



On Wednesday, February 12th, the Sparta City Council addressed an ordinance on alcohol licenses, and resolutions on Bobcat Toolcat for the Public Works Department, an easement for Northern States Power, and a couple of certifications of survey maps. Seated from the left are Jenny Lydon – City Clerk, Mayor Kevin Riley, Community Development - Todd Fahning, City Attorney - Dan Hellman, District 5 Alderman - James Womick, District 6 Alderman - Robert Arnold, District 7 Alderman - Josh Lydon and District 8 Alderman - David Kuderer. Herald photo by Benny Mailman.

Sparta City Council passes ordinance and resolutions

Alcohol licenses, Bobcat Toolcat, survey maps, and a power easement on agenda

By BENNY MAILMAN
Editor

On Wednesday, February 12th, the Sparta City Common Council promptly started their meeting at 6 p.m. The only alderman who was absent was District 2’s Kevin Brueggeman, who was slated to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. In his absence, Alderman Jim Church

was called upon to lead all attendees in the oath to the United States. The formality of approving the agenda served as a smooth transition into the evenings orders of business. Items on the agenda included an ordinance pertaining to alcohol license applications; a resolution for accepting a bid for Bobcat Toolcat; another resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an easement for Northern States Power on Ideal Road; a resolution approving a certified survey map for Truck Don’t Stop LLC; and a final resolution approving a certified map for

Dale and Johna Hesselberg. **Ordinance Pertaining to Alcohol Application** Mayor Kevin Riley called upon Alderman Jim Church to read the first item on the agenda, an ordinance pertaining to alcohol license applications. Church informed the council that the City of Sparta would like to save a step in issuing beverage service licenses, by skipping the public safety step of the process. “Instead of waiting a full month for the council meeting, we would like to purpose that we pass it [alcohol license] on to the business, once it has passed the Chief’s

[Sparta Police Chief, Emilee Nottestad] background check and is approved; that they will just receive it ... they will not need to come before us. If there is a denial, then it will take the same route, coming through public safety hearing and that person can appeal the outcome.” It was mentioned that this is an effort to streamline the process, so that whoever applies is not waiting 25 to 30 days to be able to run their business. It was moved that the ordinance be read by title only and placed before the council for immediate action. All council members agreed.

A rolcall vote was taken, with everyone present voting in the affirmative. **Bobcat Toolcat Bid** The next order of business was a resolution for accepting a bid on a Bobcat Toolcat, for the Public Works Department. Director of Public Works for the City of Sparta, Mark Van Wormer, was present, to answer any questions that may be brought forth from the council. Van Wormer stated, “So, the Water Department budgeted for a Toolcat. They have a skid-steer that they are going to sell, for approximately \$30,000. The low bid [for buying the Bobcat

Toolcat] was \$87,000, from St. Joseph [St. Joseph Equipment, Norwalk]. It is a more useful tool to go around town with.” A request was made from the council that Van Wormer explain what a Bobcat Toolcat is. “So, it looks like a UTV, a two-seater utility vehicle, but it has a bucket attachment on the front, so you can hook up a broom, bucket, or blade to it, plus it has storage in the back.” A roll call vote was then taken for accepting the bid on Bobcat Toolcat, with all aldermen present giving their

'CITY COUNCIL'
cont. on pg. 6



Bangor announces new hire

CONTRIBUTED

The School District of Bangor is excited to announce the hire of Brian Wopat as Middle/High School Principal. Brian will take over for the 2025-2026 school year and is currently completing his 23rd year in education as a high school French teacher, in Onalaska. Brian earned

'PRINCIPAL'
cont. on pg. 11

Tomah teenager ropes Dodge Ram 3500 in Arizona



Brady Breitsprecher, 17, from Tomah, recently travelled down to Wickenburg, Arizona, where he competed in team roping competitions. In late January, he competed in the Duel in the Desert, at the famous Rancho Rio arena. Out of nearly 600 teams, he placed 1st and 2nd, as he competed on two teams. Because of his talents and determination, he will be driving this 2024 Dodge Ram 3500 Dually pickup back to Wisconsin, which is now his, as a prize for his first-place finish. Contributed photo.

CONTRIBUTED
Brady Breitsprecher, 17, from Tomah, recently won big while spending time team roping in Arizona. Brady spent much of his winter in Wickenburg, Arizona, where he stayed with family

friends and competed in several roping competitions at different arenas in the area. He won several events during his time there, but his big win came on January 25th when he entered the Duel in the Desert, at the famous Rancho Rio arena.

Top prize for the roping competition was a 2024 Dodge Ram 3500 Dually pickup. The number of contestants was just shy of 600 teams. Breitsprecher came out on top, winning both 1st and 2nd places (with two different partners). Brady was awarded

the truck and will be driving it back home to Wisconsin soon. Brady has been roping since he was a little boy. His recent accomplishments include being the 2024 Wisconsin High School Rodeo Association champion heeler, and the 2024

Minnesota Rodeo Association champion heeler. Brady was a senior in high school this year, graduating early, after the first semester. He plans to attend a farrier school this spring and then go on to college in the fall. He is the son of Dan and Sara Breitsprecher, of Tomah.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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Series runs March 18th to April 24th

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Discovering sweet success: An interview with Lauren Haws of Superior Sweets

By STEVIE VELASQUEZ
Staff Reporter

In any town, you're bound to find a Starbucks or a McDonald's, but what truly makes a place special are the hidden gems that reflect the heart and soul of the community. Superior Sweets is one such gem, tucked away in good old Tomah, at 1014 Superior Avenue, bringing gourmet treats and a welcoming atmosphere to its customers. I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Lauren Haws, the creative force behind this bakery, to learn about her journey, her challenges, and her sweet dreams for the future.

Q: Can you tell me the story behind your business? How did it get started?

Lauren: My journey began about 15 years ago, when my sister was getting married. We didn't have the budget for a wedding cake, so I decided to make it myself. It was a three-tier cake. So, I decid-

ed to look it up online and learn through trial and error ... I pulled it off. From there, word spread, and I started baking from home. Eventually, I opened my first storefront, but after eight years, I closed it when I found out I was pregnant. I wanted to focus on raising my daughter.

Years later, after going through a divorce and working from home for a long time, I decided it was time to take the leap. It was a "Go big or Go home" moment for me. I wanted to give it my all, and with a little push and a lot of faith, Superior Sweets was born.

Q: What inspired you to take that leap?

Lauren: Baking has always been my passion. Over the years, I've refined my recipes and techniques, striving to perfect everything I make. The idea of creating something unique and homemade, something that people could enjoy and remember, kept me motivated. This business was al-

ways on my mind, and I knew I had to give it another shot.

Q: What products or services do you offer, and what makes them unique?

Lauren: Superior Sweets specializes in custom cakes, but we also offer a variety of gourmet cupcakes in all sorts of flavors, dry bakery items like turnovers and scones, gourmet cookies, and 16 flavors of ice cream. In two weeks, we're adding soups and sandwiches to our menu.

What makes us unique is that everything is homemade. I take pride in using my own original recipes. I've spent years tweaking and refining them to ensure everything has the perfect texture and flavor. It's a lot of trial and error, but it's worth it to deliver something truly special.

Q: How has the local community supported your business?

Lauren: The community has been amazing. From the very beginning, people have shown so much support. I also love

participating in local events, like craft fairs, vendor shows, and even show choir fundraisers, where I donated a percentage of sales. It's a great way to connect with people and give back. I love to collaborate with local organizations on various events. For example, I create themed baked goods, like logo cookies or desserts tailored to specific events. It's fun to get creative and think outside the box. It's rewarding to be part of something that brings people together.

Q: What are some opportunities you're excited about in the future?

Lauren: Right now, we've only been open for two months, so it's all about finding our rhythm. I'm excited to see what people love and explore new ideas, like soups and sandwiches, as well as experimenting with flavors in our baked goods, like one we just put out is our chive spice cupcake. Maybe down the line, I'd love to open another

store, but for now, I'm focused on perfecting what we have here.

Q: What challenges have you faced as a small business owner?

Lauren: One of the biggest challenges is learning what works and what doesn't. Opening my first storefront taught me so much, especially about the importance of having a reliable team. You can't do it all alone and I been fortunate enough have friends and family come and join the team. Another challenge I've also had to navigate is the logistics of introducing new products and figuring out what customers want most. It's a lot of what sells and what doesn't, but it's all part of the process.

Q: What do you hope customers feel when they walk into your store?

Lauren: I want them to feel welcome, relaxed, and like they're in a place where they can enjoy good conversation

and even better treats. Superior Sweets is about more than just baked goods—it's about creating a warm, inviting space where people can connect.

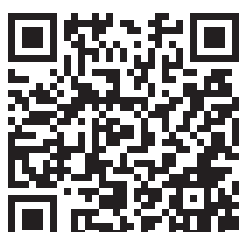
Your New Favorite Spot Awaits

Superior Sweets is more than a bakery—it's a labor of love. With her passion for baking and dedication to the community, Lauren Haws has created a sweet haven for everyone to enjoy. Whether it's a custom cake for a special occasion, a mid-day cupcake, or just a place to unwind, Superior Sweets has something for everyone. Stop by, and you might just find your new favorite spot.

To make an order, you can call them at (608)-567-0195. Superior Sweets is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and they are closed Sunday and Monday. You can find them on Facebook, at Superior Sweets LLC.



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MONROE COUNTY
HERALD



Mitch Koel, owner of the Cork & Barrel in Sparta, stands behind the newly renovated bar area. His recent additions to the popular Sparta wine, beer and spirit bar include a larger bar and serving area and display of spirits. Of course, the comfortable seating couches, table seating, and deck area (weather permitting) remain. Herald photo by John Gessner.

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FOR A LOCAL BUSINESS



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What's Happening

Upcoming Area Events

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

THE SPARTA FFA WILL HOST CARD PARTIES ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL. Cards will start to be thrown at 6:30 PM. For \$7 participants will get a light meal, cards, and a chance at door prizes.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 12PM - 5PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 12PM - 5PM.. Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water St., Sparta. Schedule your appointment: Appointments are greatly appreciated and honored. Call 877-232-4376 to make an appointment.

THE LEON LIVEWIRES 4-H CLUB IS HOSTING A EUCHRE & 500 CARD PARTY ON FEB 21 and March 21 at Leon Community Center. Cards starts at 6:30pm, There is a charge for cards and a meal. This is a fundraiser for Leon Gatorfest.

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER MARCH 6, 2025 4:30 - 6:00 PM. , Carry outs and eat in. Congregational Church 201 Water Street, Sparta.

TOMAH AMERICAN LEGION POST 201 Legion and Auxiliary meeting every 2nd Thursday of every month. Doors OPEN at 5:00 pm, meetings start at 6:00 pm.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #100 in Sparta has their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 7PM. The Auxiliary starts at 6:30 on the third Wednesday of the month. All veterans and families of veterans are welcome to join the legion. Stop by 1116 Angelo Rd for more information.

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 9438 MIDDLE RIDGE – BANGOR – WEST SALEM monthly meeting. 1st Tuesday each month, 6:00 pm St. Teresa Parish, West Salem.

THE SPARTA GARDEN CLUB - The club is closed for the season until March 2025.

THE TRI-COUNTY CHAPTER #1386 OF NARFE (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES) MEETS MONTHLY (March thru November) the 3rd Thursday of the month at Perkins Restaurant, 1015 E. McCoy Blvd. (Hwy. 21), Tomah, WI. Lunch is available at 11:30 AM – order off the menu. The meeting starts at approximately 11:45AM. All members, their guests, and interested retired federal employees are welcome.

SPARTA FREE LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) is not about dieting or selling a special food plan. We give support and tools to make lifetime changes. Join us Mondays from 3:00-3:45 at the Methodist Church. Call Nila at 608-797-2784 with any questions.

