teams they've beaten that also have won more than they've lost. To me, that's the easiest way to see if your team is a pretender or contender. If your team hasn't played anyone of an equal or better nature, they may just have convenient wins, which feel good for sure, but may not be the substance needed for a long tournament showing.

Chances at a quality win are limited in our area, but if we do our diligence, we know which are worth celebrating and which are just convenient.

BOYS BASKETBALL BANGOR 70 BROOKWOOD 54

B'wood's first half momentum runs out against Bangor

By ZACH RASTALL
Sports Writer

At halftime of Brookwood's clash with Bangor, it looked like an upset could be brewing. But by the time all was said and done, the Cardinals had emphatically reimposed their will.

Bangor (9-5 overall, 7-1 Scenic Bluffs) turned away the upset bid and beat the Falcons (4-12, 3-4) 70-54 in their Scenic Bluffs matchup on Friday, January 26 in Ontario.

Brookwood laid down the gauntlet with a strong opening half that yielded a 31-28 lead at the midway break. However, the Cardinals outscored them 42-23 over the final 18 minutes to pull away for the win.

Bangor was led by senior forward Chase Horstman with 22 points and 18 rebounds for a dominant double-double to go along with four steals. The Cardinals also had senior guard Nolan Michek with 11 points and four assists, senior

guard Samuel Cropp with 11 points and senior forward/guard Garrett Brezany with seven points.

Brookwood was guided by senior forward/guard Wyatt Maurhoff with 12 points, eight rebounds and four assists, freshman guard Brennan Mack with 12 points, sophomore guard Gavin Havlik with 11 points, senior guard Brady Hansen with 10 points and seven rebounds and junior guard Braeden Pasch with seven points.

UP NEXT

The Falcons try to bounce back when they play Wauzeka-Steuben (5-9) in non-conference action Tuesday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Wauzeka. The Cardinals next host Hillsboro (9-7, 5-3) in an SBC clash Thursday, February 1 at 7 p.m. in Bangor. Bangor narrowly escaped Hillsboro with a win back in early December after scoring the go-ahead basket in the final seconds and surviving a last second desperation shot by the Tigers.

WRESTLING TOMAH 39 SPARTA 36

Rivalry dual comes down to final match between Sparta, Tomah

By NATE BEIER
Sports Editor

Both coaches anticipated a careful game of chess when Sparta hosted Tomah in the final leg of the Mississippi Valley Conference race on Thursday, January 25.

Across the 13 weight classes there were pitfalls and surprises that both teams navigated successfully in order to leave the match tied at 36 points apiece.

That final match, however, was almost anticlimatic as Tomah's Cameron Finch took care of business in quick fashion, setting up a 39-36 victory for the visiting Timberwolves, avenging a dual defeat by the same score to the team's cross-county rivals just a year ago.

SPARTA'S EARLY LEAD

The annual dual between the two big schools in Monroe County

broke nearly perfectly for Sparta in the first three bouts.

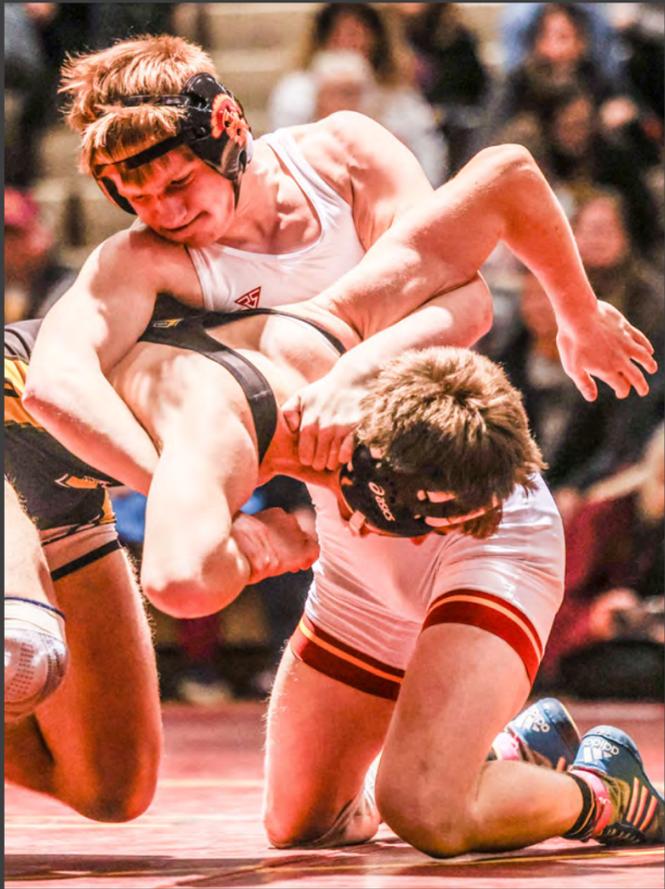
Levi Nichols pinned Xavien Wilson in 3:39 to put the red and gold on the scoreboard first.

The 157 pound bout gave SHS fans a chance to cheer again as Abe Sanchez staved off a third period takedown by Tomah's Dalton Johnson to notch an 8-7 win. Sanchez scored a pair of takedowns and a reversal in the opening period. Johnson tallied points on a pair of escapes, then gathered a takedown in the first period and would not score again until the third period.

Tomah coach Jeff Von Haden said, "(It) was a match I knew was going to be close and I thought could be the swing match for either team."

For the time being, it did. Casaan Krause followed with

DUAL cont. pg 7



LEFT Sparta's Levi Nichols places a half nelson on Tomah's Xavien Wilson in the first match of Thursday's dual.

BELOW Sparta's Abe Sanchez shoots and finishes a takedown against Tomah's Dalton Johnson during the 157 pound bout.

Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.



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WRESTLING ROUNDUP

Sparta foursome; Cashton's Schreier take first at Eagles' invite

By NATE BEIER
Sports Editor

Sparta planted four wrestlers atop the podium at Saturday's Eagle invite in Cashton.

Landon Connelly defeated Cashton's Parker Mlsna 7-6 in the 113 pound championship, improving to 30-7 on the year. At 126, Brandon Walters (20-17) earned a trio of wins - all pins - en route to the bracket title.

Devon Lietzau closed in on the 40-win mark after posting a 4-0 record at Cashton. Lietzau opened the tournament with a pair of pins, then won his penultimate match 20-7 before pinning Brookwood's Kai Pyykkoenen midway through the second period to capture the 132 pound title. Lietzau is 37-5 currently.

