

ONE SECTION | 14 PAGES

Little Falls night blaze sees home destroyed



On Saturday, February 26th, 2024, the Sparta Fire District fought a fire in Little Falls. Fire Chief Mike Arnold reported that he and his crew were on the scene for five hours. The home was a total loss. Contributed photo from Fire Chief Mike Arnold.

By BENNY MAILMAN Editor

On Saturday, February 24th, The Sparta Area Fire District was dispatched to a reported house fire, around 8:42 p.m. The address was 4603 Abbotsford Avenue, in the Town of Little Falls; the home of Frank Koehler and Karen Wieman.

Upon arrival, Sparta Area Fire District Chief Mike Arnold saw that the two-story farmhouse was fully engulfed. The trees and grass around the home, they found their home on fire and called 911, to report the fire." While there were no human injuries reported, a dog and 2 cats perished in the fire. The older two-story home was a complete loss, and the Red Cross is assisting the family with immediate needs.

On the origin of the fire, Chief Arnold said, "The fire started in the area of the wood stove, located on the first floor."

The Fire Department was on the scene for five hours and they were assisted by the Sparta Ambulance Service, Cataract First Responders, Black River Falls Fire Department, Melrose Fire Department, Farmington Fire **'LITTLE FALLS'** cont. on pg. 5

strike a MABAS Box Card 3, for the first time ever, in Tomah. The inset photo is from the same vantage point as above. It is the backside of the business, where the fire originated. Sacred Space, located at 1104 Superior Avenue, was also heavily damaged in the blaze. Contributed photos. Tomah Fire Dept. battles battles business blaze for 12 hours

Businesses and tenants band together with strengthened bond

By BENNY MAILMAN *Editor*

On Friday, February 23rd, at 5:17 p.m., the Tomah Fire

to subdue the inferno, and eventually the entire building had to be pulled down. While there are further investigations that will be undertaken, the Herald was able to interview Tomah Fire Chief, Tim Adler, and neighboring business owner, Ann Schleicher, owner of Sacred Space.

Tomah Fire Chief, Tim Adler, has been fighting fires for 35 years, in the city of Tomah. On the Friday night fire, Adler said, "We know where the area of origin is. It was in 1102 Superior [Sassy





Koehler homestead, which was built in 1890, were also on fire.

Chief Arnold said, "The homeowners left around 7 p.m., to go shopping in Black River Falls. When they arrived Department was summoned to a structure fire, at 1102 Superior Avenue. The business building belonged to Sassy Girl Aroma, a family-owned candle store. Over one-million gallons of water was needed

'BLAZE' cont. on pg. 2

To build or not to build in Burns

Small town Wisconsin fighting to stay small

By JOHN GESSNER Staff Writer

Recently, on February 13th, the town of Burns conducted a public meeting concerning the proposal to rezone agricultural property to commercial and housing property. In particular, the legal wording reads, to rezone the "Farmland Preservation District to a Commercial District C." The parcel in question is owned by Todd Miller, and it runs adjacent to the south side of

the intersection of Highway 162 and Highway 16.

Acting as the agent for Mr. Miller, is CNC Land Investment LLC, La Crosse, Wisconsin. The proposed plan is to develop the agricultural land, to allow the applicant, or others, to possibly build a future shop for an undescribed business; to possibly build up to 11 each, 160 ft. x 60 foot apartment complexes and 12 each, 180 ft. x 60 ft. selfstorage complexes; to build a 40 ft. x 500 ft. self-storage complex; or to put the property to any commercial permitted use otherwise allowed in the Commercial District "C". As explained by the developer, the description of a "future

shop" refers to a lateral drilling company and other associated condition features related to the business.

Burns is а town in Crosse northeastern La County, between La Crosse and Sparta. The town prides itself on embracing the "Small town Wisconsin" rural lifestyle, with a population of approximately 1,000 people. Most of the residents live in single family homes, or on family farms that date back five generations. The proximity to La Crosse allows for small town living, with access to big city amenities. Burns is also a

> 'BURNS' cont. on pg. 5



It was a packed house, at the Town of Burns public meeting, held on February 13th. Community members are trying to keep the small community from becoming a heavily traveled and populated area. Herald photo by John Gessner.



BLAZE

Continued from Front Page Girl Aroma]. We ended up pulling in an excavator last night. We basically pulled the whole scene apart, in order to get the fire completely out. That pretty much ruins any opportunity to be able to go in there and be definitive on the cause."

Chief Adler then explained that there can never be speculation or guessing on the cause of a blaze; that investigations must prove, beyond the shadow of a doubt, what caused the fire. "We have ideas, but we will need to talk with the owners, to see what they had in that area that may have caused the fire."

Adler then informed the Herald that the fire occurred in the garage, behind the building. "Right back by the alley, that's where the fire initiated. We just could not get that fire out. We kept putting water on it, and putting water on it, and putting water on it ... it just would not go out. That is why we called in the excavator, to pull everything down and we just sunk it all, pushing it into the fully-flooded basement. Then the fire finally went out."

How They Keep Going

When pressed by the Herald on how Chief Adler and his crew are able to keep up the strenuous task of fighting fires, with the physical toll, heat, smoke, and stress, Adler had a few answers. "For the majority of the time, we run on adrenaline," Adler started explaining. "Then there are the reinforcements that we can draw on. When I was able to assess what kind of fire we had, I was able to call on mutual aid." Adler then explained that Fort McCoy is Automatic Aid, and reports to any confirmed structure fire in Tomah. "With mutual aid, I personally asked for an engine from Oakdale and one from the Town of Lincoln, and they came immediately. I realized that we still did not have enough resources here, so then I called a MABAS Box Card 3." What is MABAS?

MABAS is an acronym for Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. As explained by Chief Adler, MABAS is a prearranged boxcard system, with designations 1 through 5. Chief Adler was able to call into the Monroe County 911 Dispatch and just tell them that he needed a Box Card 3. "Then I knew I was getting four ladder trucks, X amount of ambulances, and X amount of engine companies. I called them and said, 'Strike a Box Card 3,' and I had Mauston, New Lisbon, Hixton, Elroy, West Salem. They all came to assist us in battling the fire."

Chief Adler explained that there is a staging officer, who lines all the supporting help up. Then directs them when they are needed and where to go. "Usually we stage them all in a huge parking lot, but we do not have a lot of those, so we just closed down Superior Avenue and staged them there," Adler remarked.

Adler then went on to inform the Herald that part of Box Card 3 was to have another fire company, in this case Black River Falls, come and sit in Tomah's fire department, to protect Tomah, in case of another fire breaking out, while Tomah Fire was fighting the blaze at 1102 Superior Avenue. "We do the same things for them, and everybody else," Adler added.

In the post-blaze interview, Chief Adler stated that this fire was the first time that Tomah ever had to utilize MABAS. "We review the MABAS cards every year, to make sure we make the changes that need to be made, always improving. It worked really well."

There were a total of 88 people fighting the fire. "We ended up dumping a million gallons of water on it," Adler stated. "At 1 p.m. we had the fire under control. Then we went into overhaul stage, where we picked away at the corners and made sure that we soaked everything down. There are always hotspots, and we have to make sure that they are all taken care of."

"It was a long night," Adler told the Herald. "I have a couple of guys in their 70s in my department, and they were all there last night, for the entire time."

The Sacred Neighbors

While physical and mental energies were focused on the inferno engulfing 1102 Superior Avenue, the neighbors at 1104 Superior Avenue also suffered a devastating destruction. The business is Sacred Space, and the Herald had been there just a couple weeks earlier, talking with owner, Ann Schleicher, about the monies her nonprofit, Treasured Chests, had just raised for several entities that help local women in their fight against breast cancer



Fire Chief Tim Adler, and 88 other fire fighters, battled a ferocious and stubborn fire, for a dozen hours, last Friday, February 23rd, on the 1100 block of Superior Avenue. Some fire fighters on Chief Adler's crew are in their 70s, and they fought alongside the other firefighters for the entirety of the blaze. Contributed photo.



The origin of the Friday night fire was on the alley side of the business. Over 1 million gallons of water were pumped onto the fire, and the structure still had to be pulled down, to ensure a fully suppressed fire zone. Contributed photo.



As can be expected from the inhabitants of Monroe County, Ann's immediate focus of concern was on others that were affected by the tragic loss of business and home. "Friday afternoon my heart broke," Schleicher started out. "It broke for my wonderful neighbor, Julie, from Sassy Girl Aroma. I watched their incredibly hard work over the previous year, to turn that building into their business. They suffered such a tragedy over the winter, and now this. Watching their hard work turn into rubble ... it just carries immense sadness."

Schleicher also had tenants living above her business. She stated, "My heart also broke for my tenants and my other neighbors. My tenants didn't just lose their place to live, they lost their job because they were also working for Sacred Space. I was numb."

Ann Schleicher reached out to the Herald, expressing her gratefulness for those who have reached out to her already. "The outpouring of community support has been amazing! Not just the Tomah community, but from all over. I cannot express how grateful I am and how grateful every person affected is. This is what humanity is all about! We still have a lot of work to do and still need support, but we are off to an amazing start."

As more on the story breaks, the Herald will print updates. For now, Ann Schleicher has provided the following avenues to give help, as well as a short description on those in need of that help. "We are taking donations of all kinds (not monetary), at 1018 Kilbourn Avenue, in Tomah. Please drop off at the garage, which is located on Woodard. Here are sites that you can donate to as well. We all thank you. - Bobbi Cook - single mom of three - https://gofund. me/44366b02

- JJ and Haley - new parents to Kairi (born this winter) – https://gofund.me/9ff38f51 - Dustin and Amanda - Dustin was a Sacred Space employee. Amanda was just laid off from Meca last week. Amanda has an 11-year-old daughter - https://gofund.me/9ff38f51 - Kelsey and Tom - Kelsey also worked at Sacred Space. They have three children. - https://gofund.me/6c133719

- Sassy Girl Aroma - Julie just lost her son this winter and now lost her business. - https://gofund.me/59952185

- Jeff and Ann Schleicher - Owners of Sacred Space. Jeff lost his job due to plant closure and Ann's job was operating Sacred Space – https://gofund.me/e4a810d9 - Ho-Chunk Nation Museum - their business was damaged by water - You can donate through Venmo - @hochunknationmuseum

Ann Schleicher ended the interview by expressing her gratitude for Tomah and the amazing people that make up the incredible community. "If people have any questions, they can call me personally, at 608-343-6704, or email me at crochet4ever@gmail.com They may send a message to my personal Facebook page [Ann Schleicher] if they have questions or want to donate and need further direction." Schleicher stated that they will be organizing places for cash donations, which will be divided up between the businesses and tenants. She informed the Herald that there will also be a fundraiser in the near future.

The aftermath of the unforgiving inferno left hearts in the Tomah community aching. The incredible disaster left not only businesses reeling, but tenants homeless. The community is already donating and helping out, with fundraisers being planned for the near future. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.



Across the street, Ann Schleicher and some helpers are boarding up Sacred Space, Ann's business that she has built up into a thriving sanctuary of calmness, where everyone is welcome to come in and feel safe and relaxed. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

What's Happening Upcoming Area Events

UPCOMING **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 nonprofit 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, "raffle" and the word is prohibited. Regular consumption events must be run as a paid advertisement. We appreciate cooperation. your E-mail mail@ to monroecountyherald. place your com to item.

MONROE COUNTY INVASIVE **SPECIES** WORKING GROUP OUTING ON FEBRUARY 29 at 11 am at WIDNR Big Creek Fishery Area. Clint Gilman, a local DNR forester, will explain treatment of invasive buckthorn at a forest regeneration site. All interested are invited. Location is at Delaware Ave and County I, about 5 miles SE of Cataract, 44.058861, -90.763525. After lunch on your own, option to regroup with us at Cataract Sportsmen's Club at 1 PM for our annual meeting.

SPRING ARTS & CRAFTS AND COUNTRY **GIFTS SHOW!** Presented by the Monroe County Historical Society. Saturday, March 2, 2024 8:30am - 3:30pm at Sparta Senior High School. Free Admission.

CHICKEN & BISCUIT Thursday, DINNER March 7, 2024 4:30 -6:30pm at Congregational United Church of Christ. Sponsored by the CUCC the Family Restaurant. Women's Fellowship. LEON LIVEWIRES 4-H SPRING BAKE SALE on March 16, 2024 at Leon Town Hall, 8am-Noon. Half of the proceeds will be

AREA VFW Post 2112 monthly membership meeting, first Tuesday of the month 6:30pm. Auxiliary at 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 meets CLUB monthly (except in January and February) the 3rd Wednesday of the month both 1:30pm and at 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 **Employees**) Federal 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 11:30 AM - order off the menu. The meeting starts at approximately All members, 11:45AM. 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 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

HARVEST SECOND **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.



Sparta Senior Citizens News

2/1/24 - Tom Feldkamp led us in the pledge of allegiance with 19 members present.

Canasta winners: Lynn Reinert & Mary Feldkamp.

Euchre winners: 1st - Jim Miller. 2nd - Bob Richert & Connie Jerome tied. Low -Hugo Miller.

500 winners: 1st - Kay Austin. 2nd - John Langrehr. 3rd - Gerald Kolterman. Door prizes were won by Jody Langrehr, Robin Aney, & Earl Reinert.

1/17/24 - Pot luck was enjoyed by 20 members, President Tom Feldkamp led us in the pledge of allegiance & dinner prayer.

Canasta winners: Tom Feldkamp & Earl Reinert.

500 winners: 1st - John Langrehr. 2nd - Jody Langrehr. 3rd - Kay Austin.

Euchre winners: 1st - Char Roehrl. 2nd - Robin Aney & Joanne Oswald tied. Low -Jane Chapiewsky. Door prizes were won by Jim Wegner, Darlene Heistad & Lynn Reinert.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Jody Langrehr

MEETINGS

The Broadband Special Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 5:00pm at 210 W. Oak Street, RM 1200, Sparta.

■The Monroe County Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 5:00pm at 210 W. Oak Street, RM 1200, Sparta. ■The Monroe County Economic Development and Tourism Committee will meet on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 9:00am at the 200 W. Oak Street Conference Room, Sparta.



Versiti donor specialist, Jackson Braasch, left, monitored Mary Eiler Radl during a Versiti / Tomah Health blood drive, on February 21st, at Tomah Recreation Park. Contributed photo.