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

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

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

SECOND HARVEST HAS CANCELED THE SPARTA MOBILE PANTRY FOR FEB. 17TH **SECOND HARVEST MOBILE FOOD PANTRY** is in Sparta the third Monday of each month at **2:30p.m.** at the winter (Nov. through April) location at **1121 E. Montgomery St., the Sparta Hockey rink;** the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00p.m. at the **Tomah Fairgrounds (1625 Butts Ave.);** and the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00a.m. at the **Norwalk Village Hall** for curbside 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.

MEETINGS

■ The Trustees of Erv’s Sparta Area Fire Protection District will meet on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the District Station 2, 118 E. Oak St., Sparta, WI.

Science Made Easy

by Larry Scheckel

QUESTION

How did the English language start?

ANSWER

English is an Anglo-Frisian or West Germanic language developed in England. Germanic-speaking people from northwest Germany and Jutland invaded Eastern England in the fifth century AD. The language the invaders brought in was mixed with the native Celts language. It is referred to as Old English.

Middle English started when the Normans invaded in 1066 and took over. Many French words entered the language, with lots of Latin and Greek words thrown in.

Modern English started about the time of William Shakespeare and the first versions of the King James Bible. A standardized language, both in usage and spelling, was needed for government and administration. The printing press helped push a language that was accepted by everyone.

Today, English is the third most popular language in the world. Only Mandarin Chinese and Spanish are spoken by more people. The countries with the largest number of English speakers are the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand.

English is the international official language for aviation and maritime communications. Every airline cockpit crew in the world must be able to speak and write English. All sea captains plying international waters speak English. English is the official language in 68 countries, but not in the United States. The United States has no official language. Worldwide, English is used extensively as a second language. English is one of six official working languages at the United Nations. English is the most common language in the sciences. About two billion of the world’s population of eight billion speak English.

Basic English is a simplified version for easy international applications. It is used by manufacturers and businesses to write manuals. Basic English is utilized by language schools to give people a working knowledge of English in a very short time.

Special English is a simplified version of English that was sent out by the Voice of America years ago. It has a vocabulary of only 1,500 words. Webster’s Third New International Dictionary has over 500,000 words.

English words can alter in pronunciation and meaning over time. The word “Caribbean” and “Himalaya” have a change in the syllable of emphasis. The word “gay” has an additional meaning today than it had some years ago. New words, such as laser, Prozac, and road rage, are added every year. The flavor of language changes over time. Newspaper writers employed a more fanciful way of saying things a hundred years ago, compared to today. In short, the English language evolved over time and continues to change.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the hardest languages to learn are Mandarin Chinese and Arabic. One of our tour guides, who spoke five languages, insisted that Czech is the toughest to master.

In our travels of Europe, we have found that most all young people, especially below middle age, have learned English in school. Road signs in Ireland are in both English and Gaelic. The HofBrau in Munich has the beer menu in both English and German. Don’t ask an older Welch farmer about his Ferguson or David Brown tractor. He will only shrug.

Sources: ethologue.com, Britannica, US Dept of State. Send questions and comments to: lscheckel@charter.net.

MEETINGS

■ The Tomah Area School District Regular Board Meeting Monday, February 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Robert Kupper Learning Center, 1310 Townline Road, Tomah, WI.



Norwalk Lions Club



Annual February Fish Fry

Friday, February 21
Serving 5-8pm

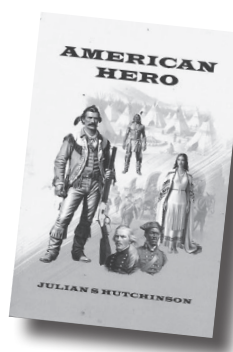
Beer Battered Cod

Norwalk Village Hall
208 Church St, Norwalk, WI 54648

Julian Hutchinson

a 94-year-old Sparta author

has scheduled a book signing for his latest historical novel, *American Hero*, at the Sparta Free Library from 9:30 to 11:00 on February 22, 2025. LIMITED SEATING DUE TO CONSTRUCTION



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Tomah, WI 54660





SPARTA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adult Community Education Course Opportunity			
	Culinary Workshop	Machine Shop	Welding Shop
Class Project	Explore global cuisines and develop new culinary skills	Soft-Faced Hammer & Dice	Lamp Project
Classes Start	March 17, 2025	February 26, 2025	March 26, 2025
Register By	March 10, 2025	February 19, 2025	March 19, 2025
Cost	\$60	\$120	\$90
Class Time	Mondays from 5 - 7 pm	Wednesdays from 5:30 - 8:30 pm	Wednesdays from 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Visit our website or scan the QR code to learn more:
<https://www.spartan.org/community/community-education>
Questions About Registration: Call Holly Church, After School Coordinator at: (608) 633-1807



THE EASTERN MONROE COUNTY ROD & GUN CLUB

would like to thank these area businesses for their support in making our annual Fisheree fundraiser a success on February 1, 2025, at the Eagle’s Nest Resort.

THANK YOU for another successful year!

Eagle's Nest Resort

ACE Hardware of Tomah

Bohicas Pub & Grub

TK's 400 Club

The Meat Man

Backwater Bar & Grill

Deer Creek Dental Clinic

Double Barrel Bar

O'Reilly Auto Parts Tomah

Smitty's Overtime Inn

Wisconsin River Meats

Almost Home Bar & Grill

Roadhouse Bar

The Elbow Room

Villmann Butcher Block

R & E Sporting & Avon Shoppe

The Strike Zone

Carter's Pub & Grub

Wonderly's Bar

Granger's LLC

Taverino

Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Big Todd's Saloon & Grill

Oakdale Credit Union

Mati's Pub & Grub

American Family Insurance-Jeremy

Haldeman Agency

Auto Value-Tomah

TRICOR Insurance

Tomah Cash Store

NAPA Tomah

Nelson's Auto & Quick Lube

Tomah Area Credit Union

Pizza Hut Tomah

Papa Murphy's Tomah

Humbird Cheese

Don's Auto & Truck Center

Cranberry Country Market

Rudig Jensen

Tuesday's Bar & Grill

Lynxx Networks

The Bald Spot



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KATHRYN “KATHY” YVONNE ANSTEY
December 28, 1939 — January 24, 2025

Kathryn “Kathy” Yvonne Anstey, 85, of Mesa, AZ, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2025, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.



Kathy Anstey

Born on December 28, 1939, in Red Oak, IA, to the late Raymond and Vernice Pearson, Kathy graduated in 1961 with a nursing degree from The Immanuel Deaconess School of Nursing in Omaha, NE and worked in the nursing field as a registered nurse caring for others. Kathy devoted her life to her loving family, visiting with her four children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and enjoyed spending time baking, gardening, sewing, and knitting.

Raised on a farm, Kathy developed a love at an early age for animals and reminisced about rescuing caterpillars, turtles, stray cats, bottle feeding orphaned piglets, and attending her children’s 4-H fairs and horse shows. She could be found in the kitchen making carrot ginger soup and baking her dad’s Swedish rye bread, lemon bars and Italian wedding cake and would make the family tradition Swedish bologna and cookies with her sister. She loved gardening and flowers of all kinds, especially hydrangeas, peonies, and amaryllis. A woman of remarkable talent, Kathy created the most exquisite wedding gowns for each of her daughters to cherish and would often be seen carrying a bag of yarn around knitting sweaters for both human and dogs alike.

Her beautiful spirit, kindness, generosity, and inner strength allowed her to navigate significant life changes and health challenges with grace, patience, and courage. Kathy’s love and light will continue to shine in the hearts of those who knew her.

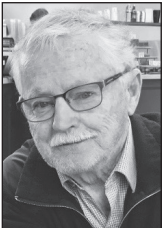
Kathy lived at Fellowship Square in Mesa, AZ, where she cherished time with her beloved cat, Lily, and enjoyed playing cards, Mahjong, Scrabble, and sharing stories with close and lifelong friends. She was married to the late George Anstey and was previously married to Dave Nilssen.

Kathy is survived by her four children: Jeff (Carmelia) Nilssen of Sparta, WI; Terri (Paul) Loree of Stone Lake, WI; Amy (Tim) Howe of Spring Valley, WI; and Sarah (Curt) Blik of Scottsdale, AZ. She is also survived by her eight grandchildren: Courtney (Eric) Peterson, Bailey Nilssen, Brandon (Tk) Loree, Nicole Samudio, Kali Braun, Jacob Howe, Kathryn Blik, and Abbey Blik; as well as eight great-grandchildren: Adalyn Peterson, Parker Peterson, Liam Goodman, Makenna Goodman, Emerson Samudio, Laiken Samudio, Veda Samudio, and Clara Braun. Kathy is also survived by her sister, Dianne Rosenthal of Omaha, NE, her niece Rebecca Kratky, nephews Eric Carlson and Aaron Carlson, and many beloved cousins.

A celebration of Kathy’s life will be held at Fellowship Square in Mesa, AZ, and in Red Oak, IA, at a time to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations in Kathy’s memory may be made to the Humane Society, American Diabetes Association or American Cancer Society in her honor.

DONALD DAVID “PETE” WHITE
September 25, 1941 — February 14, 2025

Donald David “Pete” White (83) passed away on February 14, 2025, surrounded by his sons Rafay (Sadaf) and Timothy (Angela) leaving behind his loving wife Margaret “Maggie.” He was born on September 25, 1941 to J Edward and Florence (Welch) White in Kendall, Wisconsin. He attended school in Kendall, WI graduating in 1959. He served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps for three years during Vietnam



Donald White

On May 23, 1975 Pete was united in marriage with Maggie in Wisconsin Dells. He worked at Rezin Construction and retired from Toro after 30 years. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, walking, volunteering with the Lions, managing the Silver Saints at the Hiawatha Golf Course, ushering at Queen of the Apostles and helping at the Food Pantry in Tomah since 2011.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years Margaret “Maggie” of Tomah, sons: Rafay (Sadaf) of New Bern, NC, Timothy (Angela) of Millston, WI, grandchildren: Nisa and Nuraz, Lindsey (Adam), and Cory (Sydney); great grandchild Jack, nephew and nieces: Robert (Mary Jo), Susan (Jim), Anita (Bill), Colleen (Dennis) and Michelle (Derek); sister in laws: S. Ruth Ann, Marie, and Marcelle, brother in law David (Kay), and great nephew Jake (Jena), and niece Jessie (Nathan).

He was preceded in death by his parents John Edward and Florence Margaret, his sisters Imelda Ann, Mary, his brothers William “Billy”, John, Tom, his niece Karen, his nephew David and his

twin great granddaughters, and sister-in-law Betti (Kevin).

Pete raised two amazing sons, Rafay (retired USMC), Timothy (retired State Trooper), and has left their family with the fondest memories of his impact on their lives. From Mummy’s Pakistani “yellow” potatoes, to beating Tulu on the golf course, drinking hot sauce with Mano, watching the Bears with Asif and thinking of the stars shining with Sana. Teaching the best golf skills to Cory, Lindsey enjoyed the many hugs, bowling with Nuraz & Nisa; Rafay & Sadaf always appreciated his visits to North Carolina & Virginia, and hanging out with Timothy and Angela on their deck with his witty humor Dad, you are deeply loved by your whole family. Check the paper in Heaven for us, we miss you.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 11:00 A.M. at the Queen of the Apostle’s Catholic Church at St. Mary’s, 315 W. Monroe St. Tomah. Father Ethan J Hokamp will officiate. Burial will be in the St Mary’s Church Cemetery with military honors by the Curtis – McNutt VFW Post #1382.

Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation on Tuesday from 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E. Monowau St. Tomah., and at the church on Wednesday from 10 :00 A.M. until the time of the service.

A Parrish Rosary will be held on Tuesday at 4:00 P.M. at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be sent to www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

RONALD M. MILLER
February 11, 2025

SPARTA- Ronald M. Miller, “Ron,” 80, of Sparta, WI, passed away Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, WI.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, February 22, 2025, 1:00 P.M. at the Torkelson Funeral Home, 1132 Angelo Rd. Sparta, WI. Priscilla Hemmersbach will preside. Family and friends are invited to visitation Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home. The Torkelson Funeral Home of Sparta is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

VERNON “VERN” CHARLES KERLING
January 26, 2025

SPARTA- Vernon “Vern” Charles Kerling, 95, passed away in his home on January 26, 2025 with his children at his side.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Sparta, with Father Eric Berns officiating. A private burial will be held at a later date.