Cadence Zwiefel, after being idle in Thursday's dual with Tomah, surged to the 285 title with a perfect 4-0 mark.

Zwiefel's opening round match was the only one to go past the first period with the Sparta junior earning a pin in the third. The finale was against Cashton's Henry Brueggen in which the Sparta grappler pulled off a 54 second pinning combination.

Logan Engel (18-18) took third at 175.

Cashton's Jack Schreier was a perfect 3-0 in Saturday's meet, taking first at 175.

Schreier (24-10) won each match by fall.

Parker Mlsna and Henry Brueggen both took second for the Eagles. Mlsna moved to 30-9 on the year and Brueggen also passed the 30-win mark and is now 31-7.

Brookwood brought an abbreviated lineup to CHS Saturday morning and returned with four top four finishes.

Kai Pyykkoenen was fourth at 132, Cashton Gosda was fourth at 138, Sam Wiedmeyer at 175 and Gracin Stebbins at 285 were also fourth.

ROYALL 57 CASHTON 12

The Eagles won two of its four matches in Friday's Scenic Bluffs Conference finale Friday night at CHS.

Royall, however, won the other two contested weights and accepted seven forfeits.

Henry Brueggen won the 285 bout with a pin against Madden McClusky.

Parker Mlsna fell behind early, but staved off a loss to Jett Bender by coming up with a pin in the second period.

The win finished off Royall's sixth-straight title run, all of which have come following undefeated seasons.

1-27-24 Cashton invite

SPARTA				
WT	NAME	RECORD	PLACE	
106	Cyprian Klein	0-4	5	
113	Parker Mlsna	1-1	2	
175	Jack Schreier	3-0	1	
190	Gavin Anderson	1-2	6	
285	Henry Brueggen	3-1	2	

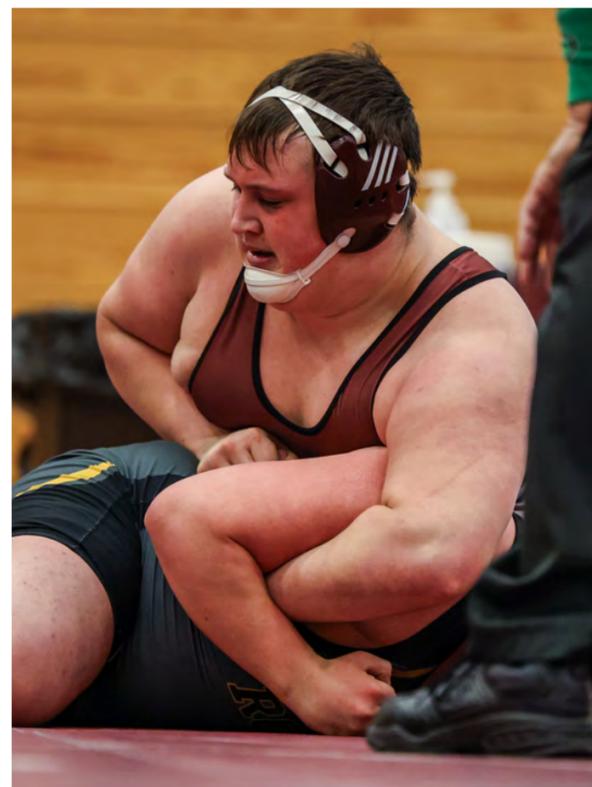
CHAMPIONS

WT	NAME	SCHOOL
106	Jaren Grimsled	North Crawford
113	Landon Connelly	Sparta
126	Brandon Walters	Sparta
132	Devon Lietzau	Sparta
138	Owen Anderson	Turtle Lake
144	Thomas Sprosty	North Crawford
150	Nolan Thomley	Prescott
157	Job Wetter	Boscobel
165	Wyatt Moses	Black River Falls
175	Jack Schreier	Cashton
190	Sawyer Swiggum	North Crawford
215	Elmer Heard	Wausau East
285	Cadence Zwiefel	Sparta

SPARTA				
WT	NAME	RECORD	PLACE	
113	Landon Connelly	2-0	1	
120	Brandon Walters	3-0	1	
132	Devon Lietzau	4-0	1	
165	Casaan Krause	0-2	6	
175	Logan Engel	2-1	3	
190	Austin Walters	1-2	4	
215	Hayden Anderson	1-2	6	
285	Cadence Zwiefel	4-0	1	

TEAM RESULTS

WT	NAME	SCORE
1	Wausau East	124
2	Sparta	116.5
3	Turtle Lake	110
4	Black River Falls	93.5
5	Prescott	83
6	West Salem JV	77
7	North Crawford	71
8	Cashton	65
9	Kickapoo	65
10	Boscobel	34
11	Brookwood	27



Cashton's Henry Brueggen muscled his way into an armbar against Royall's Madden McCluskey during Friday's final SBC dual of the season. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

BLACK RIVER FALLS 36 CASHTON 28

Cashton went 4-0 in contested weights against Black River Falls in the second dual in Friday's triangular.

Gavin Anderson, Henry Brueggen, and Parker Mlsna each won by fall. Jack Schreier won 9-1.

Results of the dual between Royall and Black River Falls

were not available at time of print.

AROUND THE SBC

New Lisbon edged Hillsboro 36-33 to lock up second place in the league with a 4-1 finish.

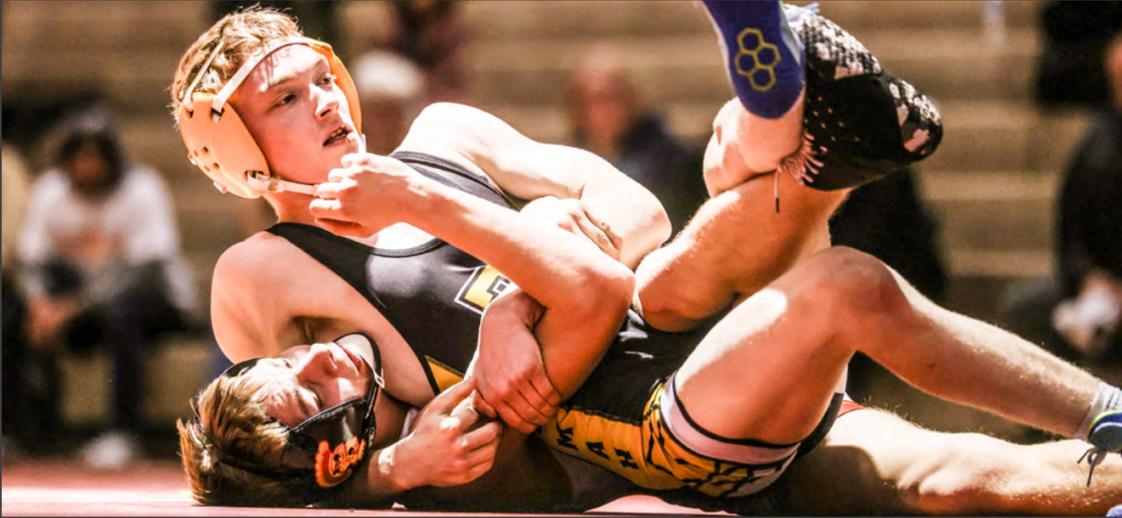
Brookwood (1-4), which was idle last week, finished last in the standings.