Tomah Resident Helps Cause, returns to Donating Blood

has not donated blood for more than 10 years. But once the Tomah resident heard about the local blood supply shortage, she decided it was time to get back at it. "This is the first time I've donated with Versiti," Radl stated. "I was a regular donor and then I traveled outside the country a couple of times, which excluded me from donating, and I got out of the habit," said Eiler Radl. She was one of nearly 60 donors who attended a two-day Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin / Tomah Health blood drive, at Tomah's Recreation Park, on February 21st and 22nd.

Eiler Radl said she was not aware that the blood collected during the Tomah drives helps to support nearly 50 hospitals in Wisconsin, including Tomah Health. "That makes me feel even better," Radl said. "The blood's going to come back to our area or at least be available to our local community and our local citizens."

Versiti officials said the two-day drive collected blood products that will save 174 lives. "Having a stable blood supply requires all eligible donors to give continuously when they can, to assure that our community hospitals, such as Tomah Health, have the blood that they need, at

Mary Eiler Radl said she all times," said Blood Center account representative, Emalea Cogdill.

"If you really think about it, you can't get blood from, you know, a turnip, so to speak," said Eiler Radl. "We can't get it from anywhere else. So how important is it if your friend or family needs blood and nobody's donating? It's a matter of life and death and having a secure and ample supply of blood just means security — for all of us."

Officials say more than 50% of Versiti's blood supply comes from local drives. Eiler Radl added that she plans to continue donating and encouraged others to donate. "It's really pretty easy. I'm actually sitting here in a lounge chair, and it doesn't take that long and it's pretty painless, so I strongly encourage anybody, if you haven't tried it, to give it a try. I definitely want to keep doing this," she added.

Emalea Cogdill said that one in seven patients entering a hospital will require a blood product. "Without community blood drives and generous donors, we can't meet that demand," she added.

Tomah area residents can donate during the next scheduled Versiti / Tomah Health blood drive, on May 1st and 2nd.

donated to SACS

TOMAH FFA ALUMNI 2024 BLUE JACKET EVENT. Saturday, March 16, 4:00 - 8:00pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 202 E Juneau St., Tomah. Euchre, Dinner, and a Raffle. Free to enter!

"THE FORTUNATE SONS" Tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival is playing Saturday, April 20, 2024 at Sparta High School Auditorium. Doors open at 5:00pm, concert starts at 6:00pm. 608-855-9278 Call to reserve tickets.

TOMAH AMERICAN LEGION POST 201. Meeting every 2nd Thursday of the month, Sept. to May. Doors OPEN at 6:00PM, Legion & Auxiliary Meetings start at 7:00PM.

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

SPARTA THE 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.

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

BANGOR AMERICAN POST 40 & LEGION AUXILIARY LEGION 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.

Off Pounds Take 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.

HOROSCOPE

February 25-March 2, 2024

LIBRA

could arise.

SCORPIO

A dose of sensitivity and affection

will be crucial in your relationship

to avoid misunderstandings. Open

communication will help improve

things, but financial confusion

An action-packed week is on

the horizon! If you love to travel,

now might be the perfect time to

revive a plan that was previously

postponed due to circumstances

that no longer apply. Even a short

solo getaway could create some

If you have an artistic soul,

your overflowing imagination

will enable you to create an

exceptional piece of art. Adopting

a lifestyle that aligns with your

aspirations will bring balance to

your life. When you go with the

flow, everything will fall into place.

A moment of relaxation and

rejuvenation would be welcome.

Explore your artistic or spiritual

talents that seem to want to

emerge. Getting involved with

those who are less fortunate

could also be an inspiring option.

You'll expand your circle of friends

by having a more active social

life, even if it's just through social

media. Joining a gym with friends

to try out a new sport could also

You'll be full of joy and optimism

this week. This contagious state of

mind will spread to those around

you. At work, you'll complete your

tasks more quickly and support

those who need help. Your extra

efforts will be rewarded

unforgettable memories.

SAGITTARIUS

CAPRICORN

AOUARIUS

be a great option.

PISCES

ARIES

You may spontaneously decide to take a training course to improve your job prospects. A revelation will illuminate your path to satisfaction but will also require considerable effort.

TAURUS

You could obtain the necessary financing for a project close to your heart. A consultation with your financial adviser should enable you to consolidate your debts and live your life as intended.

GEMINI

Tidying up at home could help you clear your head. Before talking about separation, take the time to discuss certain subjects. Deciding on impulse could leave you with bitter regrets.

CANCER

Before presenting any files and proposals at work, make sure you refine them to ensure they get accepted. You'll inevitably want to renew your wardrobe to reward yourself for your success.

LE0

You'll suggest interesting projects to your friends. Dedicate time to developing your creative skills in a field you're passionate about. Self-confidence is the key to achieving success and accomplishing great things in the near future.

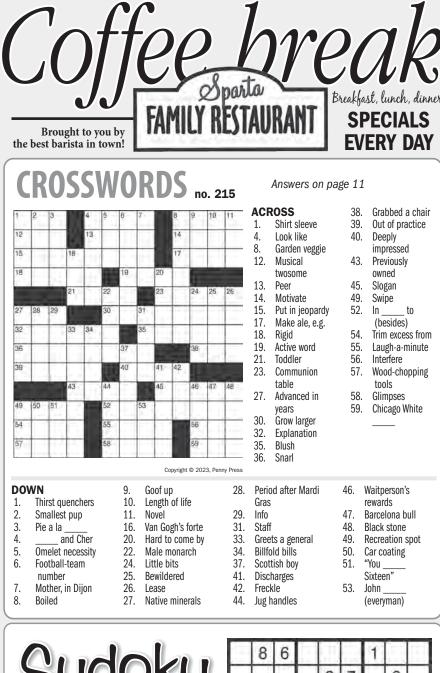
VIRGO

You'll meet inspiring people who will enrich your social circle and deepen your spirituality. A professional or personal opportunity could make you consider moving.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 25 Sean Astin, Actor (53) **FEBRUARY 26** Nate Ruess, Singer (42) **FEBRUARY 27** Josh Groban, Singer (43) **FEBRUARY 28** Kelly Bishop, Actress (80)

FEBRUARY 29 Ja Rule, Rapper (48) MARCH 1 Jensen Ackles, Actor (46) MARCH 2 Luke Combs, Singer (34)



Sudoku

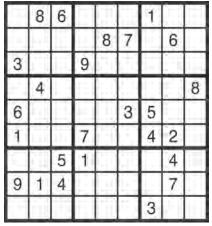
Answers on page 11

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.

PUZZLE NO. 955

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



ELAINE EDNA (SCHWARZ) HOPPE December 4, 1946 — 2024

(Schwarz) Норре was born December 1946 4, to Clare and Elaine Schwarz of

Sparta, WI. Elaine Hoppe She grew up on Summit Ridge by Norwalk and attended Bohn Elementary School and Sparta High School. She attended St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Marshfield where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.

Elaine married Gerald Hoppe on September 28, 1968 at St. John's the Baptist Catholic Church at Summit Ridge, Norwalk and enjoyed 55 years of marriage.

Elaine was a surgical nurse for 9 years at Wausau Eye Clinic and taught Surgical Technicians in North Central School in Wausau. She was also in research at Wausau Hospital. Working with Lasers of America, she helped set up new Eve Laser Clinics throughout the area. Her final years she worked as an RN in the Colonial Manor Nursing Home.

She retired for health reasons and continued to enjoy traveling, gardening, painting and especially carving.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry; six adopted children; many grand and

great-grandchildren;

CARL L. ERICSON

TOMAH - Carl L. Ericson, age 85, of Tomah, Wisconsin, passed away Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He was born January 19, 1939, to Carl and Elsa (Einarson) Ericson in Chicago, Illinois.

On September 2, 1961, he married Judith E. Dahlstrom in Chicago. In 1969, they moved to Tomah with their two sons and in 1970 a daughter was born. He was Cemetery, Oakdale, WI the manager of Tomah LP Gas for over 25 years and later worked for Walmart before retiring in 2008. Carl was a longtime member of the First United Congregational Church of Christ where he served on several boards and committees. In his free time, Carl was an avid bowler and golfer. He is survived by his wife, Judy, children, Richard (Sara), Brian (Ginean) and Beth, grandchildren, Alexander (Danielle), Ell (Colten), Brian and Seth, step-granddaughters, Crystle and Ginger, and step-great

WAUSAU - Elaine Edna siblings, Mary (Robert) Smothers, James (Mary) Schwarz, Stephanie Tatzel, Melchior (Deb) Schwarz, Amelia (Dave Pottinger) Schanhofer, Doug (Deb) Schwarz, and Michelle (Jeff) Dzurik; brother-in-law, Malend Raiten; 3 sisters-inlaw.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Margaret Raiten.

Elaine and family would like to thank the Aspirus Hospital and Aspirus Hospice of Wausau, and Rennes Rehab and Health care facility of Weston for the care she received these last months.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at St. Matthew Catholic Church, Wausau, with Father Sebastian Kolodziejcyk officiating. Burial will follow in Restlawn Memorial Park, Wausau.

Family and friends are invited for visitation from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on Wednesday at the church. 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

January 19, 1939 — February 22, 2024

grandson, Michael. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Elsa, and his twin sister, Alice Bock.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, February 29, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. Burial will follow in the Oakdale Family and friends are invited for visitation on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the church. A meal will be served at the church following the burial. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the First Congregational United Church of Christ, the Monroe County Animal Shelter or the charity of choice. The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are available at www.torkelsonfuneralhome. com.

RACHEL ALICE MUEHLENKAMP July 30, 1959 — February 17, 2024

DOUGLAS -CAMP Rachel Alice Muehlenkamp, 64 of Camp Douglas, Wis. passed away



Rachel cancer. Muehlenkamp

She was born on July 30, 1959 to Paul and Yvette (LaPlume) Muehlenkamp.

Rachel graduated from Tomah High School and was employed at the Tomah Public Housing Authority prior to her retirement in 2022.

Rachel enjoyed baking, canning, gardening, walking, outdoor activities, planning and preparing big family holiday meals and making memories with family and friends. She was also active in community service, operating Muehlenkamp Farms LLC, and an advocate of the environment.

Spring was Rachel's favorite season and she loved celebrating Christmas with her family.

February 1, 1963 — February 22, 2024

CATARACT/SPARTA -



System, La Brenda Luther Crosse. She was born on February 1, 1963 to George and Elizabeth (Mengelt) Luther in Sparta. She attended Cataract and Sparta Schools.

Brenda grew up and lived on the Luther Family farm until she moved to Sparta Arms in 2018. She enjoyed doll collecting, making beaded necklaces and bracelets, and was big on numbers and proud of our big family. Due to B.R.'s closeness in age to many nieces and nephews. She was able to relate well with them and create a close bond. Together they indulged in the pop culture of the time, especially New Kids on the Block and Dukes of Hazard. Brenda is survived by her

Survivors include her mother, Yvette (LaPlume) Muehlenkamp; sister, Paula Muehlenkamp; brother, Frank (Jean) Muehlenkamp; brother, Phil (Michelle) Muehlenkamp; sister, Anne (John) Holthusen; sister, Ruth Muehlenkamp, sister Jennifer (Jeff) Pederson and

many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Alice Herve LaPlume; and grandparents, Genevieve and Carl Muehlenkamp; father, Paul Muehlenkamp; nephew, Nicholas Holthusen; and niece, Caitlin Muehlenkamp.

A spring celebration of life is being planned.

In lieu of flowers, Rachel's wish was for everyone to spend time with family and friends making

memories. Coulee Region Cremation Group is assisting the family. For online condolences and to view an expanded online obituary, visit www.couleecremation. com.

Coulee Region Cremation Group

siblings, Judy Herr, Hedy

(Roger Jandt) Waite, Joan

Sanders, Georgia Thomas,

George "Butch" (Brenda)

Luther, Randy Luther, and

Christine (Richard) Stargard;

17 nieces and nephews, 42

great nieces and nephews,

and 29 great-great nieces and

nephews; and many other

She was preceded in death

A Funeral service will be

held at 12 p.m. on Tuesday,

February 27, 2024 at Cataract

United Methodist Church,

Cataract, with Pastor Roberta

Nowicki officiating. Burial

will be in Cataract Cemetery.

invited to a Visitation from

Family and friends are

by her parents; and infant

relatives and friends.

brother, Joseph.

BRENDA "B.R." L. LUTHER

Brenda "B.R." L. Luther, 61,



away with his family by his side, at

his beloved farm on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Dennis

was born March 4, 1959, to LaVern and Cecilia Hemmersbach.

graduated He from Cashton High School in 1978. Dennis and Julie (Leis) were high school sweethearts. They were united in holy matrimony on August 26 of 1978, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cashton. One year later they purchased a farm across the road from where he grew up. He and Julie made this their home where they loved raising their three children, Nathan, Misty and Cory. Their children grew up on the farm, as he did, helpingout with day-to-day chores.

Dennis worked several alumni

Dennis loved to have fun with his family and friends. He rarely turned down a chance to play volleyball or softball anywhere in the area. He enjoyed hunting and fishing as well. But his grandchildren were his pride and joy, and he loved every minute spent with them playing cards, doing chores, joking with and picking on them. He was a wonderful, loving husband, dad and grandpa.