Family and friends are invited for visitation from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, and from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Thursday at the church. Memorials may be directed to Sparta St. Patrick’s School or SACS (Sparta Area Cancer Support). 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

Musical low impact aerobics improving joint health in Sparta for over a decade

By JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ MORAN
contributing writer

Take a big room, add some swing music, bring in some chairs, exercise balls, maracas and resistance bands, and the scene is set for another twice-a-week musical and social fitness session, with Joanie Blixt, at the Sparta Barney Center, located at 1000 East Montgomery Street, on Sparta. On Mondays and Thursdays, before 10 a.m., a crowd of men and women begin to gather and greet one another, grabbing light fitness gear, while exchanging news and laughs.

Right at 10 a.m., after having dropped \$1 in the bucket for the class, the fun and fitness begins, and sometimes the conversations keep going, too. Blixt says, with a twinkle in her eye, “If they can still talk while they are exercising, they are in good shape!” Blixt added that the social part of the class is so important and connecting with others is very much welcomed and encouraged.

Previously, a community exercise class was provided off and on, by Senior Services. When that stopped, Joanie Blixt stepped in, attending seminars with the Arthritis Foundation for training. Her classes are lighthearted and energizing, and when pressed to recall just how long she’d been teaching the class, she laughed and said, “Oh, it’s been more than 10 years, maybe 11, 12, 13, or 14? Maybe 15 years? Some of us have been trying to remember and we can’t seem to pin it down. I started while working up in the Parks and Rec office, after I felt bad for folks who kept calling, looking for an exercise class after their instructor suddenly stopped teaching.”

When his memory was pressed on Sunday, Sparta Parks and Rec Director, Brad

Gilbertson, wasn’t quite sure when the class started, either. However, he did kindly offer, “I really do not recall a specific date that she started teaching those classes. I would put it closer to the 2010 timeframe, as I recall she was teaching them for several years before we built the pool, which started in 2013 and completed in 2014. I started in 2005 ... Honestly, I think she may have been doing them at that time.”

Over the years, Joanie has developed a smooth and swinging system, with a core group of attendees, which helps newbies feel welcome and in the know.

On the far wall, behind the group, Joanie placed visual cues to help guide her and the class through the moves, with pictures and information. In front of the group, a sound system plays Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald, and their contemporaries - with modern covers and versions of the songs mixed in.

As Sinatra crooned “Fly me to the Moon,” Blixt explained, “The rhythm and tempo is fun, keeps us moving, and is just right for this class,” which is aimed at adults who want low impact exercise to help increase mobility and joint health. While seniors make up a big part of the class, younger adults join in on the fun, too. It’s also great for people who need low impact exercise for rehabilitation after surgery or injury.

Throughout the one-hour class, Joanie guided her group through a series of gentle stretches, from head to toe. Many exercises were done from the chair (also sometimes called chair aerobics), using resistance bands and other low impact methods or simple equipment, to increase mobility. Other exercises were done while standing, with steady and upbeat rhythm pulsing and movement that was aided by the synchronized shaking of mini maracas.

Marriage Licenses

Monroe County Records

Matthew Thomas Hampel and Logan Nicole Larsen
Juan Manuel Gomez Diaz and Grace Kathryn Johnson
Michael James Craker and Alexandzandra Braelynn Beesley
Brandon Alexander Mauricio and Hayley Noelle

Kuester
Creg Dean Jenkins and Theresa Jane Jacobs
Frank Robert Dobbs and Itzel Salgado
Samuel John Hellerude and Abigail Marie Naas

Tomah Health offers March childbirth, breastfeeding education classes

Tomah Health has scheduled a childbirth education class for expecting parents March 8 from 8 a.m.- 10 a.m. The hospital-recommended course focuses on planning for the birth experience with information on labor, birth, massage, relaxation, and coping techniques. Pre-Birth planning and a Women’s Health Dept. tour are included in the event.

New moms interested in breastfeeding their newborn can learn more about it during a class hosted by Tomah

Health March 26 from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. This class is designed to prepare moms for the breastfeeding experience such as the advantages of breastfeeding, positioning, obtaining a latch, the partner’s role and pumping.

All classes are free, and class size is limited. Registration is required by calling 608-377-8688. The complete list of childbirth education classes is located at www.tomahhealth.org/services/womens-health.



Joanie Blixt (above) has been bringing the joy of music to low impact exercise for over a decade, with Monday and Thursday sessions at the Barney Center in Sparta. Blixt is seen here with tiny maracas, one of many fun items meshed in with the comradery and exercise of her classes. Herald photo by Jennifer Rodriguez Moran.

The day before Valentine’s Day, Joanie even had the whole class looking like cupids, pulling arrows, with resistance bands and giggles. Joanie told the Herald that in the Fall, those cupids become archers hunting in tree stands! As far as songs go, Joanie explained that she rotates a selection developed from 4 CD’s she found from “Silver Sneakers.” Joanie says, “Everyone has a favorite song. Mary loves a rumba song, and Cora loves “New York, New York. The songs are well loved by all of us, and we rotate through the collection so we don’t get bored.” The music, movement

and rhythm keep swinging during class, aside from a break to rest in the middle.

As a result, to passersby, the class might look like an easygoing dance troupe in training. By the end of the class, everyone was energized and full of gratitude. To learn more, drop by and join a class, visit, or call the Sparta Park District Office, or check them out online.

Sparta Park District: <https://www.spartawisconsin.org/parks-and-recreation>
1000 E Montgomery, Sparta, WI, (608) 269-6322
Arthritis Foundation: <https://www.arthritis.org>

Send your news tips to:
editor@monroecountyherald.com

MONROE COUNTY HERALD

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Benny Mailing, Editor

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LOOKING BACK

This Week
In History



LEONARD KIPP
by DIANE HANSON
Staff Writer

Compiled by JOHN GESSNER
Staff Writer

150 Years ago (1875)

Attorney Charles M. Masters has effected (as written) a co-partnership with J. M. Morrow, attorney at law, and the firm is now Morrow and Masters. [Joseph Morrow went on to be a judge and is the namesake of the Morrow Home, established in 1917.]

140 Years ago (1885)

An inauguration ball is to be given at the armory on March 4, and all the accessories for a good time will be presented, including music by the Sparta Quadrille Band. The event offers 100 or 200, more or less, for a night of dancing. [Sparta's population in 1880 was 2,387, so about 10% of the city was to attend. Presidential inaugurations were held in March in the 19th century, this one for President Grover Cleveland's first term.]

130 Years Ago (1895)

The Rifles are already making preparation for their military ball, which will be given at the armory on the 22nd, Washington's birthday. Good music will be arranged for, and a grand event is anticipated. [This year is the 20 years after the end of the Civil War. The Spanish-American War would begin 3 years later.]

125 Years ago (1900)

The State Board of Charities and Reform in Madison took the first step in the condemnation of the Monroe County jail, in accordance with the State Board of Health. The county has a year in which to build a new jail.

100 Years ago (1925)

A goodly number of the Sparta Co-operative creamery were present at their annual meeting on Saturday. The statistical report shows that 1,160,541 pounds of butter were made in 1924.

90 Years ago (1935)

John Kress, of the Western Supply Company, announced that he had reliable information that Mrs. Mae McCoy had been recommended for the appointment of Postmistress at Sparta.

80 Years ago (1945)

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fox received a card from their son, Edwin, who is a prisoner of war in Shanghi [correct spelling is Shanghai, China]. The letter was written July 11, 1944. He said he was well and had received several letters from the states.

75 Years ago (1950)

Robert Miles, the Sparta truck line operator, created a sensation when he walked into City Hall to pay his taxes recently. Miles unloaded more than a thousand quarters (\$250 equaling \$3275 in



Flying High

The Deke Slayton Memorial Space & Bicycle Museum held an open house Saturday to show off its new acquisition, the Pietenpol Air Camper, and to tout the facility as an educational resource, especially in the area of aviation. Tomas Thomas (left) of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation was the guest speaker, who complimented the museum and its volunteers for encouraging youth in exploring aviation as a career.



today's dollars) and told City Treasurer Harold Schendel to count it. Miles said that every time he gets a grip on a quarter, he hangs on to it. In this fashion he has the money to pay his taxes when the time arrives.

65 Years ago (1960)

Mrs. Robert Sergeant Schriver, sister of Senator John F. Kennedy, has a busy schedule campaigning for her brother in Monroe County Friday. She will attend a coffee hour in Tomah, hosted by Mrs. Lawrence Clark and Mrs. Lawrence Curry at 1 p.m. An hour later, Mrs. Schriver will be in Sparta for a similar gathering, at the home of Mrs. Gordon Frederick.

50 Years Ago (1975)

In a caption tiled, "How to win Friends," Sparta's new meter maid, Debra Alexander, began checking parking meters Wednesday afternoon and business turned out to be pretty brisk. In fact, Mrs. Alexander, the first meter maid ever in the city, issued an even dozen parking tickets, but violators didn't seem to mind all the attention. [Remember when Sparta had parking meters?]

40 Years Ago (1985)

Sparta Police Chief David Kemp announced his retirement effective March 29, after 20 years of law enforcement service. He said in a letter to the Police and Fire Commission, "I've come to the point in my career where I feel there is a time to do something different with my life."

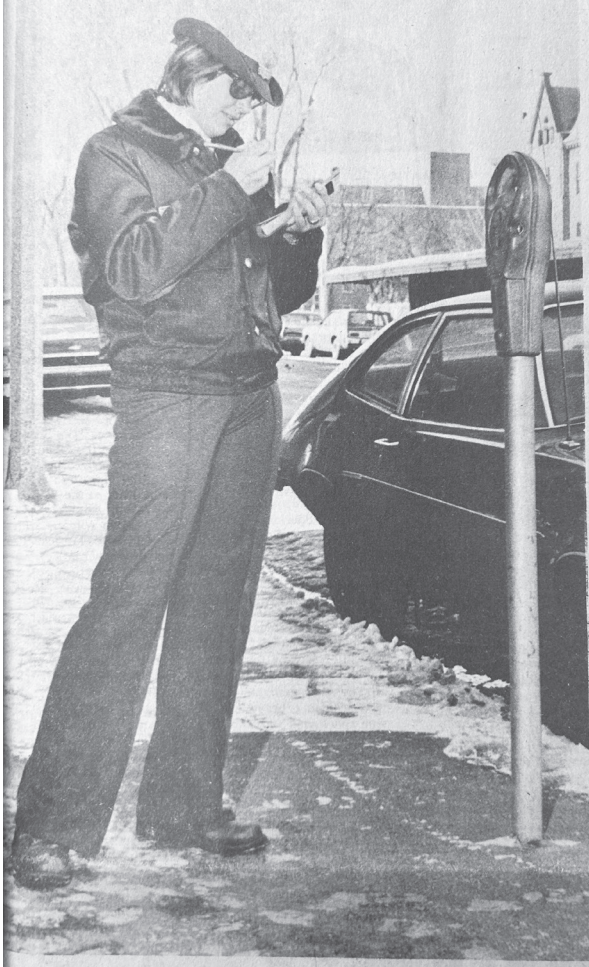
30 Years Ago (1995)

-Sunday, February 19, marked the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles of WW2 and where the Marines planted the iconic flag on Mount Suribachi. Two Sparta men, Bob Arnold and George Lundy, fought on Iwo Jima. Neither man knew the other was there until an article appeared in the paper.

-The City's oldest soldier, Leonard Kipp, died just days before his 100th birthday. Kipp served in World War 1, as an ambulance driver. After the war, he managed the Post Exchange at Camp Grant in Rockford, IL and later managed the Schultz Brothers Five and Dime store, in Sparta. He was a member of Sparta American Legion Post 100 for 71 years.