Kickapoo will host the Scenic Ridge and Rivers meet this coming Saturday.

BELOW Tomah's Blaine Brooker escapes a near pin at the end of regulation, instead earning a 15-9 over Austin Walters at 190.

RIGHT Tomah's Austin Gray leans back for nearfall points and an eventual pin against Sparta's Brandon Walters at 120.

Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.



DUAL

cont. from pg 6

yet another pin for Sparta after dispatching Chance Peterson by fall in 1:40 at 165.

Despite trailing 15-0, Tomah continued, unfazed by the deficit.

TOMAH IN THE MIX

Dawson Downy managed to earn the first win of the night for the visiting Timberwolves. Downy connected on an early takedown against Logan Engel, then worked on top to set up a pin, which he did in 1:24.

Blaine Brooker then added three team points after securing a 15-9 decision against Austin Walters. Brooker went

ahead with a strong second period effort. Brooker reversed the starting positions for two points, then went on to record two 3-point nearfall counts and another reversal.

Carter Habeck finished Tomah's run in the upper weights with a pin against Hayden Anderson in 3:36 to tie the dual at 15 points each.

Sparta would go ahead again as Cadence Zwiefel was awarded a forfeit win at 285.

SPARTA HOLDS THE ADVANTAGE

It seemed like every move Tomah made, Sparta parried - as if the two squads knew exactly what the other wanted to do before they did it.

The seesaw battle continued as the dual moved to the lower weights.

Sparta's 21-15 lead evaporated as Cale Ollendick pinned Jazmine Hernandez in 1:17, but still, Tomah couldn't move ahead of their county rivals.

Landon Connelly would score three takedowns before finally finding a maneuver that set up a pin against Cacl Pollack in the 113 pound weight class.

Tomah followed suit with a pin of its own at 120.

Austin Gray seemingly mauled his way past Brandon Walters, but needed nearly the full six minutes of the match to come up with the pin (5:23) to tie the dual at 27 apiece.

Gray notched a pair of 3-point nearfall counts before earning the pin - Tomah's fifth of the match.

DUAL cont. pg 8

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BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Cashton bounces back from first loss; Bangor, Tomah suffer non-conference defeats

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

Coming off a gutting loss to Royall in a battle of SBC titans, Cashton took out some frustration and got back in the win column with a dominating win over Necedah.

The Eagles (14-1 overall, 7-1 Scenic Bluffs) crushed the Cardinals (4-9, 2-6) 60-17 in their conference contest Friday, January 26 in Necedah.

Cashton was led by seniors Brady Hemmersbach and Connor Butzler with 16 points apiece and fellow seniors Noah Hemmersbach and Brett Hemmersbach with 11 points each.

Cashton wraps up the month with road games against New Lisbon (2-13, 1-6) in SBC play on Monday, January 29 at 7 p.m. and De Soto (11-4) in non-conference action on Tuesday, January 30 at 7:15.

LA CROSSE LOGAN 65

SPARTA 51

The La Crosse Logan Rangers (5-12 overall, 3-4 Mississippi Valley) handed the Spartans (3-13, 0-7) a seventh consecutive defeat by beating them 65-51 in conference play on Friday, January 26 in La Crosse.

Sparta was led by senior point guard John Rice with 11 points, junior forward/guard Grant Geier with eight points, junior forward/center Gavin Rhead and sophomore forward Kayden Kaat with seven points each, sophomore guard Gus Tripp with six points and freshman Everett Laufenberg with five points.

The Spartans end the month by hosting the Viroqua Blackhawks (7-9) in a non-conference tilt on Tuesday, January 30 at 7:15 p.m. in Sparta.

BARABOO 61 TOMAH 44

The Baraboo Thunderbirds (15-3) defeated the Timberwolves (4-12) 61-44 in their weekend non-conference matchup on Saturday, January 27 in Tomah.

Baraboo, which entered Tomah on a four-game win streak, is the fourth place team in the Badger Small Conference.

In the loss, Tomah was led by freshman shooting guard Owen Laudon with 22 points and freshman guard Quinn Gerke with 16 points.

Tomah wraps up the month on the road against the Arcadia Raiders (8-8) in non-conference action on Tuesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. in Arcadia.

Arcadia suffered a surprise 54-44 loss at the hands of Westby on Friday, January 26.

WEST SALEM 93 BANGOR 55

The West Salem Panthers (13-2) cruised to a comfortable 93-55 win over the Cardinals (9-6) in their non-conference matchup Saturday, January 27 in West Salem.

The Panthers lead the Coulee Conference at the halfway point with a 6-0 record and are in the middle of a seven-game winning streak following Saturday's victory over Bangor. West Salem bested New Richmond 96-68 the previous night and will play on the road at both Black River Falls and Westby this week before meeting Darlington (ranked third in Division 4) at Prairie du Chien on Monday, February 5.

Bangor was led by senior guard Samuel Cropp with 12 points, the trio of senior forward/guard Garrett Brezany, senior guard Nolan Michek and junior guard Eli Tucker with eight points each, senior forward Chase Horstman with six points and senior forward Willis Pollock with five rebounds.



Tomah's Michael Zastoupil rises to send up a jump shot over Baraboo's Toby Lefevre in the first half of Saturday's non-conference contest. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

DUAL

cont. from pg 7

THE FINAL PUSH

Tomah finally took its first lead in terms of team score following the 126 pound match.

Payton Smith ripped off a pin in just 34 seconds against Wyatt Derkez to give THS a 33-27 advantage with just three matches to go.

The lead was not long lived as Sparta's Devon Lietzau edged Jacob Van Hoof in the 132 pound class. Lietzau scored the opening takedown in the first period, then strung together an escape, takedown and 3-point nearfall early in the second period.