DENNIS NORMAN HEMMERSBACH March 4, 1959 — February 22, 2024

NORWALK - Dennis Norman Hemmersbach, 64, of rural Norwalk, WI, passed



Dennis Hemmersbach

(Schreier)

years in Norwalk at the Heilman's Feed Mill. Dennis was well respected in the town of Wells where he served as the town chairman for nearly 20 years. He was an active member on the Westby Creamery Board for 6 years, and 20 year FFA

Dennis is survived by his wife Julie; son, Nathan Hemmersbach and his children, Lacey, Lucas and Logan all of Norwalk; daughter, Misty (Casey) Schroeder and their children, Shelby, Donald and Reid, of Sparta; and son, Cory (Shayla) Hemmersbach and their children, Hazel, Jordy and Porter of Leon; his siblings, Dan of Sparta, Mike (Cindy) of Sparta, LaVern Jr. (Bonnie) of Sparta, Tom (Carolyn) of Sparta, Jeff (Priscilla) of Sparta, Norman (Marie) of Westby, Jerry (Donna) of Cashton, Mary (Jeff) Sullivan of Sparta, Connie (Dan) Berendes of Norwalk, Joe (Deb) of Norwalk, and Steve (Dori) of Sparta, WI; along with many nieces, nephews, other

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, LaVern and Cecilia; two sisters-in-law, Bonnie and Sue Hemmersbach; father and mother-in-law, Joe and Ardella Leis.

relatives and good friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday. March 1, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church on St. Mary's Ridge, Rural Norwalk. Burial will take place at a later date in the church cemetery. Family and friends are invited to visitation on Thursday, February 29, 2024. Rosary will begin at 3:30 p.m. followed by visitation until 7:00 p.m. at the church. Visitation will also be held Friday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

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

Torkelson Funeral Home

ARDELLA MARIE LEIS March 17, 1934 — February 23, 2024 CASHTON - Ardella WI, Karen (Don) Semann of

Page 4

Torkelson Funeral Home

RUSSELL M. FINCH WANKE February 22, 2024

HIXTON - Russell M. Finch Wanke, 52 of Hixton passed away on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, Tomah.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home



February 2024, volume 165, number 14. Published Monday and Thursday by Evans Print & Media Group, 1302 River Road, Sparta, Wisconsin. Subscription Rates: In Wisconsin (546 zip codes) \$54.00; in Wisconsin (outside 546 zip codes) \$57.00; outside Wisconsin \$67.00 All subscriptions must be paid in advance. Periodicals postage paid at Sparta, per year. Wisconsin 54656.

Postmaster - Please send address corrections to: Evans Print & Media Group, 1302 River Road, P.O. Box 252, Sparta, WI 54656; (608) 269-3186. Gregory M. Evans, Publisher



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11 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Tuesday at the church. Online condolences may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com

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

> Lanham-Schanhofer **Funeral Home and** Cremation

VIOLET A. GOOD

May 5, 1926 — February 23, 2024

Good, formerly of Sparta, WI, died Friday, February 23, 2024 at Oak Meadows Senior Living Center in Oakdale, MN. Violet was born in Monroe County, WI on May 5, 1926 to Paul & Augusta (Schulz) Knoll. She grew up in the Big Creek area. She married Maurice B. Good on April 21, 1945 in Sparta, WI. They moved to Illinois shortly thereafter. She and her husband, Maurice farmed near Lena, IL for 25 years. They then moved to Sparta in 1979. Violet worked as a nursing assistant for 10 years at Rolling Hills, then worked in interior decorating.

Violet is survived by two sons: Russell (Emilie) of North Branch, MN and Paul (Ann Marie) of Hastings,

OAKDALE, MN - Violet four grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Violet was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Maurice, a great grandson, Zachary and all of her siblings.

A graveside funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024 at Woodlawn Cemetery, Sparta, with Reverend Donald A. Ehler, First Congregational Church in Leon, officiating. condolences may be offered at www. schanhoferfh.com

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

> Lanham-Schanhofer **Funeral Home and** Cremation

DAVID ALLEN GUY February 16, 2024

TOMAH - David Allen Guy, 67 of Tomah, died on Friday February 16, 2024, at his home surrounded by his loving family after a brief but courageous battle with cancer.

A Visitation will be held on March 3, 2024, from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E. Monowau St. Tomah. Online condolences may be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com. The Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home



by her Ardella Leis Friday, February family. 23, 2024. Ardella was born March 17, 1934, to Joseph and Irma (Schmitz) Schreier.

On November 14th, 1956, she was united in Holy Matrimony to Joseph Henry Leis on St. Mary's Ridge. Together they raised 7 children: Tom, Julie, Karen, David, Alan, Randy, and Pam.

Ardella's heart was always open, and her hands were never idle. Her work history was characterized by her selfless babysitting for family and friends, a testament to her nurturing spirit. Ardella's skillful hands created countless pieces of crochet and knitting. She was also known for her love of puzzles, which reflected her patient nature. Ardella's green thumb brought beauty to her garden and to the lives of those around her. She would never turn down a date to play cards or go fishing.

Ardella's commitment to her faith was evident in her active volunteering at Sacred Heart Church, where she was a life-long member.

Ardella is survived by her children, Julie Ann Hemmersbach of Norwalk,

Sparta, WI, David (Tammy) Leis of Cashton, WI, Alan (Sue) Leis of Sparta, Randall (Brenda) Leis of Holmen, and Pamela Jean (Todd) Erickson of Sparta, WI; sister, Carol Jean Gilboe of Mesa, AZ; brothers, Roger (Charlotte) Schreier of Black River Falls, WI, and Dennis (Faye) Schreier of Cashton, WI; 24 grandchildren; many great grandchildren; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Joe in 2021; her parents; a son, Tom; brother, Ernest (Darla) Schreier; son-in-law, Dennis Hemmersbach and a brotherin-law, Elwood Gilboe.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be donated in Ardella's name to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cashton, Wisconsin.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cashton. Burial will follow in Saint's Peter and Paul Cemetery in Pine Hollow. Family and friends are invited for visitation Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Cashton, WI, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online Condolences may be offered at www. torkelsonfuneralhome.com. **Torkelson Funeral Home**

ANNA L. MILLER February 26, 2024

SPARTA - Anna L. Miller, 76, of Sparta, died Monday, February 26, 2024 at Hillview Healthcare Center, La Crosse. Arrangements will be announced by Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

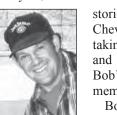
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OBITUARIES & NOTICES

ROBERT CLARENCE WILLIAMS *February 11, 1946 — February 21, 2024*

САМР DOUGLAS Robert Clarence Williams, 78, of Camp Douglas, passed

away



stories about racing his Chevelle. They enjoyed taking the car to car shows and won many trophies. Bob's girls have many fond memories of riding in the car.

on Robert Williams Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at Serenity House in Tomah surrounded by family. Brown. Ashley Robert, son of Clarence and Margaret was born into his loving family February 11, 1946, at the family home in Warrens, WI. Bob grew up on the family farm where his love of farming started. He graduated from Tomah High School in 1964. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1965 and received a citation as a sharpshooter. He served his country for 6 years. Bob moved to Rockford, IL where he met the love of his life, Phyllis Bragg. They were married on February 11,1969, the same day as his birthday, they were married for 55 years. He worked at Amerock in Rockford, Illinois before nephews. moving back to Wisconsin in 1970 when he started farming with his brother Don. Bob Father-in-law Keaton,

was a hardworking man who worked two jobs for most of his life. He farmed while also working at Union Camp in Tomah. He worked at Union Camp for over 25 years as a converting operator. Bob loved baseball, horses and his family. He loved to joke around and was loved by all who knew him. If Bob wasn't joking around, you knew something was wrong. Bob was loved dearly by his family and was a very special

person to many. Bob and Phyllis bought their 1969 Chevy Chevelle SS 396 the year they were married. They have many great memories with their Chevelle which they still own today. Bob enjoyed racing his car when he was younger and liked to tell

Bob is survived by his wife Phyllis (Bragg), his children Terri (Tim) Hayward, Kelly (Dennis) Baldwin, and Sue (Mike) Grandchildren (Tyler) Burton, Alyssa Hayward, Cuyler and Brady Baldwin, Jacob and Jaden Brown and Great Grandson Henry Burton. He is also survived by his step mother-in-law Rebecca

Ramey, siblings Ed (Shirley) Williams, Stanley (Elreda) Williams, Mary (Don) Eagen, Don (Sherri) Williams, Carol Trachte, and Ron (Ann) Williams, and sisterin-law Sharon Williams, Bob (Linda) Bragg, Wayne (Linda) Bragg, Kay (Larry) Austin, Lottie Goforth, Alice Thomas, Lugene (Doug) Saunders, Gene (Ricky) Bragg, Bamba (Allen) Bragg along with many nieces and

He was preceded in death by his parents Clarence and Margeret (Lobe) Williams, Clifford Bragg, Mother-in-law Bevy Brothers Vern Williams, Art Williams and Larry Williams, sister Betty (Williams) Ritter, sistersin-law Coral Williams and Donna Williams, brothersin-law Rich Trachte and Roy Goforth.

A celebration of life and private Graveside service will be announced at a later date.

The Sonnenberg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www. sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

To plant a tree in memory of Bob, please visit our floral store.

Sonnenberg Family Funeral Home

SPARTA ...

This addition & renovation of the Sparta Free Library is dedicated to the pursuit of learning and the enrichment of the community.

In Appreciation Of:

The Friends of the Sparta Free Library. generous donors far and wide. the taxpayers of the city of Sparta. and the trustees and staff of the Sparta Free Library.

Established 1874 Original Construction 1902 Renovated 1982 and 2025

An example of the proposed Sparta Free Library plague was provided to city council for approval at the February 2024 meeting. Bruce Humphrey presented the plaque and wording, which he had written on behalf of the library board. Design copyright by International Bronze Plaque Company for position use.

Sparta Free Library \$1,200 plaque approved

By JAYME BAHL Staff Writer

For the first time ever, Sparta Free Library will brandish a plaque honoring the donations that have been given for the expansion and renovation of the library. Sparta's city council approved the plaque at their February 14th, 2024, meeting in City Hall.

Bruce Humphrey, city council representative for the library, brought the information to the board. While the idea of a plaque has been in the making for a year, Humphrey was the one tasked with the wording to be scribed on the plaque. Humphrey estimated the cost of the plaque to be around \$1,200, after discussions with Reinhardt Mueller and a plaque designer Mueller worked with.

The council approved the plaque in a unanimous vote, with 8 ayes and 0 nays, adding the condition that "City" be capitalized in the "city of Sparta" segment of the wording. The plaque will be purchased in February - March of 2025, when renovation is estimated to be complete.

Humphrey explained that the plaque had been an idea for a while. The Sparta Free Library board was not sure where the idea of a plaque originated or who wrote the original wording. Humphrey explained, "The first iteration of this dedication plaque appeared probably about a year ago. I don't know who wrote it, but it was a complete word salad, as they say. It didn't give an appropriate dedicatory language, in order to appropriately identify the people who were responsible for this project. None of that." Humphrey went on to explain that he wrote the wording on the presented plaque. "I told the board that I would take a stab at a rewrite," Humphrey said. "I did this kind of stuff for many years. At the next meeting of

the board, I proposed most of the language that is on this plaque that you have before you."

Humphrey read his edition of the plaque to the board: "This addition & renovation

of the Sparta Free Library is dedicated to the pursuit of

learning and the enrichment of the community.

In Appreciation of:

The Friends of the Sparta *Free Library*

generous donors far and wide. the taxpayers of the city of

Sparta. and the board added, the trustees and staff of the Sparta Free Library.

Established 1874 Original Construction 1902

Renovated 1982 and 2025 Humphrey told the board he felt it important to recognize contributions, people's particularly the Friends of the Sparta Free Library. "In my opinion, it would not have happened without the Friends of the Sparta Free Library and their 30% contribution to the total cost of the project. They have now raised \$1.9 million."

Humphrey also felt it was important to recognize the taxpayers, who have also played a large part Sparta's in maintaining library. "If you have ever read a dedicatory plaque

LITTLE FALLS

Continued from Front Page

Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Jackson Electric and the Monroe County 911 Center.

Editor's Note

First, a major "Thank You!" shout out to Chief Mike Arnold and Chief Tim Adler and their respective and respected fire departments. It is a high honor to know you both. What you provide to the world is not measurable in monetary units, but weighs heavy on the scales of gratitude, hope, safety, dedication, and appreciation. From the depths of the heart of Monroe County, Thank You.

This is the second fire story I am writing in as many days. Both hold space in my heart. In Tomah, I have known Ann Schleicher for a couple years, having interviewed her when she first opened Sacred Space. I know the hard work she and many friends put into every aspect of her business, from the structure design to the fairy shadow mural and community inclusive art - it was incredibly top priority to Ann that Sacred Space be a sanctuary of calm, spiritual growth, understanding and safety.

I remember Frank Koehler

BURNS

Continued from Front Page

District.

Therein lies the concern of the residents of Burns, in relation to the proposed rezoning and potential development of the farmland. At the public hearing, CNC Land Investment presented their draft proposal for development. It was just that, a draft proposal, all that is required at this time is for the Town of Burns to decide whether to rezone the property and move forward. In the draft form, the proposal did not contain specifics that the residents were concerned with, or felt needed to be addressed, before the planning commission was to decide on the proposal.

There were approximately 75 residents at the public hearing and other than the Land Developer being in favor of the rezoning, the remainder in the standingroom-only town hall, politely and respectfully, but firmly expressed their concerns against rezoning. the Many residents spoke on the disruption of the rural landscape and lifestyle that defines the town of Burns. Beyond the longterm residents that have lived in Burns throughout the generations, some new residents specifically chose to relocate to Burns for the quiet rural lifestyle.

part of the Bangor School truck traffic involved with a construction style business, and increased traffic with an apartment complex, which has the potential of doubling or tripling automobile traffic by\in a confined space. Other questions were raised on whether the school district could absorb the additional number of students that an apartment complex would bring. This may or may not have been considered, but the information was not readily available at the time of the meeting.

Many experienced farmers expressed concerns over the increased sewage that would be produced by a large apartment complex. One question posed was how this would affect the groundwater drinking. Also expressed as a concern was would the farmer's manure spreading create consternation between farmers and the apartment dwellers, in the sense of building a house near an airfield and then complaining about the noise? What was seen at the Burns town public hearing was government by the people — in action. Residents were allowed to raise their legitimate concerns about values and feelings that they hold dearly. The idea wasn't that the residents were against progress, but that many considerations needed to be addressed, before approving this proposal and whether it should move forward.

imposing figure, especially to an 11-year-old boy. Cataract is a special place. I remember neighbors helping neighbors all the time. We would bring each other food, help with building homes and chopping wood. Everyone waved to each other back then, when they passed in their vehicles, or passed folks in their yard. I still wave, always, when I drive to my parents. In the Go Fund Me description, written by Tammy Buckhannon, for

from High School. He was a

few years ahead of me, and

rarely did he ever even ride

the school bus. But when he

did, he stood at the end of a

long driveway and was an

Frank Koehler and Karen Wieman, it states that the farmhouse was a sanctuary for so many friends and family, and that no one ever left a stranger. Their home was not insured, and donations are being collected to help them rebuild their lives. Their page can be found at http://gofund.me/ab04545a The Herald would like to thank Fire Chief Mike Arnold for his assistance in this article.