20 Years Ago (2005)

The Deke Slayton Memorial Space and Bicycle Museum held an open house Saturday, to show off its new acquisition, the Pietenpol Air Camper, a two-seat airplane built by Bernie Pietenpol, of Spring Valley, MN. He is considered the "father of home-built aircraft."



HOW TO WIN FRIENDS — Sparta's new meter maid, Debra Alexander, began checking parking meters Wednesday afternoon and business turned out to be pretty brisk. In fact, Mrs. Alexander, the first meter maid ever in the city, issued an even dozen parking tickets, but violators didn't seem to mind all the attention.

HOROSCOPE

February 16-22, 2025

ARIES

It's important to weigh the pros and cons before making a decision. You may also come across tricky questions without clear answers. This could leave you feeling a bit confused.

TAURUS

Get ready to tackle a bunch of important tasks this week, both at work and in your personal life. Once you check off everything on your to-do list, you'll feel deep satisfaction knowing you've taken care of all the responsibilities you've been putting off.

GEMINI

Big household projects are on the horizon. Your love life could be recharged and take a turn after a deep conversation. A new addition to the family could be on the way!

CANCER

Get ready for an action-packed week! You'll have to put in extra hours at work or handle demanding family responsibilities before you can kick back and relax.

LEO

Whether you're renovating or decorating your home, you'll manage to negotiate advantageous rates that will increase the value of your home. When it comes to your career, don't hesitate to advocate for the raise you deserve.

VIRGO

Unexpected expenses may arise this week. If you need to take out a loan, don't worry. You'll be able to negotiate terms that will benefit you.

LIBRA

This week isn't going to be the peaceful one you were expecting. Instead, it'll be filled with exciting activities and adventures. You'll have a blast!

SCORPIO

Exciting changes are happening in both your professional and personal life. It's important to find ways to unwind and de-stress so you can fully embrace all the amazing opportunities coming your way.

SAGITTARIUS

You'll expand your social circle, both in person and online. You'll find like-minded people to join you at art workshops, yoga sessions or other exciting wellness activities.

CAPRICORN

Your boss will offer you an attractive promotion. Despite being pressed for time, you'll eagerly embrace exciting new projects, whether they're related to work or your personal life.

AQUARIUS

It's time to plan a trip or getaway! You'll be eager to organize a get-together and celebrate with friends. Get ready to explore a new spiritual journey and invest in your personal growth.

PISCES

An unexpected event might shake up your peace. Lean on those close to you for support. They'll help you rediscover the joys of life. Learning to open up and trust more could bring positive changes to your life.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 16 Elizabeth Olsen, Actress (36)	FEBRUARY 20 Olivia Rodrigo, Singer (22)
FEBRUARY 17 Ed Sheeran, Singer (34)	FEBRUARY 21 Elliot Page, Actor (38)
FEBRUARY 18 John Travolta, Actor (71)	FEBRUARY 22 Drew Barrymore, Actress (50)
FEBRUARY 19 Chappell Roan, Singer (27)	

Minnesota State Mankato announces 2024 Fall semester Dean's List

The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato have been announced by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, David Hood.

Among 4,404 students, a total of 1,354 students qualified for the High Honor List, by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 3,050 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

For additional information, please visit: <https://mankato.mnsu.edu/academics/course-planning-and-registration/registration-and-academic->

records/current-students-registration-resources/grades/deans-list/

Minnesota State Mankato, a comprehensive university with 15,251 students, is part of the Minnesota State system, which includes 26 colleges and seven universities.

- Cashton, WI**
•Rylee Geier, Honor List
Sparta, WI
•Katelyn Gilbertson, High Honors List
•Addison Hackbarth, High Honors List
•Dylan Kaduc, High Honors List
•Olivia Pulham, Honor List
•Madelyn Sprain, High Honors List
•Serena Swanson, High Honors List
Tomah, WI
•Madeline Ewers, Honor List
•Aubrey King, Honor List

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Coffee break

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CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 266

Answers on page 8

ACROSS

1. Lawn tree

4. Mastered

8. Chip in chips

12. Feathered stole

13. ____ shirt

14. Poet Keats

15. Cereal container

16. Gardening tool

17. Eager

18. Faucet

20. Lawn

21. Hazardous

24. Stare blankly

27. Screening

32. 24th letters

33. Lad

34. Estate unit

35. Deerskin

37. Ancient harp

38. Clothes

41. Planet's path

45. Perceive

49. Give notice

50. Land amid water

52. Hops beverage

53. Fifty-fifty

54. Gentle

55. Bring to court

56. Attaches a button

57. Writing tablets

58. Five plus five

DOWN

1. Fades

2. Part of a bow

3. Long skirt

4. Smock

5. Paint layers

6. Forest creature

7. Fawn's mother

8. Not totally closed

9. PBS science show

10. Not that

11. Last bits

19. Invited person

20. ____ whiz!

22. Helm direction

23. Saute

24. Hair preparation

25. Bunyan's tool

26. Pod inhabitant

28. Manservant

29. Wintry

30. Miscalculate

31. Very small

33. Risk cash

36. Lid

39. Ran a motor

40. Stinks

41. Has loans

42. Rant

43. Make beer

44. Rustic hotels

46. Bridge seat

47. Piece of evidence

48. MTV watcher

50. Little red, e.g.

51. Yellow or Dem, e.g.

Sudoku

Answers on page 8

PUZZLE NO. 1006

HOW TO PLAY

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

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

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

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History Highlights

from the Monroe County Local History Room



From left: Vern Ziegler, trucker for the Nicolet Dray Line and Gross Carrier; Sheriff Ronald Sanders; and Civil Defense Director, Gordon Stelter, unloading Civil Defense shelter supplies at the Monroe County Jail in April 1969 in preparation for distributing them throughout the county. The photo appeared in the April 28, 1969 Sparta Herald. Contributed photo.

Looking Back At Monroe County’s Civil Defense Program

Part 2: Designating Shelters

By ADAM BALZ
MCLHR Volunteer

By 1961, the county’s civil defense program had grown larger and more complicated. In October, members of the program met to appoint a chairman to head up “about 15 different branches of the county organization.” These departments included police, fire, health, welfare, housing, radiological defense, transportation, emergency warning, intelligence, and information services, among others. Norman Blackwell, the county’s new director of Civil Defense, noted that “In most cases, department heads will be drawn from among county officials or from among those holding civilian posts paralleling those in the civil defense organization.” One issue weighing on Blackwell was the county’s recent designation as a “support area” for those affected by emergencies in other parts of the region or state. In an instant, Monroe County would be responsible for welcoming, housing, and feeding thousands of people displaced from their own homes, just beyond county boundaries. In such situations, Blackwell noted, the county “must be able to handle about twice its normal population. This would mean the care of an additional 30,000 people.” Blackwell’s tenure also saw a renewed push for shelters, only now the focus was on places within the city, rather than burrowed into nearby hillsides. In early 1962, architects conducted a “fallout shelter survey” of buildings throughout the county. The goal was to identify structures that “could be used as shelters against radioactive fallout.” One prerequisite for any building to be designated a fallout shelter was having

“a protection factor of 20 (one-twentieth of outside radiation).” Fallout shelters were also required to have a basement that could offer 10 square feet of space per person, for at least 50 people, plus an additional 10 feet for food and water. The survey was limited to public buildings, industrial buildings, and businesses, though the architects allowed for apartment buildings if they were large enough. Some of the buildings that fell under this criterion and were evaluated included the Wisconsin Child Care Center, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Hiawatha Valley Dairies. The first structure in Monroe County to be formally designated as a fallout shelter was the Northwest Telephone Company building, in Tomah. This was followed by high schools in Wilton, Cashton, and Tomah, as well as the Veterans Hospital, the Tomah Post Office, St. Patrick’s Church in Sparta, and three buildings owned by the Cashton Creamery, which also agreed to store a two-week supply of food and “allow periodic inspections of the quarters by Civil Defense personnel.” By January 1963, more than fifty locations in the county had been designated as fallout shelters, with signed leases for each. Some of these were public buildings, such as schools and banks, while others were private businesses, such as the Cashton Motor Company, Rasmussen Oil, and the Sun Drop Bottling Company. The old train tunnels of the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail were designated as fallout shelters, as were the existing tunnels at Tunnel City. In early February 1963, supplies began to arrive in Monroe County. First came three radiation survey kits for St. Mary’s Hospital, Sparta Senior High, and the Northwest Telephone Company, in Tomah. Each kit cost \$72.50, which was paid

by the government, and could be used to detect radiation levels in the event of a disaster. That same month more than six thousand pounds of food arrived, which was divided between those three locations, plus the Firestone Garage in Tomah. In announcing the arrival of supplies, the *La Crosse Tribune* gave a detailed rundown of what would be sent to St. Mary’s Hospital: “1,908 pounds of biscuits, 76 metal drums for water storage, 80 polyethylene [sic] bag liners, 8 sanitation kits, and two medical kits.” All of these supplies cost the government \$813.22 and would “provide emergency needs for 379 persons, the rated capacity of the shelter, for 2 weeks.” By March 1963, nine fallout shelters in Monroe County had received survival equipment, which totaled 53,700 pounds. According to Blackwell, this was “adequate for more than 6,000 persons.” These shelters included the four Chicago & North Western train tunnels. However, supplies could not be kept in the tunnels, so they were stored off-site. For example, the tunnel outside Wilton had a capacity for 760 people; its supplies were kept at the Kenyon Building. The tunnels outside Tunnel City, which were still operational, had a capacity for 1,296 people; its supplies were stored at Betthausen Lumber Company. In April of 1969, the *Sparta Herald* reported that an additional 15 tons of supplies had arrived in Monroe County. The items were first unloaded at the county jail, before being distributed to locations around the county for storage. This second round of supplies included “crackers, carbohydrates (candy), sanitary kits and medical kits,” among other items. These supplies could go for years without expiring, and they were expected to sustain people until they could safely return home.

Tomah High School DECA receives gold for outstanding School-Based Enterprise

CONTRIBUTED

Tomah Timberwolves Custom Designs, the School-Based Enterprise (SBE) at Tomah High School, achieved Gold Status for the 2024-2025 school year and will be recognized during DECA’s International Career Development Conference, this coming April 26th – 29th, 2025, in Orlando, Florida. A School-Based Enterprise (SBE) is an entrepreneurial operation in a school setting that provides goods and services to meet the needs of the market. SBEs are managed and operated by students as hands-on learning laboratories that integrate National Curriculum Standards in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA advisors have utilized this effective educational tool for over four decades, to provide their students with realistic and practical learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction, enhance 21st Century skill development, and prepare students for college and careers. The Tomah High School DECA members who contributed to the certification were Carter Ollendick, Molly Stavlo, and Serenity Thayer, with the assistance of their DECA chapter advisor, Daniel Briggs. “DECA’s School-based Enterprise Certification Program is a rigorous process designed to help DECA members demonstrate their classroom learning in a practical, learning laboratory, and then translate that into meaningful outcomes,” said Christopher Young, CAE, Chief Program Officer at DECA Inc. “These DECA members are practicing important workplace readiness skills, while preparing for college and careers.” DECA’s School-Based Enterprise Certification Program provides recognition



Carter Ollendick



Molly Stavlo



Serenity Thayer

practical, learning laboratory, and then translate that into meaningful outcomes,” said Christopher Young, CAE, Chief Program Officer at DECA Inc. “These DECA members are practicing important workplace readiness skills, while preparing for college and careers.” DECA’s School-Based Enterprise Certification Program provides recognition

for outstanding achievement by school-based enterprises and motivates SBEs to strive for excellence and growth. SBEs can be certified at three levels: bronze, silver, or gold. In order to apply for the certification, SBEs must submit extensive documentation that explains how the SBE demonstrates the practice of various marketing and retail standards. A review committee evaluates the documentation, to determine which level of certification has been achieved. DECA’s School-Based Enterprise program is sponsored by Otis Spunkmeyer Inc.