The Spartan mid-weight wrestler added another nearfall count, escape and takedown to the total before eventually pinning Van Hoof in 5:27.

Sparta's Jaden Kondor came up with what may have been the team's most surprising win of the night at 138. Kondor scored takedowns in the first and second period to beat Evan Johnson 4-2.

That decision set the team scoring at 36-33 with just a singular match to go. For Tomah, it was fitting as the team's lead wrestler, Cameron Finch (28-5) came to the center with one goal in mind - win by pin.

There was no doubt in the team victor as Finch shot early, scoring a quick takedown against Matthew Kuderer. After just 34

seconds of action, Finch had sealed the fate of Tomah's dual season with a pin.

"It was a fun dual that went back in forth," said coach Von Haden following the dual.

"It was our typical Tomah/ Sparta dual with a great crowd and atmosphere. The kids had a great time."

Looking back, Von Haden said that Dawson Downey had a big pin for the team in a match he thought they could win but not necessarily get a fall. Tomah and Sparta each won seven bouts in Thursday's dual. Tomah had six pins to Sparta's four.

"After our forfeit at heavyweight and the score was tied I figured it would go back and forth with the way we matched up," added Von Haden. "Evan Johnson did a great job not getting pinned that set the stage for Cameron to win the dual with a pin."

Tomah finishes third in the MVC with a mark of 3-2. Aquinas defeated Holmen 53-20 Thursday night as well to claim the MVC title for a second-straight season.

Coach Von Haden said, "Finishing 3-2 in conference was one of our goals and now we are moving towards the postseason. The match vs Sparta is just another step in the way and hopefully we keep working hard toward our goals of getting wrestlers to the state tournament."



ABOVE Sparta's Jaden Kondor works to keep Tomah's Evan Johnson under control. Kondor's 4-2 put Sparta up 36-33 with one match to go.



RIGHT Tomah's Cameron Finch attacks Sparta's Matthew Kuderer with a takedown and eventual pin, leading to the Timberwolves' 39-36 win in the final MVC dual of the season.

Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Sparta's revenge bid falls short, Bangor toppled by WS

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

Revenge was on Sparta's mind when La Crosse Logan came to town given that the Rangers had won the first matchup 60-53 in overtime when they met on December 12 in La Crosse. Unfortunately for the Spartans, another heartbreaking loss was in store for them.

La Crosse Logan (5-13 overall, 3-5 Mississippi Valley) outlasted the Spartans (6-14, 2-7) for a 59-56 win in their MVC clash on Friday, January 26 in Sparta.

The Spartans were led by senior guard Evie Tripp with 15 points, sophomore Elexa Jones with 13 points and sophomore Lily Seifert with 11 points.

Sparta doesn't play again until going on the road to take on the Onalaska Hilltoppers (13-5, 7-2) in conference action on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:15 p.m. in Onalaska.



Bangor's Kiera Cavadini plunges ahead as West Salem's Josie Brudos tries to defend during Saturday's non-conference contest. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

The Spartans were led by senior guard Evie Tripp with 15 points, sophomore Elexa Jones with 13 points and sophomore Lily Seifert with 11 points.

Sparta doesn't play again until going on the road to take on the Onalaska Hilltoppers (13-5, 7-2) in conference action on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:15 p.m. in Onalaska.

CASHTON 55 NECEDAH 22

The Eagles (14-4 overall, 7-3 Scenic Bluffs) guaranteed themselves at least a .500 record in conference play this season by trouncing the Necedah Cardinals (1-16, 0-10) 55-22 Thursday, January 25 in Cashton.

The Eagles were guided in the win by senior guard Sydney Helgerson with 17

points, junior center Taylor Lindley-Schendel with 13 points and junior guard Marlee Schroeder with eight points.

The Eagles return to the court to face the Brookwood Falcons (11-7, 5-5) in a rivalry tilt Tuesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. in Ontario.

NEW LISBON 75 BROOKWOOD 58

The New Lisbon Rockets (4-14 overall, 3-7 Scenic Bluffs) handed the Falcons (11-7, 5-5) a frustrating 75-58 defeat when the two sides

linked up for a conference clash Thursday, January 25 in New Lisbon. The win was actually the second time the Rockets logged a victory against a team with a winning mark on the season. The other was against De Soto on Saturday, January 6.

Brookwood was led by senior guard Vanessa Anderson with 29 points and both sophomore guard Ruby Muchlenkamp and senior forward Kymber Kaiser with 12 points apiece.

The Falcons welcome in the Cashton Eagles (14-4, 7-3) for

a rivalry matchup on Tuesday, January 30 in Ontario.

WEST SALEM 78 BANGOR 55

The West Salem Panthers (14-4) got the better of the Cardinals (14-3) 78-55 in their marquee non-conference matchup on Saturday, January 27 in West Salem.

Bangor was guided by junior guard Anna Fronk with a game-high 27 points, freshman Kiera Cavadini with 16 points and sophomore Kennedy Hamilton with six points.

BANGOR

cont. from pg 5

floor and create easier shots by extending the floor space, making Royall chase more to cover the ball and getting better looks at the basket for our shots," Jones said. "Girls were able to convert them."

Bangor was led in the win by junior guard Anna Fronk with 14 points, freshman Kiera Cavadini with 11 points, sophomore Kennedy Hamilton with 10 points and junior guard Aubrey Langrehr with nine points.

The Panthers were guided by senior guard Marah Gruen with 10 points, nine rebounds and five steals and senior forward Brooklyn Gruen with eight points and 10 rebounds.

In the first meeting between these two teams back on December 12, it was Bangor who rolled to a 67-48 home win that set the tone for Scenic Bluffs play this winter.

AROUND THE SBC

Cashton and Brookwood sit in third and fourth place, respectively.

The Falcons' loss at New Lisbon and Hillsboro's 38-36 win over Wonewoc-Center tightened things up for fourth place, however. The SBC portion of the season has just four games left at this point in the season.

New Lisbon and W-C, which are tied at three league wins each, will meet each

other on Tuesday, January 30 at WCHS.

The WIAA regional tournament is less than a month away. Brookwood and Cashton are in the same sectional grouping with top-ten ranked Royall and Cochrane-Fountain City.

UP NEXT

The Cardinals will attempt to move one step closer to clinching their 10th consecutive conference championship - a feat achieved just one other time (Bangor 1981-90) in SBXC girls basketball history - when they hit the road to face the Hillsboro Tigers (6-13, 4-6) Tuesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. in Hillsboro.