NANCY A. LAWRENCE February 11, 2024

CAMP DOUGLAS - Nancy A. Lawrence, age 86, of Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, passed away Sunday, February 11, 2024, at Liberty Village in Tomah, WI.

Funeral services will be held Friday, March 1, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Camp Douglas, WI. Pastor Brad Lindberg will officiate. A luncheon will be held immediately following the funeral service at the church. Burial will be held in the Mount Vernon Cemetery, Tomah, Wisconsin. Family and friends are invited for a visitation on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are available at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

PAUL DOUGLAS CAREY February 14, 2024

SALIDO, CO/SPARTA - Paul Douglas Carey, 63, passed away on Wednesday February 14, 2024 in Salida, Colorado.

Family and Friends are invited to call at Lanham Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, from noon until 2pm, Saturday March 2, 2024. Online condolences may be offered at www.schanhoferfh.com

Funeral services will be held following visitation at 2pm with Pastor Bob Streeter officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Following the burial a gathering will be held at The Zone, Hwy 21, Sparta. The family requests memorials in lieu of flowers and plants to establish a memorial in Paul's memory.

Lanham Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation



on any building, you have probably never seen the taxpayers saluted for their contributions," Humphrey said. "But they are on here today, and I insisted on that."

Not only did the plaque's wording change, but its cost was significantly less than projected. "Whoever proposed the original language also projected the cost of a plaque like this at something like \$10,000 to \$12,000, which was utterly ridiculous," Humphrey said. "I asked Reinhardt about it, and he talked to his supplier. We think we can do this, 24' by 18' in bronze, and it would cost \$1,200 -10% of the original projected cost."

This is certainly a legitimate concern, considering for one, the increased heavy

International Women's Day Celebration 2024 set for March 5th at campus of UW - La Crosse

The International Women's Day Committee invites members of the La Crosse community and beyond to a celebration of International Women's Day, on Tuesday, March 5th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time.

The celebration will consist of a panel discussion, with a special emphasis on how women are celebrated in their country, as well as their experiences in both their country of origin and the United States.

Panelists will include Gifty representing Amedoda -Ghana; Yuko Iwai representing Japan; and Yi-Ann Tham - representing Malaysia. After the panelists speak, time will be set aside for questions from the audience.

Location

This year's celebration will take place in the Bluffs Room of the Student Union, on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) campus and is free to the public. Free parking will be available in Lot C-12, which is by the Cleary Center, or on the campus streets, which include16th, 17th, or Farwell – around the ramp. Please contact International Education and Engagement at international@uwlax.edu or call them, at 608-785-8016, for additional information and accessibility.

Women's International Day celebrated is in countries around the world each year on, March 8th. The theme for the 2024 International Women's Day is

#InspireInclusion: Imagine a gender equal world; a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination; a world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive; and a world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together, we can forge women's equality. Collectively, we can all #InspireInclusion.

Sponsoring organizations include the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, the Women's Fund of Greater La Crosse, Viterbo University, YWCA La Crosse, and the International Women's Group.

In the spirit of inclusion,

sponsoring organizations will be collecting menstrual products for women and girls, to be distributed at local schools, food pantries, jails, and women's shelters. Community members are invited to drop off menstrual products at the event.

For more information. please contact Erica Koonmen, at aauwlacrosse@ hotmail.com

EVANS PRINT + MEDIA 1302 RIVER ROAD (608) 269-9797



On February 17th, the Sparta Innovations STEM Academy earned fourth place, out of 14 teams, at the Science Olympiad Regional Competition, in Boyceville, Wisconsin. Contributed photo.

Sparta STEM Academy places 4th in challenging tournament

The Sparta Innovations STEM Academy earned fourth place, out of 14 teams, competing at the Science Olympiad Regional Competition, at Boyceville High School, in Boyceville, Wisconsin, on Saturday, February 17th, 2024.

The Science Olympiad Regional Competition consisted of fourteen schools competing in more than two dozen scientific and engineering challenge events, focusing on all areas of science, engineering, and technology.

The Sparta ISA team was led by 1st place finishes in the

categories of: Dynamic Planet and Reach for the Stars, and 2nd place finishes in Fossils and Picture This. The team also earned several 3rd place medals.

The Science Olympiad mission is to host competitive tournaments and professional development workshops that showcase innovative STEM content to students and teachers, throughout the United States.

According to the Wisconsin Science Olympiad website, Wisconsin Science Olympiad involves close to 100 school districts in Wisconsin, in tournaments for elementary, middle and high school students. Tournaments are hosted at middle schools, high schools and several universities, throughout Wisconsin, with Science Olympiad "season" beginning with a December tournament and culminating in State Tournaments, typically held in March or April. The winner of the state tournaments is invited to the national tournament, which is rotated throughout the United States.

Monroe County Poster Contest Winners Going to State Competition

Bv JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ MORAN Contributing Writer

The American Sparta Legion recently hosted the 2024 Monroe County Land Stewardship Awards Banquet, for all ages. Awards were given to Conservation Farmers - Jackie & Harvey Menn; Conservationists - Joey Esterline & Scott Giraud; and Tree Farmers of the Year -Kim & Barbara Zuhlke. At the banquet, all eyes were also on the conservation posters that were created by young artist-

listed on the placemat for all the county winners, K-9. The K-1 and 2-3 winners were all from Queen of the Apostles and the 4-6 and 7-9 winners were all from STEM Innovations Academy.'

First place winners Ryker Flock and Teva Ebel-Naber will be continuing on to the State Competition at the Wisconsin Land & Water Conference. The Conference, which will be held in Green Bay, in early March, is already sold out.

Inclusive Contest Welcomes all Area Youth

Lefebvre says she enjoyed

awarded at each level: county, state, and national.

At the state level, Wisconsin Land and Water explains that "Posters are evaluated based on conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality, universal appeal, and individual artwork. Past poster contest themes have included: Healthy Soils are Full of Life, Dig Deeper Mysteries in the Soil, Soil to Spoon, Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits, and Water is Life."

The National Association of Conservation Districts goes on to state, "The NACD Poster sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation through field days, educational programming, and workshops, to educate citizens about the need to care for our natural resources.

Many district activities extend beyond the oneweek observance, to include an entire year of outreach. Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. The 2024 Stewardship week will be celebrated April 28th -May 5th, 2024." For more information on art and conservation at county, state, and national levels: Monroe County: co.monroe. wi.us/departments/landconservation State: wisconsinlandwater.org National: nacdnet.org



conservationists, throughout Monroe County, for the Conservation Awareness Poster Contest

All attendees were excited and eager to learn who had won the poster contest, but nobody was more anxious than the artists themselves. Ryker Flock & Teva Ebel-Naber placed first in their age groups, in the Western Area contest. Kaylee Becker placed second.

Art and Conservation a Winning Combo

cleverly designed A placemat was found at each place setting at the awards banquet, featuring a colorful conversation-starting and collage of the winning posters. "May the Forest be With You, Always," was this year's theme for the annual Youth Conservation Awareness Poster Contest, sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for Stewardship Week 2024.

The contest was open to all area youth, grades K-12, and yielded many entries in Monroe County. Lefebvre, Lily Monroe County Land Conservation Department (LCD) - Soil & Water Conservation Specialist, was the lead organizer for the Monroe County Poster Contest this year. Lefebvre explained, "The names are organizing the poster contest this year, especially since she remembers entering the contest herself, as a youth, in Northern Wisconsin. A mass email invitation went out to area schools, in which the rules for the creative contest were shared. They included the dimensions of the poster size - 12" x 18" or 14" x 22". Crucial to the contest was the theme for 2024 -"May the Forest be With You, Always," which must be written somewhere on the poster. Posters may be created with the use of paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, paper or other stickers, materials, but absolutely no computer-generated posters.

Lily went on to say that there were many entrants and ideas, and that it's so exciting that two of our Monroe County winners are going on to the state competition. There were over 100 entries this year, a big jump from the 20 or so, which are usually received. Lefebvre hopes that even more will enter next year. All youth, schools, and homeschoolers in Monroe County, are welcome to participate, and are encouraged to reach out to the Land Conservation Department, or email lily. lefebvre@co.monroe.wi.us in anticipation of next year's contest. Prizes and honors are

Contest provides students from kindergarten through 12th grade, a chance to have their art displayed nationally. Winning posters reflect the annual NACD Stewardship theme and highlight the work conservation districts of and their associations in protecting and enhancing natural resources. The contest starts locally, advances to state levels, then national. National winners receive recognition at NACD's annual meeting.

All participants are encouraged to create posters that celebrate inclusivity and the importance of our natural resources. Education is a critical element of the conservation effort at the local, state, and national levels. Educating young people about the benefits of conservation helps to ensure that the next generation will be wise stewards of America's natural resources.

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. The program relies on conservation districts

Monroe County to lift seasonal weight restrictions

The seasonal weight placed restrictions upon Monroe County highways will be removed effective, Tuesday, February 27th, 2024. The restrictions on each individual highway will remain in effect until the signs have been removed. All weight restrictions on bridges will remain in effect, as posted at the bridge.

Restrictions on vehicle weight are placed each spring, to reduce damage, while the road base is unstable. This year the restrictions were posted on February 2nd.

The typical limit on most Monroe County highways is 40 tons total vehicle weight. Permits to transport oversize and overweight loads may be requested, by submitting an application to the Highway Department. Application

forms, the Policy on Vehicle Restrictions Weight & Permits, and a fee schedule, may be found on the Highway Department webpage, at www. co.monroe.wi.us.

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

JOIN US! **FACILITY INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS**

The Tomah Area School District is in the process of reviewing our facility needs and planning for the future. We will be holding several informational meetings to inform the community and to receive feedback that will help shape the direction.

We encourage you to attend one or all of the meetings!

WHEN	February 27 6:30 PM - Middle School Cafeteria
&	March 5 12 PM (noon) - Robert Kupper Learning Center Cafeteria
WHERE	March 5 6:30 PM - High School Cafeteria

Please note that a community survey will be conducted in the spring.

For more information contact:

Dr. Mike Hanson TASD District Administrator ph: (608) 374-7004 email: MikeHanson@tomah.education www.tomah.education



Monday, February 26, 2024 • Page 7

WIAA SECTIONAL GYMNASTICS DIVISION 2 AT WEST SALEM

Sparta's Bjorkman wins bars, places second in all-around

By NATE BEIER Sports Editor

There's bound to be pressure as the tournament trail unfolds. For Sparta's Gabby Bjorkman that pressure nearly cost her a return trip to the WIAA state gymnastics meet. Nearly.

Bjorkman had a number of surprise finishes in terms of scores and placings, but still managed to secure second place in the all-around competition on top of winning the uneven bars during Saturday's Division 2 sectional meet at West Salem on Saturday, February 24.

Bjorkman and the Sparta team opened its sectional meet on beam. The sophomore

capped Sparta's event with a score of 8.8. By comparison, Bjorkman's last three conference meets had her score over 9.0 in the event.

Sparta's lead gymnast would go on to place eighth in the event. Cracking the top six in any event - the spots that automatically qualify for state - would prove difficult for Bjorkman, though.

Bjorkman took 10 on the floor and then fell to eighth on vault - the event she qualified for state in during 2023.

The last rotation of the day put Sparta on the uneven bars and Bjorkman unleashed a finale to take note of with a routine that garnered the top sectional score of 9.25. First year head coach

Makayla Chew said that there was disappointment from Bjorkman in scores from Saturday, but believes that things will be different at this weekend's final meet of the season

Chew said that Bjorkman was dealing with tightness in her calves throughout the week leading into Saturday's sectional, and that seemed to her to be a contributing factor in ailing scores.

"She had a lot of pain in her calves. It was big for floor and beam," said Chew.

The focus this week is to drill and be ready for the WIAA state meet this weekend. The focus on keeping things loose and having fun will, hopefully, preceed the pressure to

perform, said Chew. **SPARTA NOTES**

Sparta competed with a shorthanded squad Saturday. The team only fielded four

girls in two events and just three in the others. The last meet of the season

for Paige Ehlinger, Madelyn Leigle and Kaylie Sheppard yielded positives, even if it didn't include a state berth.

Coach Chew pointed out that Leigle added a new skill - a stride circle - on bars. She also pointed out that Ehlinger kept her feet up during her own bars routine and Sheppard, who made her sectional debut, performed two back walkovers on beam.



Sparta's Gabby Bjorkman performs her floor routine during Saturday's sectional. The sophomore won the bars and was second in the all-around competition. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

WIAA STATE WRESTLING DEVON LIETZAU, SPARTA

WIAA STATE WRESTLING TOMAH

Finch leads Tomah's trio of state qualifiers with podium finish





Sparta's Devon Lietzau hoists Beaver Dam's Avery Femrite high off the mat during the 132 pound fifth place match at the Kohl Center in Madison on Saturday, February 24. Lietzau held on to win 3-2 to take fifth overall in his state debut. Herald photo by Derek Montgomery.

Podium finish Sparta's Lietzau rebounds from semifinal loss; takes fifth at state

By ZACH RASTALL Assistant Sports Editor

Wrestling in the Kohl Center as part of the state tournament for the first time can be a daunting, sometimes overwhelming task. If you let the moment become too much, your time in Madison can be over in what feels like the blink of an eye.

Alternatively, you can take the route Sparta junior Devon Lietzau did in his state debut, where, by the end of his first day of wrestling at the Kohl Center, he already clinched himself a spot on the medalist podium.

Lietzau shined in his first appearance on the state stage, placing fifth in the

Division 1 132-pound bracket at the 2024 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament. The event was held from Thursday, February 22 to Saturday, February 24 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Going into his first match on Thursday, Lietzau admitted that the significance of the stage and the grand environment brought out some butterflies.

"It was very nervous. I didn't really feel myself," Lietzau said. "I was just trying to block everything out and not think about it. It's just another tournament."

Clearly, Lietzau's attempt to dial in on nothing but the match at hand was a rousing success.

In his opening match at state on Thursday, Lietzau, the No. 5 seed in the Division 1 132-pound bracket, defeated Beaver Dam/Wayland Academy junior and No. 12 seed Avery Femrite via a 9-3 decision to advance to the quarterfinals.