About DECA Inc.

DECA is a career and technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs with a career interest in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. DECA enhances the preparation for college and careers by providing co-curricular programs that integrate into classroom instruction, apply learning, connect to business, and promote competition. DECA student members leverage their DECA experience to become academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leaders. DECA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with over 287,000 members in more than 4,000 high school and college chapters in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Germany.

For more information about DECA, visit www.deca.org.

Bangor Village Trustees hold monthly board meeting

Police Department looking for new officer

By JOHN GESSNER
Staff Writer

The Bangor Village Board met last Tuesday, February 11th, for their scheduled monthly meeting, to discuss issues affecting the Village. Following the normal conduct of business, such as approving monthly expenditures and officer reports, the trustees discussed upcoming issues brought before the board. Police Chief, Billy Carpenter, announced the application process to fill a police officer vacancy, for replacing officer Amanda Marshall, who moved on to another department. Applicants may contact the Bangor Village Hall, the Police Department, or access the application on WILENET (Wisconsin Law Enforcement Network). Josh Reynolds, Director of

Public Works, spoke about the initiatives that the DPW is taking for the betterment of the village. During the winter months, several trees have been trimmed along the bike path and the status of the roadway repair plans to be executed in the Spring and Summer months. Approval for the purchase of a lift station pump was voted upon and approved. This pump is used along the wastewater system to “lift” wastewater from a lower-level pipe to a higher level for transfer to the wastewater treatment plant. The model chosen is the same as a proven model used in the Sparta system, providing a longer life and more efficient operation. One issue with wastewater pumps that is not readily thought about are the bulky products flushed into the system. These can include feminine products and “flushable” wet wipes. Yes, they are flushable, but this is not recommended because they don’t decompose like toilet paper. They tend to jam up the pump impeller blades and as they build up, they

can erode and jam the pump. This causes the pump to have to be removed, cleaned, and repaired on a much more frequent basis. As in Sparta, the Bangor DPW recommends not flushing the “flushables.” Another item discussed was the possibility of an information Kiosk, to be built along the bike trail. While no formal plans exist at this time, the idea was floated among the trustees as a perfect project for an eagle scout project or a project for the high school shop class. As other communities are painting murals on structures and barns, another forward looking concept was to develop an ordinance for managing a proposed mural in town. Considerations included preservation techniques, so that as the mural aged, it would maintain a quality appearance, thus reflecting the pride that the village is known for. Village board meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m., at the village community building.

CITY COUNCIL

Continued from Front Page

stamp of approval. Executing an Easement by Mayor and City Clerk The next resolution was read aloud by Josh Lydon, 7th District Alderman: “Resolution authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to execute deed easement for Northern States Power on Ideal Road. This is a small stretch next to the road outside of the dump, outside of the city. It is just giving NSP the ability to put in some powerlines. The city gets reimbursed \$1,200 for the right of way.” Alderman Jim Church then moved that the resolution

be read by title only. After is was seconded, Mayor Riley iterated, “A motion has been made and seconded, to suspend the rules and read the resolution a third time by title only and placed before the council for immediate action. All those in favor signify by saying “Aye”. Mayor Riley then asked for a roll call vote, with City Clerk, Jenny Lydon, executing the vote by calling off each aldermen’s name and taking a verbal acknowledgement from them, either for or against the resolution. All aldermen present voted in the

affirmative, thus passing the resolution. Certified Survey Maps Resolutions The final two resolutions were for certifying survey maps. One was for Truck Don’t Stop LLC and the other was for Dale and Johna Hesselberg. Community Development Director, Todd Fahning, first addressed Truck Don’t Stop LLC, with renderings of the land projected on a screen. “This is right next to the sewer plant. If you recall, we approved the zoning for this, R2. This property here [indicating on the projected rendering], he is planning on building some duplexes out there.” With a

roll call vote, and all aldermen present voting yes, the resolution of the survey map for Truck Don’t Stop LLC was approved. The final item on the agenda was the resolution to approve a survey map for Dale and Johna Hesselberg. Todd Fahning explained to the council that this resolution involved a garage that had burned down, and that Dale Hesselberg would like to build a new garage. “This was a nonconforming building. He does own the lot next door, so he will just be combining those two lots together, to make it one parcel,” Fahning informed attendees. Again, Mayor Riley read

the resolution aloud before the roll call vote: “The resolution approving certified survey map, Dale and Johna Hesselberg, roll call please.” Once again, a unanimous vote in the affirmative took place. City Administrator’s Report For a final order of business, Mayor Riley asked for the City Administrators report. Todd Fahning stated, “Probably the biggest things are that the Library is still continuing forward. They are making some pretty good progress in the old section, and we are looking for a March completion. We will be planning some sort of a grand opening. We will have something for the public, and

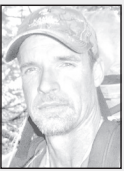
probably something private, for the donors.” Fahning further stated that there has been a lot of activity in the past couple weeks in the business park. “Mark [Sund] and I have been working with a couple of different prospects, and hopefully those will come through. Fahning also mentioned that the Keytocomfort was coming along well. He also mentioned that the Morrow Home is in the final stage of their Bridgepath addition. With that, the meeting was adjourned, and everyone headed out into the snowy conditions to continue on with their personal lives.



HOME FOR A WEEKEND

An Outdoorsman's Journal

By Mark Walters



Hello friends,

First things first, I want to apologize for being way ahead on my column deadlines as well as missing sturgeon spearing. In January I had a tree fall on my truck, which changed by mobility in a major way, then my beautiful golden retriever Ruby became ill and passed away. I got my truck back after 3 weeks, Ruby is in heaven, and it was time for an interesting time in the world of sturgeon spearing. I got the nasty gunk of an illness that has been going around for a week and it kept me off the ice.

So back to the fun, the Polencheck family out of Glidden are good buds of mine and have been for about 25 years. We try to do something at least once a year and this year it was 2 days of ice fishing, eating good food and giving each other a hard time.

Saturday, January 25th
High 21, low 12

Today would be a fun day full of adventure on the ice. Myself, Scott Polencheck, and his children Gunner 23, Preston 21, and Jersey 19. Along with Bruce Polencheck, (brother to Scott) and Mike Dunlevey who owns Bear Necessities which is a convenience store in Glidden that has

excellent gas prices and some really cool taxidermy would be our crew.

Once we hit the ice we would travel by atv and utv and this was a big homecoming for Scott as Preston was home from working in Alabama and Jersey was home for the weekend from school in Eau Claire where she is studying to be a respiratory therapist.

I want to say that actually Scott, Bruce and I started our day crappie fishing on another lake and both Polencheck brothers insisted that I write, that I caught the first, most, biggest and only crappie's" of the outing.

So anyways, our plan was to fish for walleye and northern pike with tip ups, have a campfire, a fish fry and give each other crap. Let me tell you about the 4 Polencheck men. If a flag goes up, you would think a nuclear missile is on its way as they get super excited and were a bit perturbed throughout the weekend about my rather "casual manner" in walking to the action.

Folks, today would be a day full of laughs on a beautiful body of water with snow falling and flags flying. Jersey "Cow" as I call her, and I teamed up together as I had 6 tip ups in my pack and it was really fun and she caught the days only walleye. Preston who I would learn today is actually called "Chicken" so if anyone see's Preston, please address him as Chicken, I am sure he will appreciate that.

In the early 90's I lived in Glidden and then bought a home and 5 acres for \$10,500 near Mellen, little side

note there.

Anyhow, the day was busy because the gators were hungry and Jersey Cow was quite naturally teaching her siblings how to catch fish and did I tell you the males in the Polencheck clan about soil their pants if a flag goes up and you aren't running to it. I am sure Gunner, Chicken, Scott and Bruce wanted me to write that.

Towards dark a stove was pulled out, five gators were filleted and Y boned, and Bruce Polencheck created what might have been the best fish fry I have ever enjoyed. Shore Lunch "beer batter" with a bit of chili powder was/is the best.

The next day we headed towards Butternut and fished gators with tip ups, it was cold and windy, but the gators were very hungry. Out of 7 of us, as Gunner's sweetie, Taylor Wineberger was also along the Jersey Cow and Taylor were on fire. They both literally seemed to constantly have a flag up and Taylor caught the big fish of the day. In all honesty I bet we caught 50 fish and most of the time, the flags came up in doubles and triples.

I am sure the Polencheck boys want me to write that I taught them how to fish this weekend especially "Chicken" and Gunner but I want you to know that they already had a pretty "fairly" good idea of what they were doing.

Dear Chicken and Gunner, please send a check for your fishing lessons!

Sunset



Gunner Polencheck and his sister Jersey having a great time ice fishing on an Ashland County lake.

The Breeze of Balance

Natural Connections

By Emily Stone

Naturalist and Education Director at Cable Natural History Museum



After I silenced the beep of my alarm clock, the sound I noticed next was the wind roaring through the forest and around the eaves. It was not the first howling wind of this winter. Sometimes it wears on me—the constant battle, the whipping hair, and the unceasing noise—but some days it is invigorating and refreshing. What do you love or hate about the wind?

The wind can be a symbol of unity, freedom, eternity and balance. It is as true ecologically as it is metaphorically.

The first time I encountered wind as a symbol of unity, I was on the south shore of Lake Superior, at a wedding on a piney point. A stiff breeze whipped through the trees and blew out the unity candle. With great aplomb, the minister launched into a beautiful and extemporaneous sermon on the wind as a symbol of unity. As the air swirled around all the guests and the happy couple, we imagined how our breaths came from and returned to the one body of air that surrounds us and the entire globe.

In some cultures, wind is personified as a divine messenger who is able to manipulate unseen energy. Indeed, wind is the main way that our Earth attempts to equal



Wind crashes waves into rocks and ice at the mouth of the Cascade River on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Photo by Emily Stone.

out differences in temperature. Energy from the Sun warms the Earth and the air above it, but it does not heat everything evenly. Some objects heat up more easily than others, and some areas of the Earth receive more energy from the Sun. As warm air rises, cool air flows in to replace it.

The stronger the difference in temperature, the stronger the winds. Think of it this way: in the summer time, the temperature difference between northern Wisconsin

and southern Florida is not that big. In the winter, however, that temperature difference can get quite large. In order for our atmosphere to remain in equilibrium, the winds must speed up. Wind is the Earth's attempt to find a temperature balance.

Wind disperses more than just heat. When strong winds carry away soil, microbes in the soil can act like hitchhikers and go along for the ride. Nutrients and organisms lost from one region may be

deposited across the globe. The organisms may colonize otherwise inaccessible regions. The nutrients being blown around the globe may help forested areas obtain trace amounts of minerals. Some organisms in particular get a significant amount of nutrients from dust on the wind. Lichens and epiphytes ("air plants") are two examples.

Insects also use the wind for long-distance travel. Just how high can they fly? In the book Insectopedia, Hugh

Raffles wrote that researchers calculated that "on any given day, the air column rising 50-15,000 feet above one square mile of Louisiana countryside contained an average of 25 million insects." At the upper limit, 15,000 feet, there was a ballooning spider who used his silk as a kite. Butterflies, dragonflies, gnats, water striders, leaf bugs, booklice, and katydids have been sighted hundreds of miles out on the open ocean, and aphids have been found on ice floes.

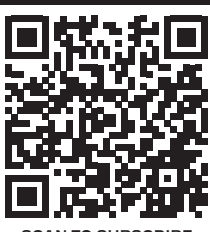
Some wingless insects (and plankton!) are plucked from their earthly tethers by a sharp gust of wind, but very few are completely passive travelers.

Wind also helps lakes balance their nutrients and chemicals throughout various layers during fall and spring turnover. During fall turnover, when the surface water cools to about the same temperature as the lower water, the wind can mix the water masses together and even out the temperature and oxygen levels. A similar process occurs during spring turnover after ice-out, as colder surface waters warm to the temperature of bottom waters and the lake mixes. Water from the lake bottom brings nutrients up with it.