To this point, Bangor has won every single conference game by at least 19 points, and it seems inevitable that the Cardinals are going to secure their 10th straight conference title. Still, the Cardinals will need to continue to stay locked in as they seek to finish the regular season with a flourish and put themselves in the best position possible to enter the playoffs on a high note.

"Know that everyone is going to give us their best shot. Everyone wants to take us down. Winning nine straight titles, everyone wants to see that run end," Jones said of the mindset his team needs to take in the coming weeks. "Continue to improve and take advantage of our late season non-conference competition to get better and get ready for the playoffs."



Monroe County 4-H Family Celebration

By **BOBBI PAULSON**
President, Monroe County Leaders Association

Monroe County 4-H recently held its annual Family Celebration where club members, leaders, and volunteers were awarded for their outstanding accomplishments and efforts. Here is a list of award recipients.

Volunteer Award: Barb Ornes, of the Norwalk Clovers, for 45 years of leadership!

Alumni Award: Jackie Menn, of the Norwalk Clovers, for 37 years of 4-H leadership!

Friend of 4-H Award: Monroe County Dairy Promotions Committee. The Friend of 4-H is an award to a person, group, or business who has displayed outstanding support to the Monroe County 4-H. This award is open to nomination and selected by the Leadership Association.

Key Award Winners: Breeze Bunker, of the Leon Livewires and Kyle Menn, of the Norwalk Clovers. The Wisconsin Key Award is one of the highest achievements in 4-H and recognizes demonstrated growth in club and community involvement, and application of leadership skills for members in 11th-13th grade. This award is open to nomination and selected by the Leadership Association.

I Dare You Awards: Zaida Carpenter, of the Norwalk Clovers and Nyla Dilley, of

the Leon Livewires. I Dare You Award is a recognition of excellence in character and well-balanced development as demonstrated through leadership for members in 8th – 10th grade. This award is open to nomination and selected by the Leadership Association.

Treasurer's Book Top Awards: Brennan O'Rourke, of the Stepping Stones and Tenley Jilek, of Tunnel Lites.

Secretary's Book Top Awards: Emma Selbrede, of the Leon Livewires and Mariah Semann, of the Norwalk Clovers.

Senior Record Book Top Awards: Brady Wells, of the Leon Livewires and Nyla Dilley, of the Leon Livewires.

Intermediate Record Books Top Awards: Jay Ottum, of Hill-N-Valley and Alivia Paulson, of the Leon Livewires.

Junior Record Books Top Awards: Nathan Wells, of the Leon Livewires and Maci Weiker, of the Leon Livewires.

In addition, there were 39 Outstanding Record Book recipients this year! Exceptional work was done by all members who submitted their books. Monroe County is looking forward to another exciting year of programming and projects. Across the county, there are currently twelve 4-H clubs, which includes 68 clover buds - grades K-2, 221 members in grades 3-12, and 72 adult volunteers.

Volunteer of the Year Award went to **Barb Ornes**, who has 45 years of Leadership under her belt. Contributed photo.



The **Friend of 4-H** award went to **Brande O'Rourke**, who is with **Monroe County Dairy Promotions**. Contributed photo.



The **Key Award** winner was **Breeze Bunker**, who is with the **Leon Livewires 4-H club**. Contributed photo.



Another **Key Award** winner was **Kyle Menn**, who belongs to the **Norwalk Clovers 4-H club**. Contributed photo.

The **"I Dare You Award"** winner, **recognition of excellence in character and well-balanced development as demonstrated through leadership for members in 8th – 10th grade** was **Zaida Carpenter**, of the **Norwalk Clovers 4-H club**. Contributed photo.



The other **"I Dare You Award"** winner was **Nyla Dilley**, of the **Leon Livewires 4-H club**. She also won the **Senior Record Book top award**. Contributed photo.



The **Alumni Award** went to **Jackie Menn** and the **Menn Family**, who have three generations actively involved in 4-H. Contributed photo.



The **Treasurer's Book - Top Award** winner was **Brennan O'Rourke**, of the **Stepping Stones 4-H club**. Contributed photo.



The top award winner for **Secretary's Book** went to **Mariah Semann**, of the **Norwalk Clovers 4-H club**. Contributed photo.

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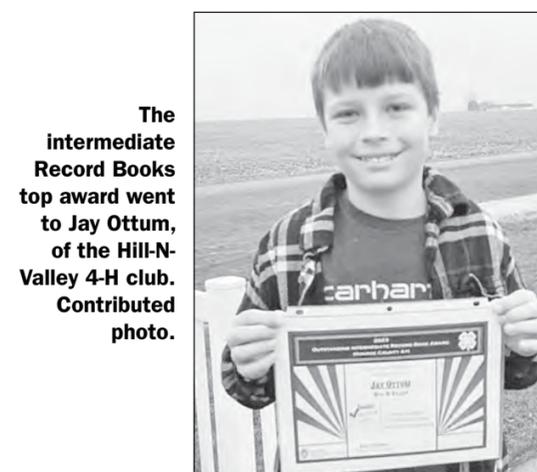


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The **intermediate Record Books top award** went to **Jay Ottum**, of the **Hill-N-Valley 4-H club**. Contributed photo.



Another **Intermediate Record Books Top Award** went to **Alivia Paulson** - **Leon Livewires**. Contributed photo.



The **Junior Record Books top awards** went to **Maci Weiker** and **Nathan Wells**, of the **Leon Livewires 4-H club**. Contributed photo.



The **Senior Record Book top award** went to **Brady Wells**, of the **Leon Livewires 4-H club**. Contributed photo.

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FINDERS KEEPERS: Check out the new arrivals at Finders Keepers in West Salem. 5 dressers, 3 curios, shovels & sleds. Our craft department is now upstairs for easier shopping. Our 4th shipment of wigs is in, and all books are half price. Casual clothing is half price. Have items to get rid of & don't want to have a sale - call us at 608-487-3527. Open Monday-Saturday, 10-5.

PET BEDDING: Used for puppies, cats, mice. E16605 St. John's Ave., Hillsboro.

FOR SALE: Dressers, beds, tables, sofas, recliners, appliances, household goods, tools, sporting goods. Military items, antiques, collectible glassware. Layaway available. Visa & Mastercard accepted. Sparta's New & Used Shop, 269-5555. Hwy. 27 & 190, across the divided highway across from Sparta Family Restaurant. 7 days a week 10-5.

LEGAL NOTICES

Town of Byron Monthly Meeting

Location: Town Hall
 Date: February 12, 2024
 Time: 7:00 p.m.