Later on Thursday evening, Lietzau followed that up with a win over River Falls junior and No. 13 seed Jonas Longsdorf via a 7-2 decision to book his spot in Friday night's semifinals and guarantee himself a spot on the medalist podium at the end of the tournament no matter what happened from there.

"The first day, I was really tired from

LIETZAU cont. pg 10

Ioman's Cameron Finch wraps up and returns Bay Port's Trevor Finger to the mat during a 144 pound consolation match Friday morning. Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

By ZACH RASTALL Sports Writer

A sectional title and state tournament appearance was already going to make this a successful junior season for Tomah's Cameron Finch. Punctuating that with a spot on the medalist podium at state was just the cherry on top.

Finch headlined the trio of Tomah wrestlers who made the trip down to Madison, as he placed sixth overall in the Division 1 144-pound bracket at the 2024 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, held from Thursday, February 22 to Saturday, January 24 at the Kohl Center.

Finch was the No. 5 seed in his weight class and opened up the tournament on Thursday afternoon by pinning West Salem/Bangor senior and No. 12 seed Brett Plomedahl 3 minutes, 35 seconds into their preliminary round match.

In Thursday evening's quarterfinals, Germantown junior and No. 4 seed Eli Rabideau bested Finch via an 11-5 decision that sent Finch into the consolation brackets.

Finch had himself a stellar day in Friday's wrestlebacks, starting with him defeating Bay Port senior and No. 13 seed Trevor Finger via a 10-0

major decision. He followed that in the afternoon by beating Waukesha North sophomore and No. 9 seed Ben Lauer via a 6-0 decision to guarantee himself a spot on the medalist podium.

In Saturday's action, Union Grove junior and No. 3 seed Cole Dummer defeated Finch in a 7-0 decision in the consolation semifinals, then Stevens Point senior and No. 7 seed Jake Hall pinned Finch at the 1:46 mark in their fifth-place match.

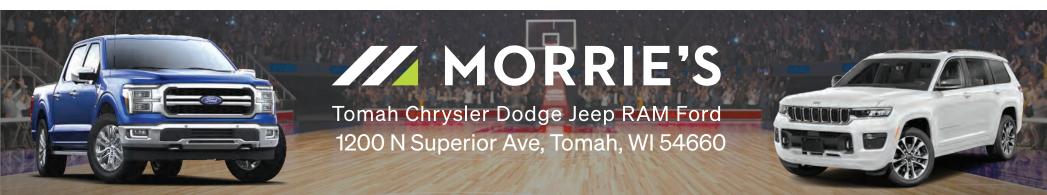
"It means a lot," Finch said of his podium finish. "I think I can definitely work on a lot of things throughout this next year and be able to improve." In addition to Finch, the Timberwolves had two girls

TOMAH cont. pg 10

MORE STATE WRESTLING

Photo gallery and stories to come

Check Thursday's edition of The Monroe County Herald for more in-depth stories and images from the WIAA state meet



WIAA GIRLS BASKETBALL DIVISION 2

Sparta suffers season-ending defeat at Onalaska

By NATE BEIER Sports Editor

The goodwill built up from a trio of consecutive wins wasn't enough to help change the trend for the Sparta girls basketball team in its WIAA Division 2 regional semifinal matchup at Onalaska on Friday, February 23 as

the Spartans lost 79-54. Sparta (9-17, 3-9) fell Sparta with 19 while Lily Siefert chimed in behind early against the hosting Hilltoppers (18-7, 9-3) and struggled to make up the difference. Onalaska built a 40-24 lead by the halftime

break and then coasted in the second half, winning the second 18 minute

with 10 points to lead the effort for SHS Claire Pedretti put in

added 14 and Sidney Fillbach 13. The win snapped a three-game win streak for Sparta and brought

Elexa Jones paced

16 for the Hilltoppers while Anna Skemp

SHS's season to an end.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP The following night,

Onalaska held off DeForest in overtime to claim the regional title. The two teams were knotted at the halftime break with 23 points

apiece, then did the same thing in the second half leading to a 46-46 tie when the final buzzer went off. In overtime,

the Hilltoppers outlasted the Norskies 6-4 for the narrow, two point win. On the other side of

the bracket, West Salem also extended its season into the sectional round with a pair of regional victories.

The Panthers (22-4, 12-0) shot past La Crosse Logan - which knocked out Tomah in

the regional quarterfinal 23

> West Salem cruised past Reedsburg (18-8, 9-5) 67-34.

on Thursday, February 29 at 7 p.m.

match - to the tune of 72-37 on Friday, February For the regional title,

West Salem and Onalaska are set to face off at La Crosse Central

WIAA GIRLS BASKETBALL DIVISION 4



WIAA GIRLS BASKETBALL DIVISION 5

period 37-34.



Cashton's Quinn Cook puts the ball on the court while driving towards the lane past Kickapoo's Gwenne Frederickson. Herald photo by Jenny Schendel.

By ZACH RASTALL Sports Writer

There is plenty to celebrate for the Cashton girls' basketball team following a successful 2023-24 season, but the program's quest for their first regional title since 2015 will need to wait until another vear.

The fourth-seeded Eagles (20-7) saw their winter come to an end with a 48-22 loss to No. 1 seed Cochrane-Fountain City (24-1) in a WIAA Division 5 regional final Saturday, February 24 in Fountain City.

Cashton senior guard



Bangor's Ella Janisch is met by coach Merlin Jones after leaving the court near the end of Saturday's regional game at Westfield. Bangor fell 57-43 to the South Central Conference champions after outscoring the Cardinals 31-17 in the second half. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

Cold front: Second half scoring woes doom Bangor's chances at Westfield

By ZACH RASTALL Sports Writer

Another year, another regional final appearance for the Bangor girls' basketball team. Unfortunately for the Cardinals, this particular trip ended without a berth at sectionals.

No. 2 seed Westfield (23-3) used a strong second half to pull away and defeat No. 3 seed Bangor (21-5) 57-43 in their WIAA Division 4 regional final clash on Saturday, February 24 in Westfield.

The two teams fought to a 26-26 draw at halftime of Saturday night's tilt, but it was the Pioneers who pulled away as the Cardinals went cold on offense over the final 18 minutes. Westfield held a 31-17 advantage in scoring in the second half to secure its sectional spot. Bangor junior guard Anna Fronk posted a game-high 19 points — including going a perfect 8 for 8 at the freethrow line — in the loss. Other leading scorers for the Cardinals included sophomore Kennedy Hamilton with eight points, junior guard Aubrey Langrehr with six points and freshman Kiera Cavadini with five points. Double-digit scorers for the Pioneers were senior guard Carly Drew with 16 points, junior guard Holly Goodwin with 15 points, junior point guard Haddie Showen with 13 points and sophomore guard Kaden Hockerman with 12 points. That win marked Westfield's fourth consecutive regional title, a stretch that included back-to-back state tournament appearances in 2021 and 2022



STANDINGS MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONFERENCE AS OF 2-22-24

GIRLS BAS	КЕТВА	LL
SCHOOL	OVERALL	мус
AQUINAS	23-3	12-0
HOLMEN	14-11	9-3
ONALASKA	18-7	9-3
LA CROSSE CENTRA	L 10-16	5-7
LA CROSSE LOGAN	6-20	3-9
SPARTA	9-17	3-9
ТОМАН	5-20	1-11

BOYS BASKETBALL				
SCHOOL	OVERALL	мус		
ONALASKA	18-6	12-0		
LA CROSSE CENTR/	AL 13-11	9-3		
HOLMEN	12-12	8-4		
AQUINAS	19-5	7-5		
LA CROSSE LOGAN	7-17	4-8		
ТОМАН	5-19	2-10		
SPARTA	4-20	0-12		

SCHOOL	OVERAL	LMVC
AQUINAS	15-5	4-0
HOLMEN	9-7	4-1
ТОМАН	3-4	3-2
LA CROSSE	4-5*	1-3
SPARTA	8-8	1-4
ONALASKA	2-5	0-4

AREA GIRLS HOCKEY			
OVERALL			
14-11			
1-22-1			
2-21-1			

COULEE CONFERENCE

GIRLS BASKETBALL			
SCHOOL	OVERALL	мус	
WEST SALEM	22-4	12-0	
ARCADIA	15-10	10-2	
LUTHER	13-13	8-4	
G-E-T	5-20	4-8	
VIROQUA	8-18	3-9	
WESTBY	6-19	3-9	
BLACK RIVER FALL	S 2-23	2-10	

BOYS BASKETBALL			
SCHOOL	OVERALL	MVC	
WEST SALEM	21-3	12-0	
LUTHER	18-6	9-3	
G-E-T	17-7	8-4	
ARCADIA	12-12	4-8	
VIROQUA	11-13	4-8	
WESTBY	9-15	3-9	
BLACK RIVER FALLS	5 7-16	2-10	

STANDINGS SCENIC BLUFFS CONFERENCE	
AS OF 2-22-24	

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHOOL OVERALL SBC BANGOR 21-5 14-0 12-2 ROYALL 25-2 CASHTON 20-7 9-5 BROOKWOOD 14-12 6-8 HILLSBORO 8-17 6-8 **WONEWOC-CENTER** 10-11 5-9 NEW LISBON 6-19 4-10 NECEDAH 1-21 0-14

Scan for full photo gallery of Kickapoo at Cashton GBB

a double-digit win.

In addition to giving the Eagles a triumph in their final home game of the year, this victory also ensured the program's first 20-win season since the 2019-20 campaign. Setting the pace for Cashton on Friday evening were Sydney Helgerson with 11 points, sophomore shooting guard Kate Wall with seven points and senior guard Amber Hoeft with seven points. Kickapoo junior forward Gwenne Frederickson and sophomore forward Tiernee Arndt tallied eight and six points, respectively, in the loss. COCHRANE-FOUNTAIN CITY 77

Sydney Helgerson and junior center Taylor Lindley-Schendel scored nine and five points, respectively, in the season-ending defeat. Leading scorers for the Pirates included senior point guard Emmalee Mann with 14 points, senior small forward Alexis Pronschinske with 11 points, senior small forward Isabella Holzer with eight points and sophomore point guard Mackenzie Wenger with five points.

CASHTON 37 KICKAPOO 26

One night earlier, the Eagles powered past No. 5 seed Kickapoo (18-8) 37-26 in a defensive slugfest of a regional semifinal on Friday, February 23 in Cashton. Earlier in the month, the Eagles had beaten the Panthers 44-39 in a home non-conference matchup on February 6.

In the playoff rematch, the two teams battled to a 12-12 stalemate at the halftime break. Cashton made a breakthrough in the second half, outscoring Kickapoo 25-14 over the final 18 minutes to ultimately secure

BROOKWOOD 25

Elsewhere in Division 5 regional semifinal action on Friday night, Cochrane-Fountain City ended a Scenic Bluffs different team's season by cruising to a 77-25 victory over No. 8 seed Brookwood (14-12) in Fountain City.

Scoring leaders for the Falcons were senior guard Vanessa Anderson with 10 points, sophomore guard Ruby Muehlenkamp with seven points and senior forward Kymber Kaiser with five points. Leading the way for the Pirates were Emmalee Mann with 32 points, Isabella Holzer with 13 points, junior power forward Aubrey Smith with 11 points and Alexis Pronschinske with eight points.

Bangor's Kennedy Hamilton tries to hold on to a rebound as Westfield's Halle Drew attempts to wrest it free during Saturday's regional championship. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

BANGOR 76 MELROSE-MINDORO 43

A night earlier, the Cardinals had routed No. 6 seed Melrose-Mindoro (14-12) 76-43 Friday, February 23 in their regional semifinal matchup in Bangor. Just six days earlier, Bangor beat the Mustangs 55-37 at home to cap off the regular season.

Anna Fronk and Aubrey Langrehr put up 23 and 17 points, respectively, in the blowout win. Also setting the pace for the Cardinals were Kiera Cavadini with eight points, Kennedy Hamilton with seven points, senior guard Leslie Daines with six



points and freshman Jaycee Michek with five points.

Melrose - Mindoro sophomore guard Anna Radcliffe posted 18 points while sophomore center Lydia Tracey and senior guard Claire Becker contributed nine and six points, respectively.

With Friday night's win, Bangor advanced to the regional finals for an 11th consecutive year.

BOYS BASKETBALL SCHOOL **OVERALL SBC** ROYALL 22-2 13-1 CASHTON 21-3 12-2 BANGOR 13-10 10-4 HILLSBORO 14-10 9-5 NECEDAH 8-12 6-8 BROOKWOOD 4-20 3-11 NEW LISBON 4-20 3-11 WONEWOC-CENTER 1-22 0-14 WRESTLING

SCHOOL	OVERALL SBC		
ROYALL	7-4*	4-0	
NEW LISBON	3-3*	3-1	
HILLSBORO	2-5*	2-2	
BROOKWOOD	3-7	1-4	
CASHTON	0-15-1*	0-4	
* incomplete records			

AREA **SCHEDULES** scan QR codes for the most up-to-date sports schedules

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY



COULEE



SCENIC BLUFFS



sports page design by Nate Beier/GX3 Media

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Bangor, Sparta, Tomah all fall in regular season finales

By ZACH RASTALL Sports Writer

The Bangor Cardinals threw a major wrench in this year's Scenic Bluffs boys' basketball title race last Monday by going on the road and upsetting rival allowing Cashton — Royall to clinch a share of its first conference championship since 2013.

In their final game of the regular season, the Cardinals were unable to provide another, final twist in their road game against the Panthers. Royall (22-2,

1) completed season sweep of the Cardinals Cardinals (13-10 overall, 10-4 Scenic Bluffs) and locked up the outright conference championship with a 53-37 victory on Thursday,

Had Bangor won Thursday night's rematch, Cashton would have then shared the conference title with Royall as co-champions.

regular-season

February 22 in Elroy.

finale

Leading the way for the Cardinals in the

13points, Nolan Michek and Chase Horstman its with eight points apiece and Samuel Cropp with five rebounds and three (13-10

assists. The Cardinals are onto postseason play, where they are a No. 8 seed in the Division 4 field and will host No. 9 seed Whitehall (12-12) in the regional quarterfinals on Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. in Bangor. **HOLMEN 89 SPARTA 75**

Sparta (4-20 overall, 0-12 Mississippi Valley)

were Eli Tucker with 11 closed the book on a winless run through conference play this season with an 89-75 loss to the Holmen Vikings (12-12, 8-4) on Thursday, February 22 in Holmen.