While Nature's howling winds have their purpose, I would still prefer a gentle breeze. Liu Chi, a scholar in the Yuan and the Ming Dynasties, wrote about the wind in a pine grove. "Listening to it can relieve anxiety and humiliation, wash away confusion and impurity, expand the spirit and lighten the heart, make one feel peaceful and contemplative, cause one to wander free and easy through the skies and travel along with the force of Creation."

With every breath, we invite the universe in. As the winter winds swirl around you, take a peaceful and contemplative moment to appreciate the wind's role in encouraging balance and unity in our sometimes stormy world.

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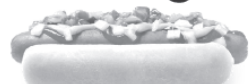
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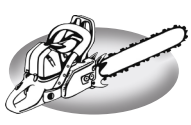
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6	3	1	8	9	4	5	7	2
5	8	9	7	2	3	1	4	6

90 HELP WANTED

Seeking – Part Time Museum Curator

The Tomah Museum is looking for an energetic and dedicated person to join us at the museum, serving as a curator by managing displays and collections, assisting with research and working with the director to coordinate programs and events. This is a salaried position and requires 10 hours per week on site at the museum. An interest in local and state history is preferred.

For more information, contact Jim or Leah at 608-372-1880, or inquire at the museum during operating hours 10-4, Tue thru Fri.

The Tomah Area School District has a position for you!

Positions Start July 16th for the 45/15 calendar and August 27th for the regular calendar.

Single Health Insurance Available for Many Positions, Including some Bus Driving Positions!

Many Positions are Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Eligible!!!

HOW TO APPLY:

• Log into https://wecan.waspa.org and create an account. Applicants can view openings and complete the appropriate online application and cover letter of the desired posting before the application deadline.

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. ayuda en la traducción de este documento, por favor llame a la especialista Si de ELL del distrito a 374-7014.

• School Bus Driver- Substitute and Permanent- Job Posting- Until Filled

• School Van Driver- Substitute and Permanent- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #859- Nutrition Service Assistant- Job Posting- Until March 5, 2025

• Job #857- Lemonweir Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #856- Middle School Non-Certified Compass Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #855- Long Term Middle School Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #850- Oakdale Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #849- Lemonweir Non-Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #842- Lemonweir Non-Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #825- Oakdale Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #812- High School Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #806- RKLK Non-Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #803- THS Non-Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #770- Miller Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

• Job #734- Miller Certified Aide- Job Posting- Until Filled

LEGAL NOTICES

LOCATION AND HOURS OF
POLLING PLACE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a **SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION** in the City of Tomah on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 for the **State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Tomah Area School District School Board**.

All Polling Places for the City of Tomah will be at the Monroe County Fairgrounds at Recreation Park in the gold building. Address: 1625 Butts Ave, Tomah, WI 54660. The entrance is off of Hugh Dickie Drive.

ALL POLLING PLACES WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M. and are accessible to elderly and disabled persons.

Notice of Meeting of MBOC to Process Rehabilitated Provisional Ballots

If provisional ballots have been issued and are subsequently cured by the voter before 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election, the MBOC must meet no later than the following Monday at 9:00 a.m. to process the cured provisional ballots. This is a public meeting and requires applicable notice.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact Municipal Clerk Rebecca Weyer, Tomah Municipal Building, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660 Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding holidays. Telephone: (608) 374-7426 or email: rweyer@tomahwi.gov .

Rebecca Weyer
City Clerk, City of Tomah
2/17 WNAIXLP

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Sealed bids will be received by the Monroe County Highway Department, addressed to the Monroe County Highway Fleet & Facilities Manager, 803 Washington St., Sparta, WI 54656. Copies of specifications can be obtained at the Monroe County Highway Department Office - 803 Washington St., Sparta, WI 54656 or on the Counties web-page at www.co.monroe.wi.us

The Proposal must be submitted to the Monroe County Highway Department, 803 Washington Street Sparta, Wisconsin 54656 by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday MARCH 04, 2025

2/17, 24 WNAIXLP

**Notice of Location and Hours of
Polling Place**

At the General Election to be held on February 18, 2025 , in the Town of Byron of Monroe County, WI the following polling place locations will be used for the wards indicated:

Location
Wards
Town of Byron town hall, 32386 State Highway 21, Warrens, WI
Ward 1 and Ward 2

All polling places will open at 7:00 A.M. and will close at 8:00 P.M. All polling places are accessible to elderly and voters with disabilities.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Lisa Waltemath
32184 State Highway 21,
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Hours 5-7 p.m. Monday thru
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**Notice of Meeting of the
Local and Municipal Board of
Canvassers (MBOC)**

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers and the MBOC for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvasses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§7.51 and 7.53(1). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Notice of Meeting of MBOC to Process Rehabilitated Provisional Ballots

If provisional ballots have been issued and are subsequently cured by the voter before 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election, the MBOC must meet no later than the following Monday at 9:00 a.m. to process the cured provisional ballots. This is a public meeting and requires applicable notice.

2/17 WNAIXLP

Ballot ID: 1138

**TOWN OF GREENFIELD
MONROE COUNTY
PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE
POLLING HOURS AND
LOCATION**

Notice is hereby given that a Spring Primary Election will be held at the **Greenfield Town Hall**, 11575 Fisher Road, Tomah, WI on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., accessible to elderly and disabled voters. This primary election will be for State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Tomah School Board.
Kathy Von Haden
Town of Greenfield Clerk
608-372-1814.
2/13, 17 WNAIXLP

**ORDINANCE NO. 1030
ORDINANCE PERTAINING
TO ALCOHOL LICENSE
APPLICATIONS**

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPARTA, MONROE COUNTY, WISCONSIN, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Sec. 12-27(a)(4), (b), and (d) of the Code of City Ordinances are hereby amended and (g) is deleted and that language is added to (a)(4) so that the pertinent sections read as follows:

(a) (4) The City of Sparta in accordance with Wis. Stats. §§ 125.26(1) and 125.51(1) (a) authorizes the public safety committee to issue temporary class "B" and temporary "Class B" licenses. Temporary Class "B" and temporary "Class B" license applications shall include a plan for the area to be licensed. The city clerk shall submit the plan to the police chief, fire chief and building inspector for review and comment. The plan shall address the following issues:

(b) Regular operator's licenses. Application for operator's licenses shall be made in writing on a form provided by the city clerk and filed with the city clerk.

(1) The city clerk shall refer the application to the police chief for a records check. The police chief shall report their findings to the city clerk. Regular operator's licenses may be issued to a qualified person by the city clerk for a period of up to two years. All licenses will expire bi-annually on June 30 in even-numbered years.

(d) Temporary operator's license. Application for temporary operator's licenses shall be made in writing on a form provided by the city clerk. The city clerk may issue a temporary operator's license to any person provided the applicant is employed by, or donating their services to, nonprofit corporations. Temporary operator's licenses are issued by the city clerk for a period not to exceed 14 days. No person may hold more than two licenses of this kind per year.

Section 2. This ordinance amendment shall be in full force and effect following its passage and publication as provided by law. Dated this 12th day of February, 2025.

OFFERED BY:

Alderman Jim Church
PASSED this 12th day of February, 2025. Jennifer Lydon, City Clerk

APPROVED BY:
Kevin Riley, Mayor
2/17 WNAIXLP

Advertisement for Bids
River Run Sparta
Cart Path Reconstruction
Sparta, Wisconsin

The City of Sparta is soliciting sealed bids for the reconstruction of carts paths at River Run Sparta golf course at 1210 E Montgomery Street, Sparta, WI 54656.

The cart path project will consist of milling and finishing over the existing cart paths along with construction of some new cart path sections.

Bids will be received by the City Clerk, located at 201 W Oak Street, Sparta, WI 54656 until 2:00 p.m. local time on February 26, 2025 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. All Bids shall be placed in a sealed, opaque envelope addressed to the City Clerk, City of Sparta, 201 W Oak St, Sparta, WI 54656.

The outermost envelope shall be clearly marked with the name and address of the bidder and shall be clearly labeled, "River Run Sparta Cart Paths." All bids shall arrive at the appointed place by the time specified. Tardiness due to delivery methods or contracted carrier shall not be a reason for consideration of late bids.

The bidding documents may be examined at the Barney Community Center, 1000 E Montgomery Street, Sparta, WI 54656 during normal City business hours. For lease contact Brad Gilbertson, Parks & Recreation Director at 608-269-6322.

The following specifications shall be met:
1. The area under consideration for new chip seal surface comprises approximately 220,000 Square Feet of areas for a chip seal surface.
2. Full depth mill of existing cart paths leaving all materials in place for a base. Proof roll subgrade with vibratory steel drum roller to ensure proper stability.
3. Gravel Base: Install three inches of crushed gravel in two equal lifts, crushed gravel shall be compacted with a steel drum vibratory roller.
4. Chip Seal: Install two coats of asphalt oil and chips, compacted with roller.
5. Fog Seal: Upon completion of chip seal, all paths will be fog sealed.
6. Soft Spots: If soft spots are encountered on the route and additional gravel is needed, provide a cost per cubic yard of additional gravel.
7. The awarded contractor must coordinate with Pro Shop staff when working to allow holes to be closed while work is being conducted.

Dated: February 13, 2025
Brad Gilbertson, Parks & Recreation Director

City of Sparta – 1000 E Montgomery Street Sparta, WI 54656

2/13, 17 WNAIXLP

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Nonpartisan Office
February 18, 2025**

Notice to voters: if you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two (2) election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials (see end of ballot for initials).

General Instructions

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help (absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).

To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●

To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●

**State Superintendent
of Public Instruction****State Superintendent
Vote for 1**

☐ Jeff Wright

☐ Brittany Kinser

☐ Jill Underly

☐ write-in:

**Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office**

February 18, 2025

for

City of Sparta, Wards 1 - 14
Monroe County

Ballot ID: 1138

Ballot issued by

Initials of election inspectors

Absentee ballot issued by

Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Certification of Voter Assistance

I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor

For Official Use Only

Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade:

- ☐ Overvoted
☐ Damaged
☐ Other

If this is the **Original** Ballot, write the serial number here: _____

If this is the **Duplicate** Ballot, write the serial number here: _____

Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

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HERALD

**NOTICE OF SPRING PRIMARY AND
SAMPLE BALLOTS**

February 18, 2025

OFFICE OF THE TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK**TO THE VOTERS OF THE TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

Notice is hereby given of a spring primary election to be held in the city, villages, towns and election precincts of the Tomah Area School District, comprising the towns of Adrian, Byron, Clifton, Grant, Greenfield, LaGrange, Lincoln, Oakdale, Ridgeville, Scott, Tomah and Wilton, in Monroe County; the towns of Bear Bluff and Knapp, in Jackson County; and the towns of Watner, Kingston and Orange, in Juneau County; and the City of Tomah and the Villages of Wyeville, Oakdale and Warrens, in Monroe County; and the Village of Camp Douglas, in Tomah County, on the 18th day of February, 2025, at which the officers named below shall be nominated. The names of the candidates for school board, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column, in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters

Voters will vote in their regular polling places during regular polling hours. All polling places will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification*
- sign the poll book**

*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

**If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word "exempt."

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter presents proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of the labor organization which represents the voter.

Where Paper Ballots are Used

The voter shall make a mark (X) in the square next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

The voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the write-in line.

When using an electronic ballot marking device ("ImageCast Evolution-ICE") to mark an **optical scan ballot**, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote.

Where Touch Screen Voting is Used

The voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote.

Spoiled Ballots

If the voter spoils a **paper or optical scan ballot**, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

The voter may spoil a **touch screen ballot** at the voting station before the ballot is cast.

After Voting the Ballot

After an official **paper ballot** is marked, it shall be folded so the inside marks do not show, but so the printed endorsements and inspectors' initials on the outside do show. The voter shall deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit and shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official **optical scan ballot** is marked, it shall be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter may insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the voter shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official **touch screen ballot** is cast, the voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

Ricky Murray, District Clerk
Tomah Area School District

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

**Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office
February 18, 2025**

Notice to voters: if you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two (2) election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials (see end of ballot for initials).