The Agenda to include:
 • Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held January 8, 2024.

Approval of bills Paid.

Treasurer's report for January 2024.

Patrolman report.

Set meeting date for March 11, 2024

Adjourn meeting

Lisa Waltemath, Clerk
 1/29 WNAJLP

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MONROE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24 PR 03

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

Erin E. Brandon
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/30/1976 and date of death 12/08/2023, was domiciled in Monroe County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 19184 County Highway M, Norwalk, WI 54648.
3. All interested persons waived notice.

THE COURT ORDERS:

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 04/30/2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Monroe County Courthouse, 112 South Court Street, Sparta, Wisconsin, Room 2300.

Diane Berendes
 Probate Registrar
 01/25/2024

Penny J. Precour
 Penny J. Precour, Attorney at Law, S.C.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT Monroe County Publication Summons And Notice (Small Claims) Case No. 23SC1735

Plaintiff(s): Creative Finance, Inc. 815 Business Park Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
 -vs-
 Defendant(s): Ethan Mathew Resop
 411 1/2 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call (608) 785-9590 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court:
 La Crosse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: (608) 785-9590
 Address: 333 Vine Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
 on the following date and time:
 Date: 02/23/2024
 Time: 9:00 a.m.
If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. 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 of property. You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county. Christopher M Kern
 2024-01-25
 815 Business Park Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
 (608) 254-6855
 1093883
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STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT LA CROSSE County Publication Summons And Notice (Small Claims) Case No. 2023SC001713

Plaintiff(s): Bosshard | Parke, La. 750 3rd Street North, Suite A, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54602
 -vs-
 Defendant(s): Ethan Adler
 203 Sumner Avenue, Tomah, Wisconsin 54660

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call (608) 785-9689 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court:
 La Crosse County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: (608) 785-9689
 Address: 333 Vine Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
 on the following date and time:
 Date: 02/16/2024
 Time: 9:00 am
If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. 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 of property. You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county. Attorney Peyton K. Phillips
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6	5	4	1	9	7	3	2	8
2	8	7	6	3	5	1	4	9
7	4	2	9	6	8	5	3	1
3	6	8	5	2	1	9	7	4
5	1	9	4	7	3	2	8	6
8	2	3	7	1	6	4	9	5
4	7	6	3	5	9	8	1	2
1	9	5	8	4	2	7	6	3

90 HELP WANTED

Job Opening

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE POSITION OPENING:

The City of Sparta (Pop. 10,025) is seeking applications for a full-time position with the Water Utility.

POSITION SUMMARY: Skilled position involving the operation and maintenance of the City of Sparta water supply system. Seeking qualified candidates that enjoy working outside, have a strong work ethic, are self-motivated and detail oriented, with good organizational skills for the essential position of Water Operator. The position is under the direction of the Water Utility Superintendent to perform all duties necessary for the installation and maintenance of water distribution facilities.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES: Maintenance and operation of a water production and distribution system. Monitoring and operation of wells, filter plants, hydrants and valves including data and water sample collection. Assist in repairs of water main breaks, service leaks and curb boxes. Install water meters, cross connection inspections, perform leak detection and inspections, customer service complaint investigations, and meter reading. Tests and records data for meter maintenance. Ability to complete locate requests. Ability to perform physical and manual work including lifting, pulling, climbing, standing, and walking. Ability to work under various weather and working conditions including confined spaces. Ability to communicate effectively and courteously with the general public, board members, administration, supervisors, other City employees, construction contractors, and others. Ability to take direction, facilitate communication, resolve problems, work individually and as a part of a team. Ability and strength to fabricate plumbing from ¾" to 12" piping, safely and repetitively lift 50 lbs. and the exertion of physical effort in water repair situations. Complete annual maintenance on hydrants and valves. The position also requires the employee to rotating weekend and holiday shifts.

EDUCATION & TRAINING: Graduation from high school or equivalent. Must possess a valid Wisconsin driver's license and access to an operable and licensed vehicle. The candidate shall hold or have the ability to obtain OIT Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Certifications in Groundwater and Distribution within one (1) year under NR 114. Experience in day to-day Water Utility operations is a plus.

SALARY & BENEFITS: Sparta offers a competitive wage and an excellent fringe benefit package which includes group medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; paid vacation and holidays; paid sick leave; comp time; deferred compensation program; and participation in Wisconsin Retirement System.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested parties can complete either a City of Sparta General Application Form found at www.spartawisconsin.org/jobs or submit a detailed resume with cover letter describing your interest and experience as it relates directly to this position.

Email to City of Sparta water@spartawisconsin.org

Mail to City of Sparta, Attn: Todd Hanson | 201 W Oak St, Sparta, WI 54656
Applications/resumes must be received no later than February 9, 2024.

Norwalk-Ontario-Wilson School District

Custodial Position

The Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill an evening full-time shift custodian that transitions to a day shift during the summer months.

Duties include general maintenance, cleaning/sanitizing, and working with a maintenance team to ensure the school facilities are in great working order. The ideal candidate would be able to work independently, lift at least 50 lbs, have general maintenance and cleaning/sanitizing skills, ability to use simple power tools, takes pride in their work to maintain district facilities, and be able to work as an effective team member.

Starting pay is \$14.00/hour and the employee will work 40 hours/week. Full-time district employees will be offered full Health Benefits, Long-Term Disability, WRS Retirement, and a set number of sick/vacation days per year.

If interested, please fill out the employment application found on our district webpage (www.now.k12.wi.us) and return it to Mr. Travis Anderson, District Administrator, via email (tanderson@now.k12.wi.us) or mail (28861 State Hwy 131 P.O. Box 130, Ontario, WI 54651). Vacancy will be posted until filled.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative, Oakdale, WI – IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR AN ACCOUNTANT

Successful applicants should have a bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration. An associate degree in accounting with equivalent work experience is acceptable. Two years' experience in accounting with thorough knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles desired. Interested candidates must have strong analytical skills and the ability to manage multiple tasks following different techniques and procedures. Must be detailed and accuracy oriented.

A full job description and application available online at: www.oakdalerec.coop/employment
To apply, submit a cover letter with resume and application to Human Resources, dprotz@oakdalerec.com or by mail to:

Oakdale Electric Cooperative Attn: Human Resources PO Box 40 Oakdale, WI 54649
Deadline to apply: 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2024

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Science Made Easy

by Larry Scheckel



QUESTION

What are some common questions that kids ask their parents or teachers?