Leading the way for the Spartans in the rematch were senior point guard John Rice with 20 points, sophomore forward Kayden Kaat with 17 points and junior forward/guard Grant Geier with 14 points.

year's For this Division 2 playoffs, Sparta is a No. 10 seed

and takes on No. 7 seed La Crosse Central (13-11) in the opening round Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. in La Crosse.

AQUINAS 73 TOMAH 45

In the final game of the regular season for both teams, the Aquinas Blugolds (19-5, 7-5) breezed to a 73-45 win over the Timberwolves (5-19, 2-10) to wrap up MVC play on Thursday, February 22 in Tomah. The Timberwolves

were led in the defeat by freshman shooting guard Owen Laudon with 10 points, senior forward/center Jayden Brieske with nine points, freshman guard Quinn Gerke with six points and four assists, senior guard Landon Pierce with five points and sophomore forward Michael Zastoupil with seven rebounds.

In the opening round of the Division 2 playoffs, the 11th-seeded Timberwolves are on the road to face the sixth-seeded Seymour Thunder (15-9) Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. in Seymour.

WIAA GYMNASTICS SECTIONAL RESULTS



Sparta's Paige Ehlingher flips along the sideline of the floor during Saturday's sectional at West Salem. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

> n 2 Sectional Platteville

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8.275

8.200

8.125

7.975

7.975

7.850

7.775

7.775

VAULT

	Division 2 Sectional @ West Salem				Division 2 @ Plati
	VAU	LT			VAU
PLA	CE NAME	SCHOOL SO	ORE	PLA	CE NAME
12	Morgan Siekert Camdyn Lyga Gabby Bjorkman Hailey Ives Kennedy Garbers Natalie Peterson Paige Ehlinger	WS Sp WS WS WS Sp	9.275 9.000 8.650 8.500 8.400 8.300 7.600	20T 24T 30T	Isabell Korn Mya Mayer Marlena Toney Amelia Bishop Emma Harem Savannah Myers Morgan Squires
32	Madelyn Leigle	Sp	7.300	33T	Josie Bailey Kady Walker Peyton Brueggen

BARS				BAI	RS		
PLA	ACE NAME	SCHOOL SCORE		PLACE NAME SCHOOL SCOP		CORE	
1	Gabby Bjorkman	Sp	9.250	1	Isabell Korn	Wy	9.175
2	Morgan Siekert	WS	8.900	14T	Marlena Toney	Wy	7.450
3T	Natalie Peterson	WS	8.700	14T	Anya Leonard	Wy	7.450
7	Kennedy Garbers	WS	8.400	23T	Mya Mayer	Tmh	7.150
9	Hayden Rohde	WS	8.250	23T	Amelia Bishop	Wy	7.150
16	Camdyn Lyga	WS	7.900	28T	Kady Walker	Tmh	6.700
28	Paige Ehlinger	Sp	6.700	31	Emma Harem	Wy	6.550
33	Madelyn Leigle	Sp	3.100	32	Kayleigh Kostka	Tmh	6.450
				33	Morgan Squires	Tmh	6.250
				35	Emmaline Allen	Tmh	5.650

	BEAM				BEAM			
PLACE NAME		SCHOOL SCORE		PLA	CE NAME	SCHOOL SCORE		
1	Morgan Siekert	WS	9.300	1	Isabell Korn	Wy	9.150	
3	Hailey Ives	WS	9.025	10T	Emma Harem	Wy	8.225	
5	Olivia Maki	WS	8.950	15T	Morgan Squires	Tmh	7.825	
8	Gabby Bjorkman	Sp	8.800	17T	Marlena Toney	Wy	7.800	
9	Natalie Peterson	WS	8.750	22	Amelia Bishop	Wy	7.625	
11	Kennedy Garbers	WS	8.650	26	Savannah Myers	Tmh	7.500	
26	Paige Ehlinger	Sp	6.900	30	Mya Mayer	Tmh	7.350	
32T	Kaylie Sheppard	Sp	6.400	31T	Kady Walker	Tmh	7.250	
34	Madelyn Leigle	Sp	5.600	34T	Kayleigh Kostka	Tmh	7.050	
				37	Peyton Brueggen	Wy	5.800	

FLOOR				FLOOR			
PLACE NAME		SCHOOL SCORE		PL/	ACE NAME	SCHOOL SCORE	
1	Morgan Siekert	WS	9.525	5	Isabell Korn	Wy	9.200
5T	Kennedy Garbers	WS	9.200	19	Marlena Toney	Wy	8.350
5T	Camdyn Lyga	WS	9.200	23	Anya Leonard	Wy	8.025
7T	Natalie Peterson	WS	9.150	24	Emma Harem	Wy	8.000
10	Gabby Bjorkman	Sp	9.025	25	Mya Mayer	Tmh	7.850
11	Hayden Rode	WS	8.900	28	Morgan Squires	Tmh	7.600
31	Paige Ehlinger	SP	7.250	32	Peyton Brueggen	Wy	7.100
33	Madelyn Leigle	SP	7.075	33	Kady Walker	Tmh	7.000
34	Kaylie Sheppard	Sp	6.700	36	Emmaline Allen	Tmh	6.550
				37	Josie Bailey	Tmh	6.400



West Salem's Morgan Siekert gets an inverted view of the floor while finishing a pass during her floor routine at Saturday's Division 2 sectional. Siekert won the all-around, vault, beam and floor titles in her final sectional appearance. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

West Salem aiming for return to state after dominating sectional performance

By NATE BEIER Sports Editor

The momentum continued for the West Salem gymnastics co-op at Saturday's WIAA sectional meet in at West Salem.

The Panthers posted a meet-best score of 142.525 to win their sectional for a second-straight season.

That finish will carry the WS co-op into the state meet where the team will try to repeat with bringing home state hardware. The Panthers finished second last year in the team competition after scoring a 138.000.

"We don't feel pressure," said West Salem head coach Carrie O'Hearn. "We have excitement as all seven girls have state experience and are excited to be back at that level after an undefeated season.'

the which op, includes gymnasts from West Salem Aquinas and Bangor, as perenniel power Whitefish Bay returns to state after



Scan to visit the WIAA site for state gymnastics information

pushed ahead a score of 137.275 to make the program's first trip to state as a team since 2011

INDIVIDUALS TO STATE

Leading the way was all-around winner, Morgan Siekert. Siekert continued her undefeated streak in the AA competition after compiling a combined score of 37.000. The senior won vault, beam and floor Saturday afternoon.

Siekert was the first of three all-around athletes to advance to state - a program first for West Salem.

Natalie Peterson (Aquinas) and Kennedy Garbers both finished in the top five and will compete in Saturday's individual state competition.

Bangor's Camdyn Lyga posted a new

ALL-AROUND				ALL-AROUND			
PLACE NAME SCHOOL SCORE		SCORE	PL/	ACE NAME	SCHOOL S	CORE	
L	Morgan Siekert	WS	37.000	1	Isabell Korn	Wy	36.075
2	Gabby Bjorkman	Sp	35.725	14	Marlena Toney	Wy	31.875
3	Natalie Peterson	WS	34.900	17	Emma Harem	Wy	30.900
5	Kennedy Garbers	WS	34.650	19	Mya Mayer	Tmh	30.675
22	Paige Ehlinger	Sp	28.450	22	Morgan Squires	Tmh	29.650
27	Madelyn Leigle	Sp	23.075	23	Kady Walker	Tmh	28.725

TOP 3 EVENT SCORES

V

PLACE NAME

2

3

Olivia Price Morgan Sieker

Tirfe L'Allier

TOP 3 EVENT SCORES

AULT			VAULT				
SCHOOL SCORE			PL	ACE NAME	SCHOOL SCORE		
	Blmr	9.375	1	Madilyn Fisher	PdC	9.400	
t	WS	9.275	2	Emily Craker	Rbg	9.050	
	RF	9.150	3	Maci Galle	Ptvl	9.025	

PLACE NAME

Isabell Korn

Myra Barr

Brooklyn Murphy

1

2

3

2 3

_				_			
BARS					BA	RS	
PLACE NAME SCHOOL SCORE		PL	ACE NAME	SCHOOL S	CORE		
1	Gabby Bjorkman	Sp	9.250	1	Isabel Korn	Wy	9.175
2	Morgan Siekert	WS	8.900	2	Sarah Schiller	Rbg	9.100
3T	Celina Hess	Blmr	8.700	3	Emily Craker	Rbg	9.025
3T	Natalie Peterson	WS	8.700				
3Т	Kirsten Waldner	Ona	8.700				
BEAM					BE	АМ	

PL	ACE NAME	SCHOOL S	CORE
1	Morgan Siekert	WS	9.300
2	Marlie Krause	Ona	9.050
3	Hailey Ives	WS	9.025

FLOOR						
PLACE NAME SCHOOL SCORE						
1	Morgan Siekert	LaX	9.525			
2	Taylor Gallup	Hol	9.350			
3Т	Rylee Sabelko	Ona	9.300			
3Т	Eva Dryer	LaX	9.300			

ALL-AROUND						
PLACE NAME SCHOOL SCOF						
1	Morgan Siekert	WS	37.000			
2 3	Gabby Bjorkman Natalie Peterson	Sp WS	35.725 34.900			

TEAM				
wт	NAME	SCHOOL		
1	West Salem	142.525		
2	Onalaska	137.275		
3	Bloomer	136.000		
4	River Falls	135.225		
5	G-ET	127.950		
6	Menomonie	120.150		
7	Sparta	100.350		

FLOOR						
PLACE NAME SCHOOL SCORE						
1	Emily Craker	Rbg 9.375				
2	Madilyn Fisher	Dgvl 9.350				
3	Faith Yaun	Dgvl 9.300				
ALL-AROUND						
PL	ACE NAME	SCHOOL SCORE				
1	Isabell Korn	Wy 36.075				

SCHOOL SCORE

Wy

Dgvl

Dgvl

9.100

9.025

9.150

9.100

8.600

ALL-AR	DUND	
E NAME	SCHOOLS	SCORE
Isabell Korn	Wy	36.075
Madilyn Fisher	PdC	35.700
Sarah Schiller	Rbg	35.600

		ТЕАМ					
	WT	NAME	SCHOOL				
2.525	1	Dodgeville		136.275			
7.275	2	Reedsburg		135.200			
6.000	3	Southwestern		130.850			
5.225	4	Westby		130.750			
7.950	5	Platteville		128.150			
0.150	6	Prairie du Chien		125.525			
0.350	7	Tomah		117.600			
	8	River Valley		111.375			

O'Hearn and the Panthers started the meet on floor. An 8.9 performance by Hayden Rohde set the tone for things to come.

The competition will be tough for

Horeb, tallied a 137.9

with a score of 136.8.

"They are relaxed, they are talented and they know how to compete," said O'Hearn. "They thrive in competition."

placing second at their own sectional after

posting a team score of 134.5. West Bend

West won the Whitefish Bay sectional

- last year's third place team - scored a

140.600 on Saturday. Meet host, Mount

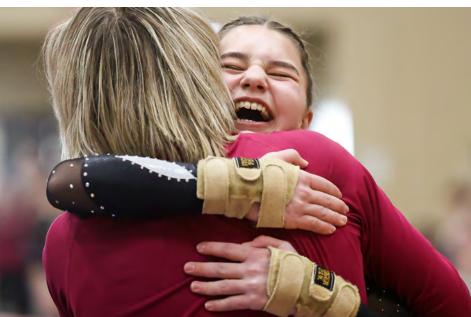
At the Mount Horeb sectional, Elkhorn

The state berth is the 18 time in school history that West Salem has had a team competing at the final meet of the year.

The second place team at Saturday's sectional was Onalaska. The Hilltoppers personal best on vault with a 9.0 and qualified for state in the event. Lyga also made a return trip to state in floor.

Hailey Ives and Olivia Maki both punched tickets to state with top five performances on beam. It is the first time for either to qualify for state individually.





ABOVE West Salem's Natalie Peterson (Aquinas) transitions between uneven bars during Saturday's sectional meet. Herald photo by Nate Beier/ GX3 Media.

LEFT West Salem's Camdyn Lyga (Bangor) shares a celebratory hug with assistant coach Orin Schwier after setting a new personal record on vault. Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

EDITORIAL

A literal milestone - the 400, 000 mile club

THROUGH MY LENS

By NATE BEIER Sports Editor

I love seeing the look of shock on anyone's face when I take my car in for an oil change or repair work.

When the mechanic sees or hears me tell them the number of miles that my Buick has, there's usually some level of surprise that can be read through their facial expressions or vocal reply.

This past weekend, though, I reached a literal milestone that I have no choice but to discuss here.

I pushed this 2011 Buick Lucerne to (and over) the 400, 000 threshold.

Yes, you read that right, that's five zeroes behind that number four. That's a ton of miles, I guess. To most car owners, surpassing the 300K mark causes palpitations, but to me, we're just getting into the good stuff. Cars are meant

to be driven, and I guess I really take that to heart.

Here's the thing, though, this automobile nearly failed at making it to that milestone.

On January 23, I trekked to De Soto and Kee (Lansing) for a series of four basketball games. I went on a non-normal route - highway 56 out of Viroqua - in hopes of making up some time since I was a little behind. Little did I know how important that decision would be.

You see, for the past year or so, I've known that I've had transmission issues and knew that eventually the ol' car would give out. That night it would happen. However, fate found a way to take care of me by guiding me on this 'path less taken' versus a very hilly Highway 82 run. I got through my games, made my way back to Viroqua and, right at the dangerous intersection by the Walgreens, I found that my car wouldn't go anymore. Fortunately I had a county cop right behind me who called in a Viroqua officer to assist and we managed to push this vehicle into a resting spot in a nearby parking lot.

Now, for most people, the



idea of replacing something as significant as a transmission on a car with 399,000 miles on it would be something of folly. For me, though, I had already committed to reaching the 400K line and sunk what we will call 'a significant amount of money' into getting my wheels back on the road. The folks at Sleepy Hollow in Viroqua didn't argue, either. On February 13 we were back on the road, looking to settle the score with the odometer. I made sure to keep an eye

on the counter leading to last weekend (Feb. 17) when I reached my literal milestone. I kept a countdown in a journal throughout the day. Every 10 miles I wrote down my location and built anticipation for the big moment. I had an approximate location in mind and waited for the moment to arrive.