General Instructions	School District
If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help (absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).	School District of Tomah School Board Member Vote for not more than 2
To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●	☐ Ryan DeFreitas
To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●	☐ James Newlun
	☐ Daniel Crego
	☐ Catey Rice
	☐ Heidi Hammes
	☐ write-in:
	☐ write-in:

2/17 WNAIXLP

2/17 WNAIXLP

Page 10

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

MONROE COUNTY HERALD

LEGAL NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
HIGHWAY ROAD MAINTENANCE
SINGLE AND OR DOUBLE CHIP SEAL COAT

Notice is hereby given by the **Town of La Grange, Monroe County, Wisconsin**, that it will receive bids for highway road maintenance consisting of both a single and double chip seal coat on various town roads. All bids to be received by **5:00 p.m.** Wednesday March 5th, 2025. For specifications and plans, contact Wendy Von Haden, Clerk, Town of La Grange, Monroe County, Wisconsin, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday at 22731 Flint Avenue, Tomah, Wisconsin 54660 (608) 372-3594. If no answer, please leave a message or email the clerk office at clerk@townoflagrangemcwi.gov. Bids will be opened and read aloud at the La Grange Town Hall, 22731 Flint Avenue, Tomah Wisconsin 54660 at **5:00 p.m.** Wednesday March 5th, 2025. The Town of La Grange, Monroe County Wisconsin reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, or accept the bid deemed most advantageous on behalf of Town of La Grange. Wendy Van Haden, Clerk
Town of La Grange
2/17 WNAXLP

BANGOR SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education (Wednesday, January 15, 2025)

Generated by Jean Reigel on Thursday, January 16, 2025

1. Adjourn to Closed Session Under WI Statutes 19.85(1)(c)(f) (6:00 PM)
A. Closed Session: *Julie Meyers called the closed session to order at 6:00 PM.*
B. Adjourn to Open Session
Motion by Tina Mathison, second by Shelly Piske to adjourn to open session. Motion carried 7-0 at 6:28 PM
2. Meeting Opening
A. Call to order
Julie Meyers called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
B. Roll Call
Members present: Joanie Wilcox, Tina Mathison, Lisa Horstman, Julie Meyers, Shelly Piske, Kelly Kruchten, Jessica Munson.
C. Attest to Publication: *Joanie Wilcox.*
D. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Tina Mathison, second by Shelly Piske to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.
E. District Mission, Vision, and Values: *Read by Kelly Kruchten.*
F. Board of Education Collective Commitments: *Read by Kelly Kruchten.*
G. Public Comment: *None.*
3. Approval of Minutes
A. Minutes from December 18, 2024
Motion by Lisa Horstman, second by Kelly Kruchten to approve December 18, 2024 minutes. Motion carried 6-0 with Joanie Wilcox abstaining.
4. Student Report
A. Student Report: *Sophie Kassera reported.*
5. Special Report/ Presentation
Ross Jones proposed a trip for music students.
A. 2026 - Music Trip to New York
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Shelly Piske to approve the Overnight Field Trip for High School Band and Choir Students to New York City April 13-18 2026 with Bob Rogers Travel. Motion carried 7-0.
6. Board President's Report
A. School Board Elections
April 1, 2025, Shelly Piske from the South and Joanie Wilcox at Large both running unopposed.
B. Move March Meeting
Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Joanie Wilcox to move the March Regular Board meeting from March 12 to March 19. Motion carried 7-0.
7. Committee Reports
A. PRC Committee
Joanie Wilcox reported on January 6 meeting.
8. District Financials
A. Financial Documents
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Lisa Horstman to approve the financials as presented including the Fund 21 Checks, General Acct. Checks, and January 2025 Financial Report. Motion carried 7-0.
9. District Reports: *None*
10. District Action Agenda
A. Adaptive Sports League Co-op Agreement
Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Lisa Horstman to approve the Co-op with West Salem School district for Fall, Winter, and Spring Adaptive Sport League starting with the Spring Season of 2025. Motion carried 7-0.
B. Policy Updates
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Lisa Horstman to approve the Policy updates from Neola Volume 33, Number 2 as reviewed by the PRC. Motion carried 7-0.
C. New Policy - First Reading
Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Joanie Wilcox to approve the first reading of new Policy 5610.03 as reviewed by the PRC. Motion carried 7-0.
D. Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$900,000 Per Year for Three Years for Non-Recurring Purposes
Motion by Lisa Horstman, second by Jessica Munson to approve the Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$900,000 Per Year for Three Years for Non-Recurring Purposes. Motion carried 7-0.
E. Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$900,000 Per Year for Three Years for Non-Recurring Purposes
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Kelly Kruchten to approve the Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$900,000 Per Year for Three Years for Non-Recurring Purposes. Motion carried 7-0.
Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Joanie Wilcox to approve a consulting agreement with the Donovan Group for referendum Communications support at a cost not to exceed \$6,000. Motion carried 7-0.
G. Summer Childcare Agreement
Motion by Kelly Kruchten, second by Jessica Munson to approve the revised Childcare lease with Learning Wagon Adventures to provide Summer care when school or summer school are not in session. Motion carried 7-0.
11. Personnel (Board may convene to closed session under WI statute 19.85 (1)(C))
A. Music Department Transfer
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Kelly Kruchten to approve the transfer of Paul Sadergaski from Elementary Music Teacher to MS/HS Vocal Music Teacher effective 1/20/25. Motion carried 7-0.
B. Hire - Elementary Music Teacher
Motion by Lisa Horstman to approve the hire of Elementary Music Teacher Abigail Sasse as Elementary Music Teacher effective 1/20/25. Motion carried 7-0.
C. Resignation - Elementary Special Education Teacher
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Shelly Piske to approve the resignation of Elementary Special Education Teacher Tara Blount effective at the end of the 24-25 school year. Motion carried 7-0.
D. Retirement - Second Shift Custodian
Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Kelly Kruchten to approve the retirement of Bruce Wegner from his position as second shift custodian in the middle school effective June 4, 2025. Motion carried 7-0.
E. Retirement - Elementary Special Education Teacher
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Lisa Horstman to approve the retirement of Elementary Special Education Teacher Jeannette Anderson effective at the end of the 2024-2025 School Year. Motion carried 7-0.
F. Retirement - Elementary Principal
Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Lisa Horstman to approve the retirement of Elementary Principal Michael Johnson effective June 30, 2025. Motion carried 7-0.
12. Administration Reports
A. Administrative Reports
Josh Chaplin: Child Development Days and 4K Registration, 2nd Friday in January count.
Michael Johnson: Music adjustments, Pilot update, second round of screening for Act 20, Child Development Day marketing, River Bank donation to backpack program.
Rick Muellenberg: First National donation, shoe donation, MAP testing.
David Brokopp: Spanish Trip, OotM State Competition, GBB overnight, State education convention.
13. Removal of Items from the Consent Agenda: *None.*
14. Consent Agenda
A. Current Openings: *Full-time interpreter, long-term substitute HS English, and substitutes for bus drivers, paraprofessionals, custodians and food service.*
B. FFA Recurring Overnight Field Trip Request: *Day on the Hill in Madison on February 16 & 17, 2025.*
C. Revocation of Open Enrollment: *H abitual truancy.*
D. 2025-2026 Open Enrollment Caps for 2025-2026.
E. 2025-2027 WIAA Co-op Sports Agreements: *Girls Gymnastics, Boys and Girls Hockey, Boys and Girls Wrestling.*
Motion by Shelly Piske, second by Joanie Wilcox to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 7-0.
15. Adjourn
A. Adjourn
Motion by Joanie Wilcox, second by Tina Mathison to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0 at 7:36 PM.
2/17 WNAXLP

LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE

The Spring Primary will be held on **February 18, 2025**, in the Village of Bangor.

The following polling place location will be used for all wards in the Village of Bangor:
**Bangor Activity Center, Bangor School District
401 14 th Avenue South
Bangor, WI 54614**
THE ABOVE POLLING LOCATION WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.
Jeri L. Wittmershaus
106 15 th Avenue North
Bangor, WI 54614
(608) 486-4084
Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday and 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Friday.
The polling location is accessible to elderly and disabled voters.
2/17 WNAXLP

TOWN OF LAFAYETTE
Notice of Location and Hours of Polling Place

At the Spring Primary Election to be held on Feb. 18, 2025 in the Town of Lafayette, the following polling place location will be used: Lafayette Town Hall, 11336 County Highway Q, Sparta WI. The polling place will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.. All polling places are accessible to elderly and voters with disabilities. If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk, Sue Bushmaker, 8904 County Highway I, Sparta WI, phone # 608-272-3779.
Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers
At the close of voting on election day, pursuant to the Provisions of Wis. Stat. §19.84, the Election Inspectors at each polling place will convene as the Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat.§ 7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§19.81-89.
2/17 WNAXLP

ELECTION NOTICE
FEBRUARY PRIMARY
NONPARTISAN OFFICE
TOWN OF ADRIAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that a Primary Election for nonpartisan offices which are State Superintendent of Public Instruction and School District of Tomah will be held on Tuesday February 18, 2025, at the Adrian Town Hall, 15937 Cty Hwy T. Tomah, WI. 54660 from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. The polling place is accessible to the elderly and disabled. At the close of voting on election day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as the Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvas pursuant to Wis. Stat. 7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.81-89.
Kathy Schmitz
Adrian Town Clerk

2/17 WNAXLP

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PROJECT:
Addition (10x20') to Town Hall

The Town of Lafayette, Monroe County Wisconsin is accepting bids for the construction of a 10x20 ft. addition to the Town of Lafayette Hall located at 11336 County Hwy Q, Sparta WI 54656.
To obtain blueprints, contact Todd Brooks at 608-633-6354.

Bids must be submitted by March 11, 2025 at 7pm. Please submit sealed bids by mail to: Sue Bushmaker, Clerk Town of Lafayette 8904 County Hwy I, Sparta WI 54656. Or, you may bring your sealed bid to the Town Hall, 11336 County Hwy Q, Sparta WI, 54656 on March 11, 2025 at 7pm.

Bids will be opened and decided upon at the town board's monthly meeting Tuesday March 11, 2025 at 7pm in the Lafayette Town Hall, 11336 County Hwy Q, Sparta WI 54656.

The Town of Lafayette reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept the bid that is deemed advantageous to the town.
2/17, 27 WNAXLP

Notice of Spring Primary and Sample Ballots (February 18, 2025)

Office of the Town of Byron Clerk

To the voters of Town of Byron

Notice is hereby given of a spring election to be held in Town of Byron on February 18, 2025 , at which the officers named below shall be nominated. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column, together with the questions submitted to a vote, for a referendum, if any, in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters
Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:
• state their name and address
• show an acceptable form of photo identification*
• sign the poll book**

*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles .

**If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word “exempt.”

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting
A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter.

Where Paper Ballots are Used
The voter shall make a mark (X) in the square next to the name of the candidate of his or her choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall make a mark (X) in the square next to "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall make a mark (X) in the square next to "no" if opposed to the question.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used
The voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which he or she intends to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the write-in line. On referendum questions, the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "no" if opposed to the question.

When using an *electronic ballot marking device (“Automark,” “ExpressVote,” “Clear Access or “ImageCast Evolution-ICE”*) to mark an **optical scan ballot** , the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "no" if opposed to the question.

Where Touch Screen Voting is Used
The voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "no" if opposed to the question.

Spoiled Ballots
If a voter spoils a **paper or optical scan** ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initiated by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

The voter may spoil a **touch screen** ballot at the voting station before the ballot is cast.

After Voting the Ballot
After an official **paper ballot** is marked, it shall be folded so the inside marks do not show, but so the printed endorsements and inspectors' initials on the outside do show. The voter shall deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit and shall leave the polling place promptly.
After an official **optical scan ballot** is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter shall insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the voter shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.
After an official **touch screen ballot** is cast, the voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

The election is a sample of the official ballot:(Insert official Spring Primary Ballot).