ANSWER

Kids frequently ask these questions: Why does it rain? Why does our neighbor look different? How come I have to do chores and homework? How come there are no more dinosaurs? Why is the sky blue? How much salt is in the ocean? Why do people die? Where does water come from? Are we rich? Why do people get sick? Where does God live? Why is the moon out during the daytime? Will we discover aliens? How much does the Earth weigh? How do airplanes stay up? How do birds fly? Why do I have to go to school? Why do I have to eat vegetables?

Here's short answers to some:

Why does it rain?

The Sun heats up the water on the Earth's surface. The heat causes the water to evaporate, or to turn into water vapor. The water vapor rises into the air. As the water vapor cools, it turns back into water, in the form of droplets. The droplets form around dust and other particles through a process called condensation. Rain is a part of Earth's endless water cycle that warms and irrigates planet Earth. Farmers say, "Never curse the rain."

Why does our neighbor look different?

We can celebrate and be thankful for the diversity and differences in people. We can rejoice in the beauty of being a human being, with varying backgrounds and experiences, likes and dislikes, different ages, genders, and ethnicities. Would it not be fairly boring if everyone looked exactly the same? Everyone would have to wear nametags.

We really do look about the same. It is our brain is what makes each of us a different person. Those differences are the result of both nature and nurture. Nature is genetics. It's the genes, DNA, and characteristics we inherited from our parents. That part of what we are is pretty much fixed, and we can't do anything about it. Some genetic differences are quite obvious, such as height, skin color, eye color, and physical stature. Some genetic differences are hidden from view, such as blood type and the immune system.

Nurture is all the experiences we encounter in our growing up and living and the way those experiences shape us. Our family homelife, schools, and community are all involved.

How come I have to do chores and homework?

Shut up, kid, stop complaining, and be thankful you have chores and homework to do. You live in the greatest country on Earth, with unparalleled freedoms, bountiful food, shelter, clothing, educational prospects, warmth, and safety, with unlimited opportunities to make something of yourself. Take a look at those caravans of people coming across our southern border. They're searching for what you already have.

How come there are no more dinosaurs?

Dinosaurs ruled the Earthen landscape for about 220 million years. All other animals and species played second fiddle to these huge creatures. After dominating for 150 million years, the dinosaurs were gone, vanished forever. They met a quick and catastrophic end some 66 million years ago. They left behind their skeletal remains that grace many museums of natural history.

It is widely accepted that an asteroid, six miles in diameter, struck the Earth just off the coast of the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico some 66 million years ago. The rising dense clouds of dust spread out across the Earth, blocked the sun's rays, turned day into night, chilled the Earth to such levels that most animals and plants could not survive. When all that dust and debris settled after several months, if not years, greenhouse gasses created by the impact caused temperatures to soar.

Those huge temperature swings are believed to have killed about 70 percent of all plant and animal life on Earth. The food supply for the dinosaurs disappeared. The time period of the asteroid hitting the Yucatan and the disappearance of the dinosaurs coincides rather precisely. The most compelling evidence for the asteroid hypothesis is a layer of iridium, with concentrations 30 times above normal levels, found in sedimentary rock laid down at the time of the dinosaur extinction.

Send questions and comments to: lscheckel@charter.net.

Norwalk Man Convicted of Child Sex Crimes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kevin Croninger, Monroe County District Attorney

Today, January 26th, Monroe County District Attorney Kevin D. Croninger announced that on January 24th, 2024, a Monroe County jury convicted 46-year-old, Jonathan L. Ellenburg, of four charges, including two counts of Repeated Sexual Assault of A Child, and two counts of 1st Degree Sexual Assault of a Child- Sexual Contact or Sexual Intercourse with a Person Under Age of 13.

The convictions came after a two-and-a-half-day jury trial. The charges against Ellenburg stem from conduct that occurred between September of 2012 and April of 2018, during which time Ellenburg repeatedly sexually assaulted three different victims. Ellenburg refused to be present during the proceedings and instead appeared via video from a cell at the Monroe County Jail, each morning, and advised the Court that he (Ellenburg) would not be participating.

After two and a half days of trial, the jury deliberated for approximately an hour and a half, before reaching their verdicts. Monroe County District Attorney, Kevin Croninger, stated, "This was a difficult case. The victims in this case have been presented with extremely difficult circumstances in their lives, despite these circumstances they demonstrated a tremendous amount of strength and courage, by taking the stand and describing the deplorable acts Mr. Ellenburg committed against them. We are grateful for the careful attention the jury paid to this serious matter and for the verdicts they returned. The verdicts will hopefully give some level of relief to the three victims, who Mr. Ellenburg repeatedly sexually assaulted."

The prosecution of the case was handled by Monroe



At sentencing, Ellenburg faces a maximum sentence of more than 160 years of initial confinement in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for April 09, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Richard Radcliffe in Branch III of the Monroe County Circuit Court.

County District Attorney, Kevin Croninger, with support and assistance by the staff of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

The investigation of the case was led by Detective John Brose, of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the Village of Norwalk Police Department and Monroe County Human Services.

Croninger praised the work of Detective Brose and all officers involved, "This was a difficult and emotional case. The investigation needed to be done in an effective but sensitive manner. Detective Brose demonstrated a tremendous amount of skill and empathy throughout his investigation, and without his highly professional and effective work, convictions would not have been possible."

Ellenburg is currently serving a prison sentence related to other crimes he committed previously. After conviction, he was returned to the Kettle Moraine Correctional Facility to await sentencing.

Job Opening

Sanitation System Operations and Maintenance Position:

The City of Sparta (Pop. 10,025) is seeking applications for this full time position. Essential Qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent, demonstrated mechanical ability in equipment and/or electrical maintenance, ability to work outdoors in inclement weather, and ability to lift & remove heavy manhole covers using appropriate lifting tools.

Typical Job Responsibilities: plant operations, collection system/ lift station operations and associated maintenance work and PMs. Will be responsible for operating various sewer main assessment, repair, and cleaning equipment in the collection system. Must record & maintain computerized service records on plant equipment, respond to sewer calls & lift station alarms, collect wastewater samples, & perform other operation & maintenance tasks as assigned. Desirable qualifications include, experience in wastewater plant operations, experience in machinery, pump & vehicle maintenance, basic understanding of three phase electrical systems, and basic computer literacy. Working knowledge of SCADA systems, valid WDNR WWTP license, and DNR reporting experience is preferred.

Wage / Benefits:

Medical & dental insurance, State retirement plan, paid holidays, vacation, sick leave, clothing allowance, and state deferred compensation plan available. Shift 0700hrs-1530hrs and one weekend a month 3hr/day. Compensation to commensurate with job knowledge, education, and experience.