At 5:49 p.m., a mile or two north of Pigeon Falls on Highway 53 it happened. I watched that odometer roll over to 400, 000 and I pulled over to ceebrate. My celebration consisted of taking photos of this beautiful Buick on the stretch of road where The 400,000 mile milestone is one that I've reached with two different vehicles, the most recent was just a week ago. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

it achieved one of its greatest victories as a machine.

You see, my first car, a 2003 Buick Century, had its odometer stop working ahead of the 400K point, but because I kept diligent records of my miles, I determined it cruised to something around 430, 000 miles before it had to be retired - and that retirement was only because it hit a deer and I moved into the current vehicle I have. I tried to keep driving it here and there, but eventually, it wouldn't go anymore. I know it had more life left in it, though.

This car, my 2011 Lucerne, should have more time on the road left also and I intend on piling on as many miles as I can, though I know its road time is limited. The time for replacing this ride is coming fast. I didn't want to make a hasty decision on switching vehicles, though, and that's why I chose to put more dollars into it.

My point for this anecdote is this, I reached the 400,000 mile mark and I think that's a big deal. I spent too much money to do it, but thought it was a cool story to invest in. I spend a lot of time in my car, so it becomes a best friend of sorts. I enjoy knowing that I squeezed the most I could out of this machine and I think it knows that, too - you know because partners know what the other is thinking.

To that big, bad Buick you're a mighty mile eater. There isn't a vehicle I'd rather roll out in.

However, if someone has a lead on a replacement vehicle, well, I'll entertain those notions as well. Good things don't last forever and neither will this car.

WIAA STATE WRESTLING PARKER MLSNA, CASHTON

Cashton's MIsna finishes shy of podium

By ZACH RASTALL Assistant Sports Editor

Cashton sophomore Parker Mlsna came up just short of earning medalist honors in his state debut, but he's given himself plenty to build on for the remainder of his high school wrestling career.

Mlsna won his first match and then dropped the next two at the 2024 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, held from Thursday, February 22 to Saturday, February 24 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Mlsna competed in the Division 3 106-pound weight class, where he encountered some familiar foes. preliminary his In round match on Thursday evening, Mlsna, the No. 8 seed in the bracket, defeated North Crawford/ Seneca junior and No. 9 seed Jaren Grimsled via a 3-0 decision. Mlsna had beaten Grimsled the previous week at sectionals. In another sectional rematch in Friday's quarterfinals, Pecatonica/ Argyle junior and top seed Aidan Gruenenfelder scored a pinfall victory over Mlsna at the 3:26 mark in their match. Gruenenfelder proceeded to win the state title in the weight class. That loss sent Mlsna to the consolation bracket. Later on Friday afternoon, Coleman sophomore and No. 4 seed Parker Owens defeated Mlsna via a 5-2 decision to deny Mlsna a spot on the medalist podium.

Sparta's Lietzau overcomes semifinal defeat to finish fifth in 132 pound bracket



томан

cont. from pg 7

competing in Madison at the state tournament: seniors Zandrea Mason and Elisa Bowie.

Mason was making a return trip to Madison after placing fourth in the 132-pound weight class as a junior. She competed as the No. 6 seed in the same weight class this time around.

Mason quickly won her opening match by pinning Milwaukee Tech sophomore and No. 11 seed Jada Piert at the 1:03 mark in the preliminary round on Thursday. Later in the day, Brillion senior and No. 3 seed Sophia Galoff pinned Mason 40 seconds into their quarterfinal match.

I hope it helps build our program a little bit more, gets more girls

AREA ROUNDUP

West Salem/Bangor's Emily Anderson (34-10) battled her way back through the consolation rounds after losing a quarterfinal match 18-3.

Anderson won three of her last four matches, including a 4-3 decision for fifth against New Berlin East's Natalia Poplawski.

At 144, Brett Plomedahl (41-11) met Tomah's Cameron Finch for the third time in as many weeks. This time, however, the duo weren't squaring off for a meet title. Instead, the pair were hoping to extend their own seasons one more match.

In the end, Finch came through with his third win in-a-row against Plomedahl with a second period pin.

Cody Peterson (26-7) opened his state run against South Milwaukee's Connor O'Donell and was promptly dismissed after being on the wrong end of a 9-2 decision.

Sparta's Devon Lietzau ties up with Beaver Dam's Avery Femrite during the first round of wrestling on Thursday, February 22 at the Kohl Center in Madison. Lietzau would go on to win 9-3 and would eventually face Femrite again in the fifth place match on Saturday morning. **Herald photo by Derek Montgomery.**

LIETZAU cont. from pg 7

weight cutting, but I was able to pull it off," Lietzau said. "Just knowing I secured a spot on the podium felt really good. Took a lot of pressure off the rest of the tournament."

In the semifinals, Lietzau suffered his first state defeat when he was pinned by Oconomowoc sophomore phenom Kellen Wolbert at the 3:57 mark in their match. Wolbert, the No. 1 seed in the bracket who previously won the Division 1 120-pound state title as a freshman, went on to capture the state championship in the weight class.

The semifinal loss sent Lietzau into Saturday's wrestlebacks, where New Richmond junior and No. 3 seed Luke Kamish scratched out a close win over Lietzau in a 4-2 decision in the consolation semifinals.

However, Lietzau was able to end his state tournament experience on a high in his fifth-place bout, which wound up being a rematch against Femrite.

The match was tied at 1-1 in the third period after both wrestlers earned as escape point. After Lietzau got his escape from a bottom position, he was able to follow it up with a takedown that he maintained into the late stages of the third period.

Femrite eventually escaped with just under 15 seconds left in the match, but wasn't able to pull off a last-ditch takedown in the dying seconds. The clock ran out and Lietzau secured a win via a 3-2 decision to put the finishing touches on his fifthplace showing. "It means a lot because I

"It means a lot because I didn't even make it to state last year," Lietzau said of his podium finish. "Placing this year means a lot to me."

On the whole, it was a successful overall performance for Lietzau in his state debut — one that can serve as both a proof of concept for all the hard work he's put in thus far and a fuel that can help drive him further going into his senior year.

"He wrestled tough the entire time. I'm super proud of him," said Sparta head coach Buck Engel. "He's a joy to have in the room, he's a workhorse, he's just a driven kid. It's fun to know I have another year with him."



Sparta's Devon Lietzau works to finish an escape from Oconomowoc's Kellen Wolbert in the 132 pound state semifinal match Friday evening. **Herald photo by Derek Montgomery.**

involved and see what we can do.

- Jeff Von Haden, Tomah head wrestling coach

In Friday morning's wrestlebacks, Mason defeated Random Lake sophomore and No. 14 seed Arianna Smith via a 7-0 decision. However, Mason was pinned at the 4:08 mark in her following match against Mukwonago senior and No. 2 seed Josie Stachowski, ending Mason's state run and leaving her one win short of a return trip to the podium.

a return trip to the podium. In the girls' 152-pound bracket, Viroqua senior and No. 6 seed Madi Zube pinned Bowie, the No. 11 seed, with 24 seconds left in the third period of their opening round match. That wound up being Bowie's only match at state.

While both Mason and Bowie would've liked to stick around the Kohl Center a little longer, the fact that they earned state bids and got to end their high school wrestling careers in Madison is nothing to glance over especially since this is still just the second year of girls wrestlers getting to take part in the customary state tournament.

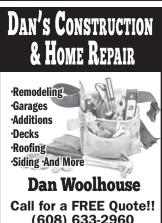
"It's awesome. It's something they'll never forget," said Tomah head coach Jeff Von Haden. "I hope it helps build our program a little bit more, gets more girls involved and see what we can do."

Evans Print & Media Group 1302 River Road, Sparta, WI 54656 Phone 608-269-3186 **HOURS: Monday thru Friday** 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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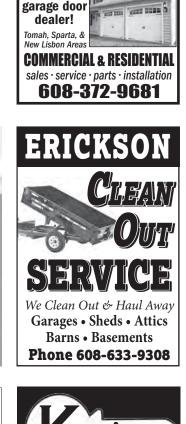
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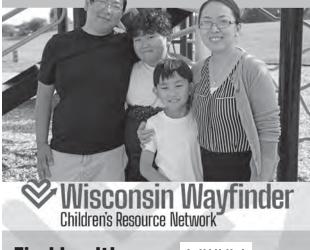
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GUN SHOW: March 1-3 Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Road. Onalaska, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. \$8 (Under 14 FREE) 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com







IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

1. An application for informal

2. The decedent, with date of

birth 09/07/1956 and date of

death 02/11/2024, was domiciled

in Monroe County, State of

Wisconsin, with a mailing address

of 517 Garfield Avenue, Sparta, WI

3. All interested persons waived

4. The deadline for filing a claim

against the decedent's estate is

5. A claim may be filed at the Monroe County Courthouse, 112

S Court Street, Sparta, WI, Room

122 E Oak Street, Sparta, WI

Attorney Kathryn D. Schmidt

Diane Berendes

Probate Registar

02/21/2024

OF:

54656.

notice.

2300

54656

(608) 269-4800

2/26, 3/4, 11 WNAXLP

05/30/2024.

Karen M. Crooks

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

administration was filed.

THE COURT ORDERS:

STATE OF WISCONSIN ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS **CIRCUIT COURT** SOUTH POINTE BUSINESS MONROE COUNTY PARK - PHASE 3 Notice to Creditors CITY OF SPARTA (Informal Administration) MONROE COUNTY, Wisconsin Case No. 24 PR 17

The City of Sparta will receive and accept bids ONLY through QuestCDN.com via the online electronic bid service (QuestvBid) for the construction of South Pointe Business Park - Phase until Thursday, March 21st at 11:00 AM. All bids will be downloaded and publicly read aloud during a virtual public bid opening that will be held at the day and time of the bid closing. All planholders will receive information via Quest on how to join the virtual meeting prior

to the bid opening. The work for which bids are asked includes the following:

Clearing and grubbing. General site grading approximately 37 acres of

commercial/industrial lots including grading for future roadways. Grading and restoration for

approximately 4,800 linear feet of stormwater bypass swale. Approximately 235 linear feet of HDPE storm sewer and 180 linear feet of RCP storm sewer including

endwalls. All other surface/turf restoration work including erosion control.

Bid Alternate A includes installation of approximately 1,100 linear feet of ductile iron water main extension including all fittings and appurtenances and approximately 650 linear feet of PVC sanitary sewer including all associated structures and appurtenances.

The anticipated substantial completion date is October 18, 2024 and final completion date is November 1, 2024.

Planholders list will be updated interactively on our web address at http://www.msa-ps.com under Bidding.

Copies of the BIDDING DOCUMENTS are available at www.questcdn.com

QuestCDN Vbid system requires Bidders to purchase BIDDING DOCUMENTS from QuestCDN. You may download the digital plan documents for \$45 by inputting Quest eBidDoc #8378615 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN com at 952-233-1632 or info@ questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information.

No proposal will be accepted unless accompanied by a certified check or bid bond equal to at least 5% of the amount bid, payable to the OWNER as a guarantee that, if the bid is accepted, the bidder will execute and file the proper contract and bond within 15 days after the award of the contract. 1230 South Boulevard, Baraboo, WI 53913. The certified check or bid bond will

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

MONROE COUNTY HERALD

Carolyn R. Dunston

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

administration was filed.

THE COURT ORDERS:

Kathryn D. Schmidt

(608) 269-4800

Kathryn Schmidt Law Office

State Bar Number 1044811

2/19, 26, 3/4 WNAXLP

122 E Oak Street, Sparta, WI

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

MONROE COUNTY

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 24 PR 18

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

1. An application for informal

2. The decedent, with date of

birth 11/14/1947 and date of

death 10/21/2023, was domiciled

in Monroe County, State of

Wisconsin, with a mailing address

of 6995 Eastview Avenue, Sparta,

3. All interested persons waived

4. The deadline for filing a claim

against the decedent's estate is

5. A claim may be filed at the

Monroe County Courthouse,

112 South Court Street, Sparta,

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

MONROE COUNTY Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 24 PR 13 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

1. An application for informal

2. The decedent, with date of

birth 04/01/1960 and date of

death 02/07/2024, was domiciled

in Monroe County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address

of 100 Avon Road, Lot 18, Sparta,

3. All interested persons waived

4. The deadline for filing a claim

against the decedent's estate is

5. A claim may be filed at the

Monroe County Courthouse, 112

S Court Street, Sparta, WI, Room

Diane Berendes

Probate Registar

02/15/2024

Sparta Youth Baseball Association: A Youth Baseball Opportunity

Association (SYBA) is a newly formed non-profit youth baseball club, with the mission of providing an encouraging environment, where youth can learn, grow, and thrive, through the joy of baseball.

Led by a team of experienced passionate coaches and mentors, SYBA offers a comprehensive baseball program, tailored to players of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced. Our player encompasses development fundamental skills training, advanced techniques, strategic physical gameplay, and conditioning, ensuring that every athlete receives the support and guidance needed to reach their full potential, on and off the field.

Whether your child dreams of playing collegiate or professional baseball or simply seeks to enjoy the thrill of competition in a supportive environment. SYBA welcomes players of all backgrounds and aspirations. With a commitment to excellence, integrity, and respect, we strive to instill

Sparta Youth Baseball the values of sportsmanship, dedication, and perseverance in every player, empowering them to excel both on and off the diamond.

> Join us as we embark on this exciting journey to elevate youth baseball in Sparta and beyond.

Registration for the upcoming season is now open at www.spartayouthbaseball. com with an in-person registration and required parent meeting to be held on Sunday, March 3rd.

more information For about SYBA please visit www.spartayouthbaseball. com or contact us at spartayouthbaseball@gmail. com. Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates.

For media inquiries or interview requests, please contact: Leah Hauser, Treasurer of Sparta Youth Baseball Association, at 608-449-2625, or by email, at leahmhauser@gmail.com •Mark Flaig – President •Luke Kaat – Vice President •Leah Hauser - Treasurer •Kendra Nichols - Secretary •Nate Mitchell - Director

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Openings can also be viewed on the Tomah School District website

at www.tomah.education.

Click on "Employment" under the "About" heading. Coaching Positions Available Also!

Tomah Area School District is an EOE. Si necesita Ud. avuda en la traducción de este documento, po favor llama la especialista Si de ELL del distrito a 374-7014.

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TOMAH SCHOOL **BOARD MINUTES**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Robert Kupper Learning Center, 1310 Townline Road, Tomah.

The meeting was called to order by Michael Gnewikow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024.

Present: Susan Bloom, Michael Gnewikow, Ricky Murray, James Newlun, Cathryn Rice Absent: Aaron Lueck, Spencer Stephens.

Also Present: Justina Anderson, Michelle Clark, Lisa Culpitt, Tim Gnewikow, Mike Hanson, Lily Joyce, Robert Joyce, Amy Langner, Melissa McKittrick, Brian Oberweiser, Angela Plueger, Joe Janusheske, TASD Director of Buildings, Representatives from Bray Architects, and Representatives from Market & Johnson, 27 spectator(s), and 1 member(s) of the media.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion made by James Newlun, seconded by Ricky Murray. All ayes, the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting December 18, 2023; Closed Session Minutes December 18, 2023.

Payment of Bills: As presented in the Bill Payment Report and Treasurer's Report dated January 15, 2024.

Employee Resignations: As presented in the Resignation Report dated January 15, 2024.

Athletic/Co-Curricular/Instructional Leadership Hires: As presented in the Contracts Report dated January 15, 2024.

Consideration for Approval of Alternative Open Enrollment Applications: Three (3) Alternative Open Enrollment Applications to transfer out of the District were approved per the Consent Agenda.

Motion to gratefully accept the gifts as presented. Motion made by Susan Bloom, seconded by James Newlun. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to table continued implementation of the 45-15 Lemonweir Elementary School Calendar Schedule until the February 19, 2024 TASD Regular Board Meeting. Motion made by Ricky Murray, seconded by James Newlun. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Calendar as presented. Motion made by James Newlun, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the revised Tomah/Sparta Boys Hockey Agreement as presented. Motion made by Ricky Murray, seconded by James Newlun. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the Special Education Open Enrollment spaces available for the 2024-2025 academic year as presented. Motion made by Ricky Murray, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried. Motion to approve the Regular Education Open Enrollment spaces at Tomah High School and Tomah Middle School available for the 2024-2025 academic year as presented. Motion made by Susan Bloom, seconded by Cathryn Rice. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion made by Cathryn Rice, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried. 2/26 WNAXLP

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Tomah School District Office 129 W. Clifton Street. Tomah.

The meeting was called to order by Michael Gnewikow at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Present: Michael Gnewikow, Aaron Lueck, Ricky Murray, Spencer Stephens Absent: Susan Bloom, James Newlun, Cathryn Rice. Also Present: Mike Hanson

Motion to approve 2024-2025 Elementary School Open Enrollment spaces available. Motion made by Aaron Lueck, seconded by Ricky Murray, All aves, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 5:24 p.m. Motion made by Ricky Murray, seconded by Spencer Stephens. All ayes, the motion carried. 2/26 WNAXLP

BOARD ACADEMY MEETING

Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Robert Kupper Learning Center, 1310 Townline Road. Tomah.

The meeting was called to order by Michael Gnewikow at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2024.

Present: Susan Bloom, Michael Gnewikow, Aaron Lueck, Ricky Murray, James Newlun, Cathryn Rice, Spencer Stephens. Also Present: Michelle Clark, Mike Hanson, Joe Janusheske, Representatives from Baird, Bray Architects, and Market & Johnson, 2 spectator(s), and 1 member(s) of the media.

Motion to approve the resignations dated February 5, 2024. Motion made by Ricky Murray, seconded by Aaron Lueck. All ayes, the motion carried. Motion to approve the Athletic/Co-Curricular/Instructional Leadership hires dated February 5, 2024. Motion made by Spencer Stephens, seconded by James Newlun. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the independent audit completed by Tostrud & Temp, S.C. dated June 30, 2023. Motion made by Spencer Stephens, seconded by James Newlun. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to approve a Resolution to participate in the p-Card (Purchasing

LEGAL NOTICES

OF:

WI 54656.

05/31/2024.

notice.

2300.

54656

OF:

Donald S. June

WI 54656.

05/30/2024.

notice

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

administration was filed.

THE COURT ORDERS:

Wisconsin, Room 2300.

STATE OF WISCONSIN -CIRCUIT COURT- MONROE COUNTY

2024CV000006 Case Code: 30301 Summons and Notice **Civil Claim Publication**

Cavalry SPV I, LLC c/o Blitt & Gaines, P.C. 731 N Jackson Street, Suite 660 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Plaintiff(s)

vs

Nckoel Lopez 702 East Division St Sparta, WI 54656-1737

Defendant(s)

If you need help in this matter because of disability, please call: 608-269-8745

PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the named above person(s) as Plaintiff(s).

Within forty (40) days of February 26, 2024, exclusive of said date, you are required to serve upon plaintiff's attorney an answer to the complaint. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Monroe Courthouse, 112 S Court Street, Sparta, WI 54656, and to Blitt & Gaines, P.C., attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 731 N Jackson Street, Suite 660, Milwaukee, WI 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not serve an answer within the 40 days, the court may enter a judgment against you according to the demand of the complaint. A copy of the complaint 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.

Dated this 26th day of February 2024

Blitt & Gaines, P.C. Attorney David Olefsky, SBN:

1088471

Attorney Elizabeth J. Schweiger, SBN: 1065978

Attorney Maxim Marling, SBN:

1102661 731 N Jackson Street, Suite 660

Milwaukee, WI 53202 888-920-0620

2/26, 3/4, 11 WNAXLP

Spartan Storage Jonathan & Katie Bennett <u>P.O. Box 364</u> Sparta WI 54656 <u>(608) 269-3602</u>

02/14/2024

Diane Berendes Probate Registar 02/21/2024 Joshua D. Shudlick Shudlick Law Office LLC PO Box 586, Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-4104

State Bar Number 1084905 2/26, 3/4, 11 WNAXLP



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Card) program. Motion made by Spencer Stephens, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to convene into Closed Session at 9:05 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes section 19.85(1)(c) to discuss the evaluation and the term of the contract of the District Administrator. Motion made by Aaron Lueck, seconded by Susan Bloom. Roll call vote: Aaron Lueck -Yes; Susan Bloom - Yes; Michael Gnewikow - Yes; Ricky Murray - Yes; Spencer Stephens - Yes: James Newlun - Yes: Cathrvn Rice - Yes. There were 7 'yes' votes and 0 'no' votes and 0 abstains, the motion carried.

Motion to reconvene into open session at 9:24 p.m. Motion made by James Newlun, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Motion made by Cathryn Rice, seconded by James Newlun. All aves, the motion carried. 2/26 WNAXLP

Notice of Public Sale or Deposition of Property Items to be sold at a public auction: OR sold outright: OR disposed of after 14 days. <u>Unit U-27: Owes: \$385.00;</u> Danielle Hackbarth: Pool pump, pool vacuum, tiki torches, electric fire place, patio chair set, pool cover, shoes, duffle bag, dresser and table and other miscellaneous items.

2/19, 26 WNAXLP

5 MINUTES EVANS PRINT + MEDIA 1302 RIVER ROAD (608) 269-9797

Wisconsin provides added protections for migrant workers

Migrant seasonal farm workers in Wisconsin have additional health and safety protections, including heat protections, under revised administrative rules that took effect on February 1st, 2024. The updates create requirements for disease and illness prevention in migrant labor camps, should a public health emergency arise.

The changes are the first significant updates to state migrant labor rules in Chapter DWD 301, since 2007. The rules govern the DWD-administered Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker (MSFW) program. An analysis and text of the rule changes are available online.

From the Secretary

'Wisconsin's migrant seasonal farm workers play an essential role in our labor force, helping to put food on our tables and keeping our rural economy strong," said DWD Secretary, Amy Pechacek. "These changes ensure important protections are in place, benefiting migrant seasonal farm workers and camp operators. We thank members of the Governor's Council on Migrant Labor and many other agencies and stakeholders, for helping to

inform the first substantive changes to the rules in some 17 years."

updates Key reflect knowledge gained when DWD promulgated emergency rules during the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically the need for updated rules to address potential future public health emergencies. These new rules require certain diseases and symptoms to be reported to local health officials, and for sick workers to be isolated.

Protections Set Forth

by the Rules In addition, the rule provides heat and safety protections for

workers including: New field sanitation prevent standards, to heat illnesses, such as the development of a heat illness prevention plan.

- The prevention plan must, among other requirements, allow for shade and breaks when temperatures exceed 80 degrees.

- The plan also must include additional procedures when temperatures exceed 95 degrees, such as ensuring workers are aware of their right to take breaks, and empowering workers to call for emergency service when necessary.

- Various other revisions to promote health and safety in migrant labor camps, such as updated requirements for urinals and showerheads, improved access to washers and dryers, and other safety updates.

Certain changes that require physical modifications don't take effect immediately. Also, affected employers, migrant labor contractors and agents of employers have an opportunity to request a variance from certain requirements.

Previous Year's Numbers

Last year, approximately 281 employers, migrant labor contractors or agents of employers, were regulated under Chapter DWD 301. About 125 employers operated 261 migrant labor camps across Wisconsin. Employers, camp operators and migrant labor contractors are being notified of the changes this week.

The Governor's Council on Migrant Labor advises DWD on matters affecting migrant workers; ascertains working conditions of migrants; ensures coordination of federal and state statutes regarding migrant workers; and reviews rules submitted by the department. The Governor's Council on

Migrant Labor consists of employer representatives, migrant representatives, and state legislators.

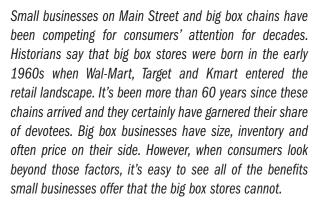
Drafting the Proposal

DWD engaged with key stakeholders in drafting the proposed rule, through the Governor's Council on Migrant Labor, working closely with the Ad Hoc Committee on Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers, a subcommittee of the council. The subcommittee held three public meetings to review comments from committee members, other stakeholders, and the public, regarding DWD's proposed changes to the rule.

DWD also consulted with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Department of Safety and Professional Services, and the Department of Natural Resources, regarding the intersection of authority related to public health concerns, building inspection requirements, and pollution and water quality standards.

Visit the Services for Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers website for more information and resources for employers and workers.

5 advantages local business have over the competition





1. Passionate owners and operators

Walk into a big box store or other business and you may find a handful of dedicated employees, but not quite at the level of small businesses. Small business owners prioritize the customer experience because they know they need to work hard to retain customers. This translates into knowing the products well, and sharing as much knowledge as possible with customers. Big box businesses vulnerable to heavy staff turnover often do not have a vested interest in the brand.

2. Work the local niche

What makes big box retailers so familiar to shoppers is one can stop in a store in the middle of Nebraska and likely find the same items as a store in Hawaii, with only a few subtle differences between the locations. Big box companies work with the same suppliers and ship the same products all over the world. Customers seeking personalized items and services for their particular regions are better off utilizing local small businesses that can bring in regional vendors more readily.

3. Better shopping experience

Big box stores draw customers during peak times when they're home from school or off from work. That often translates to long lines both at checkout and at customer service or return counters. By contrast, there may be no apparent rhyme or reason to when shoppers visit small businesses, meaning there likely will not be crowds. It's much more pleasant to browse wares without having to contend with shopping cart traffic and people blocking aisles.

4. Advanced technology

Big box companies have invested millions of dollars into their point-of-service systems and other technologies, which means it can be a very slow transition to new options as times change. Small businesses generally can shift to newer, better technology more readily because they do not have to do so on the same scale as their larger competitors.

5. General agility

Changing technology on a dime is not the only ways small businesses excel. They can experiment in other ways, such as a home contractor offering a special price deal for a certain period of time, or a clothing store experimenting with new in-store decor. Big chains cannot pivot that quickly, and any changes must be approved by corporate and implemented across all centers.



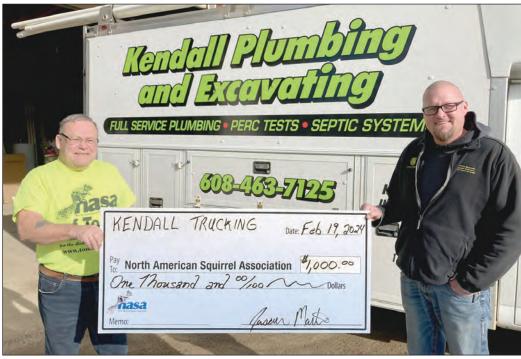




they took second place! Congratulations to our team members: Emma Kitowski (3rd), Matthew Lazzari (4th), Bryce Kitowski (5th) and Matthew Bores (6th)!



Anita and Brandy Leis of Heat Master in Tomah donated a Whitetail Hunter Crossbow to the upcoming nasa banquet on March 23rd. The crossbow will be one of five prizes on the Flying Squirrel Raffle. Both Anita and Brandy also volunteer at the banquet and help raise funds to support nasa events throughout the year. Nasa of Tomah thanks them for their donation and their efforts to help others in Monroe County. Contributed photo.



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or email Lorri to wish her well. Her last day is February 29.



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Jason Martin (right) owner of Kendall Trucking presented a check for \$1,000 to nasa volunteer Dan Boehm. Nasa welcomes Jason and Kendall Trucking as a new donor. The donation will be used to sponsor the Red Squirrel Raffle featuring a rifle, shotgun, a pistol and a bow. Businesses and individuals have until March 15th to make a donation to the annual fundraising banquet and may do so by calling 608-343-7234. All proceeds from the banquet will go towards providing free outdoor activities to the disabled, elderly, and veterans. Contributed photo.



Nasa volunteers Dan Boehm (I) and Dave Stutzman (r) accepted a generous donation in memory of Micheal Ebersold who passed away in December. Mike had a captains table at the annual banquet and was an enthusiastic supporter of the North American Squirrel Association. His support now spans three generations. Presenting the check were Mike's grandchildren (from left) Cael and Maddy Pollack and Anabel Peacock. Not pictured were parents Kurt and Amy Pollack and Sarah Peacock. Contributed photo.

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