Send resume and/or application to wwtp@spartawisconsin.org or City of Sparta 805 Richgruber Rd., Sparta, WI 54656, Attn: Ed Hansen. Applications will be accepted through February 12, 2024 or until position is filled.

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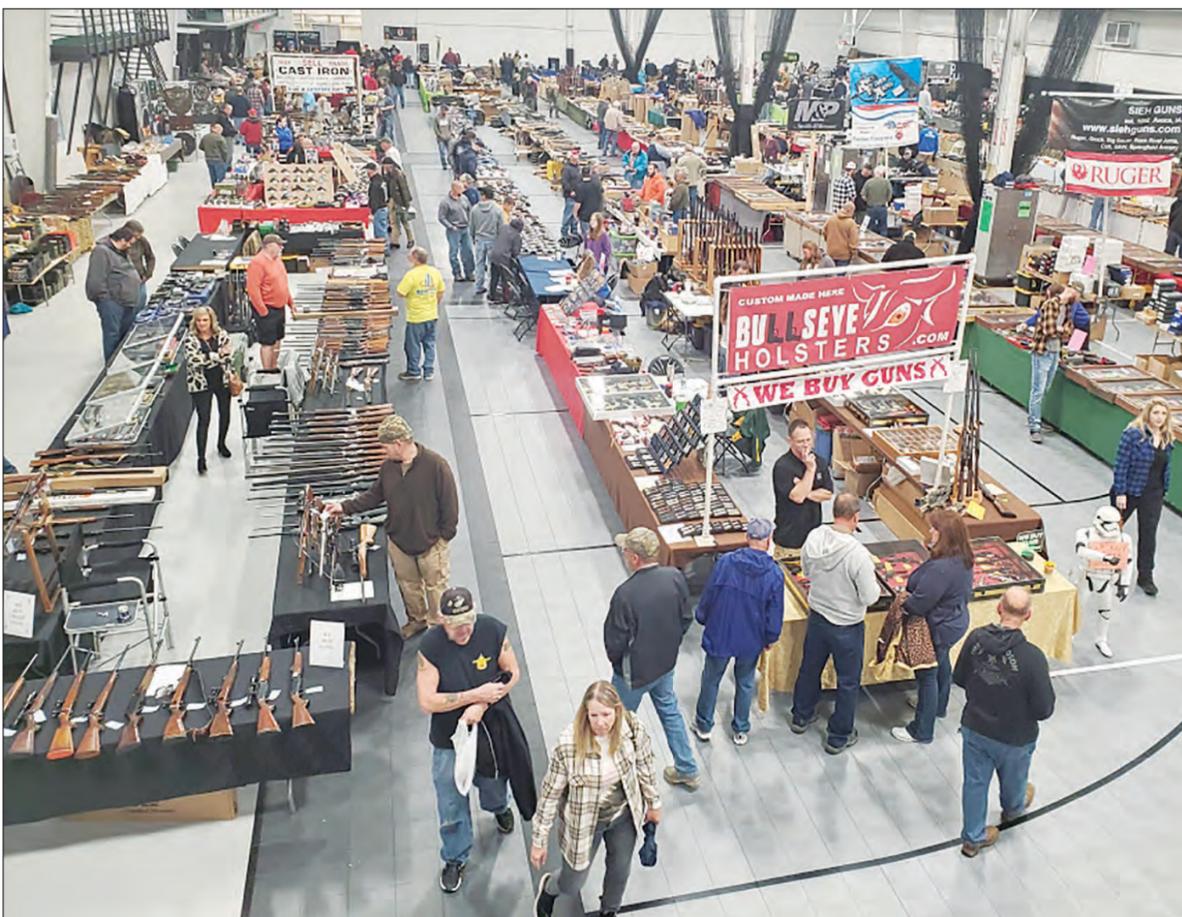
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Kraus Promotions Gun Show. Contributed photo.

Tomah Gun Show welcomed collectors and enthusiasts

By JOHN GESSNER
Staff Writer

The Last weekend in January saw a gun show at the Tomah fairgrounds. This event is typically held three times annually in Tomah, the last weekend in January, the 2nd weekend in April and again on the last weekend in October. The event draws hundreds of gun enthusiasts, hunters, dealers, and collectors, over the weekend. This show was no different, featuring a wide variety of firearms, support materials and various collectibles, from 180 vendors.

The organizer of the event, Marv Kraus, has been hosting gun shows for 37 years. He said it has become a family run business, being billed as Marv Kraus Collector Shows. Marv and his family host at least 29 events per year, in Wisconsin, Iowa, and

occasionally in Illinois. The vendors consist of private and commercial distributors, as well as collectors.

Just about every firearm is available, including rifles, shotguns, and pistols. One vendor had at least a dozen World War II M-1 Garand rifles. Marv indicated that in this area, deer hunting rifles are quite popular. One can even come across a crossbow here and there. In most cases the purchases can be a cash and carry transaction, where vendors, such as Hilljack Firearms in Elroy, Wisconsin, can submit a background check at the point of sale, and barring any problems, receive approval for sale within 10-15 minutes. With his 37 years in the business, Marv indicated that all Federal, State, and local laws are strictly followed by all of the vendors.

Elsewhere on the floor of vendors, firearm support

materials are available. Falling under this category are ammunition, cases, scopes, sighting scopes, magazines, holsters, and hunting supplies. Materials for self-loading can also be found at the show.

Beyond firearms related supplies, other vendors offered items such as knives, from the smaller pocket knives, to well-designed hunting knives, and even the long-blade bowie knives were available for purchase. For those collectors interested in swords and hatchets, there was a variety on-site. There was also an assortment of military material vendors, selling military surplus items, both from the United States Armed Forces, and foreign militaries. An occasional German World War II dagger can normally be found in the collections.

Depending on the event, vendor tables run either \$40 or \$50. These fees cover

space rental, advertising, insurance, and labor costs. Otherwise, the profits made by the distributors remain with the vendors. The next Wisconsin event is scheduled at the Jefferson Fair Park, on February 2nd -4th. Over 200 vendors are scheduled to attend the three-day event. Besides the Tomah events cited above, the next closest gun show to Monroe County will be in West Salem, at their fairgrounds, on August 23rd - 25th.

For a full listing of the 2024 event schedule, or information on signing up as a vendor, contact Marv Krause, at 563-608-4401, or consult the website, at www.marvkrauspromotions.net.

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