Done this 24th day of January 2025
Shelley Bohl, Monroe County Clerk
2/17 WNAXLP

ES

Continued from Front Page

Brian will have opportunities throughout the spring and summer to work with the District to ensure a smooth transition to his new role. We welcome Brian and look forward to his leadership to help ensure that every day continues to be a great day to be a Bangor Cardinal.

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which made it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin or any intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination"

JACOB L. HAMS
2025-02-13
Dobberstein Law Firm, LLC 225 S. Executive Dr. Suite 201 Brookfield,
WI. 53005
(262) 641-3715
1118647
2/17 WNAFLP

Jim Church, Kevin Brueggeman, Bruce Humphrey, James Womick, Robert Arnold, Josh Lydon, and David Kuderer all voted yes to go into closed session.
Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Lydon, City Clerk

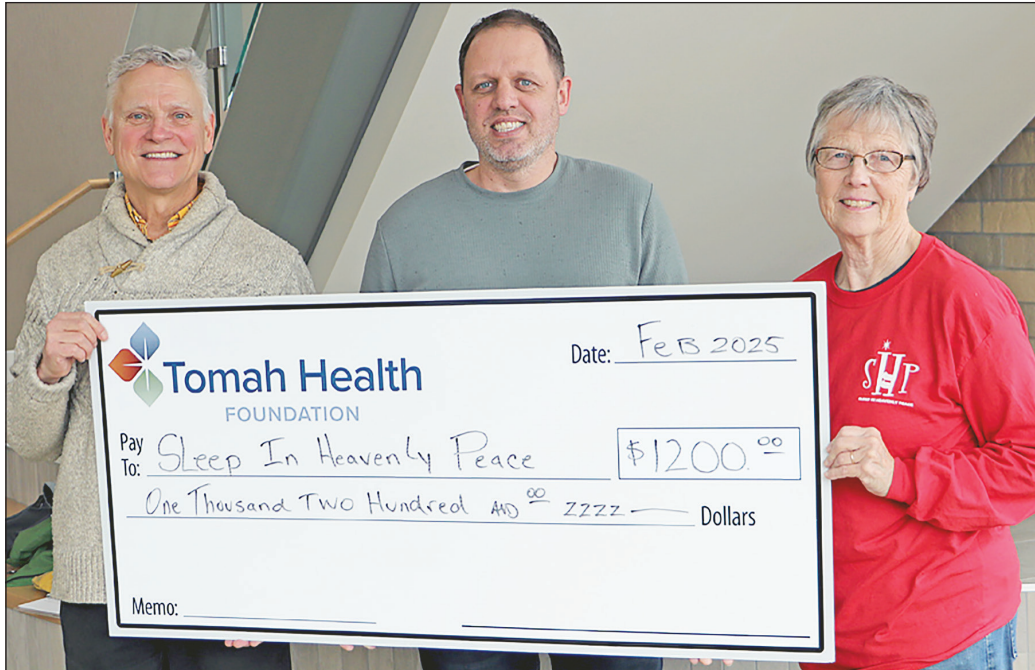
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Tomah Health Community Foundation helps fund SHP charity for children



Tomah Health Community Foundation President, Brian Eirschele (left), and foundation Vice President, Jeremy Haldeman, presented a ceremonial check on behalf of the foundation, to Monroe County Depot for Sleep in Heavenly Peace chairperson, Gwen Nelson of Tomah. Contributed photo.

Tomah Health Community Foundation President, Brian Eirschele, said he was shocked to hear children in the area were sleeping on the floor and needed a bed. “I was one who was shocked that we have a need for our young people in this city to have a need for beds. It’s still surprising to me and it breaks my heart in many ways,” said Eirschele when the foundation received a funding request from the local chapter of Sleep in Heavenly (SHP). The foundation donated \$1,200 to the local Sleep in Heavenly Peace group on February 14th, to help with a planned ‘build day’ at Rec-

reation Park in Tomah, on February 15th. “It feels wonderful to be able to help out with building beds in the community,” said Eirschele, who planned to take part in the local build event. SHP officials had hoped to build 40 to 50 beds during the event. “Each child receives the bed frame, the mattress, pillowcase, sheets and a pillow, and then most of them will receive a handmade quilt for their bed,” said Gwen Nelson of Tomah, chairperson for the Monroe County Depot for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. “Without the foundation’s support we would not be able to do this, so we truly appre-

ciate the foundation donating the money,” added Nelson. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a nonprofit group, based in Idaho that ensures children that need a bed, get one. Nelson said the local organization has been in existence for three years and has built about 100 beds for children in the area. “We don’t ask where the kids are. Some are sleeping on the floor, some are sleeping in chairs, so it is kind of sad for them. They’re not getting a good night’s sleep, sleeping in a chair or on the floor, that’s hard,” she said. Nelson said families in need of a bed can apply on the organization’s website at www.shpbeds.org. “We do have a lot of underprivileged people in this area. It’s really surprising, and if you talk to school nurses, they understand what society is dealing with these days.” Nelson said they plan to continue to build beds, as long as there is a need and there are volunteers and organizations to help support it. “We’re still trying to get people out there to be educated with Sleep in Heavenly Peace because there are a lot of pieces with it that people don’t quite understand yet. But in the Monroe County and Tomah area, we’ve done over 100 beds this last year, so there is a need out there.” She invited anyone interested in helping with the cause to contact her. “They can contact me at my home at 608-372-4439 go to the website at www.shpbeds.org to learn more.”

St John's Lutheran School

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

Registration Now Open

Enrollment is now open for 3- and 4-year-olds for the 2025-2026 school year at St. John's Lutheran School in Sparta.

At St. John's, your child will experience:

- Faith Based Learning: Nurturing you child's spiritual growth alongside academic development.
- Small class sizes: Personalized attention to help each child reach their potential.
- A safe, welcoming environment: A place where your child can grow, explore, and make lasting friendships.
- Hands-on learning: Engaging activities that foster creativity, problem-solving and social skills

We look forward to welcoming your little ones to our St. John's Family!

Limited spots are available
Early Enrollment Discount



St. John's
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

Schedule
a Visit
today

608-269-6001

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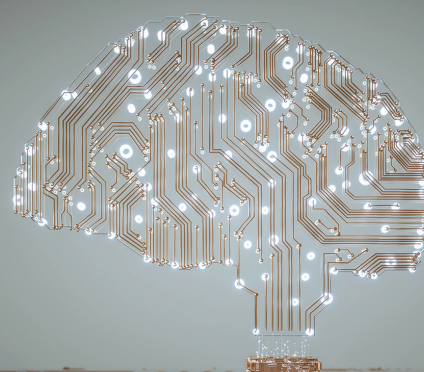
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The Junior Garden Club in Sparta is seen here at Sparta Floral, learning how to make arrangements. Left to right, from top: Sylvia Goede, Lucy, Zoe, Nolan, Ivan, Adagio, and Zada. The next club event will be next Saturday, February 22nd, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., at Sparta Floral. Herald photo By Jenny Moran.

Fledgling Sparta Jr Garden Club remains active through colder months

Local partnerships and creativity keep club strong

By JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ MORAN
Contributing Writer

Under the leadership of Sylvia Goede, the Junior Garden Club in Sparta has been steadily growing in numbers and knowledge, even through these frigid, snowy, winter months. The junior version of the Sparta Garden Club began in the spring of 2024, with a variety of hands-on lessons, activities, and volunteer opportunities, ranging from cleaning up and gardening at the park, near Lovelock Bridge, to planting flowers in containers to beautify downtown by places such as State Bank. They have also held fundraising events, selling snacks and brats at summer concerts and Hansen’s IGA Supermarket. Not wanting to lose momentum in the winter months, Goede has looked to partnerships with local businesses, such as Sparta Floral, to keep the club active and thriving. As a result, the junior club has been learning and getting creative in the sunny, warm, and green

space of Sparta Floral and Greenhouses, just about every other Saturday, throughout the winter. The next club event will be next Saturday, February 22nd, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., at Sparta Floral. At this time, there is no charge to join or partake in activities, and any child is welcome to come, with their caregiver. Most recently, as the snow fell outside on February 8th, award winning educator, florist, and former garden club president, Sylvia Goede, shined yet again, with a special hands-on Floral Arrangements 101 workshop at Sparta Floral, in their vibrant and warm greenhouse. Kids aged 5 to 40+ learned the art of “Thrill, Spill, and Fill!” Thrill with eye-catching design, allowing botanicals to “spill” over, and mindfully making use of filling space. Afterward, the kids enjoyed visiting the variety of shop pets, adding ideas to the Sparta Art Society’s mural suggestion box at the counter, and buying seeds to start, plants to grow, and flowers to enjoy at home. Goede wanted to thank Sparta Floral’s Eric Solberg, who generously provided a length of tables, floral materials, music, and a cozy greenspace to create in. Goede stated, “Everyone had so much fun. Sparta Floral is

wonderful. This was simply marvelous!” In previous weeks, kids have learned how to prune herbs, so that they don’t become too leggy in the greenhouse. They saved the clippings to top food items, such as pizza. Goede would like the next club session to echo that experience, by including a fun and practical, hands-on activity, which both teaches kids and helps out the family owned small business. Of course, at each class there is time for wonder and exploration, as young learners are discovering the vast, complex and colorful world of botany and horticulture. Goede shared, “At our last meeting, the kids had wonderful questions about flowers and plants, including orchids and succulents. Eric also showed them trays of petunias - petunias which are the size of a half dollar, in the greenhouse this time of year. We crushed the leaves of butter popcorn plants with our fingertips and wondered at the aroma, just like buttered popcorn.” To learn more or to register for an upcoming event, such as the one coming up at Sparta Floral on February 22nd, please call or text Sylvia Goede, at (702)-271-1942.



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CELEBRATING... SPARTA FFA



The Sparta FFA chapter took 10 students to the district's Leadership Development Event contest in LaCrosse. Leadership Development Events are activities that help develop communication skills, decision-making, and public speaking skills. The Sparta chapter had a quiz bowl team, a parliamentary procedure team, and an FFA Creed speaker. The parliamentary procedure team took first place and will proceed to districts. These LDE participants were coached by the middle school Agriculture teacher, Ms. Green. From left to right: Alaya Harry, Addison Henthorne, Camryn Schwarz, Amelia Schumacher, Alexis Vieth, Devin Leis, Hadyn Leis, Caden Leis, Emma Kirkeeng, and Jocelin Anderson. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter.



Question: Mr. Follendorf asked the officer team, what is your favorite Sparta FFA Activity?

Caden Leis, President:

This past year in FFA, we participated in many activities, from pure fun and enjoyment to volunteering and sweat-breaking work. Some of our fun activities varied from Tubing at the Fort McCoy ski hill, to participating in the Tomah Super National Truck and Tractor Pull's Salute to Farmers. To send members to these events, we hold many fundraisers throughout the year, from the traditional Fruit Sale in late fall, to the Ice Cream stands that we put up for Leon's Gatorfest and the Cataract

Sportsmen's Club's Field Days. These fund-raising events allow our members to participate in Future-Building activities such as Leadership Conferences and Conventions, all of which are offered by the State and National FFA organizations that allow our members to build a very strong ability to lead and work as a team.

As a community-based program, you see our members participating in many community events, which range from The Monroe County June Dairy Month Dairy Breakfast to the Butterfest parades

handing out over 6400 cartons of milk. We also donate our time and efforts to setting up the Sparta Rotary Lights and giving proceeds of our smaller fundraisers to non-profit organizations in the Sparta Area like SACS and the Area Dog Shelters as well as supporting local families in times of need. With all of these fundraisers, activities and more, the Sparta FFA is one of the busiest clubs in the Sparta Area.

Hannah Bloyer, Secretary:

this was my 4th year in FFA and throughout all of my years in FFA I can say it was filled with new friends, laughter, and just new adventures. My favorite Sparta FFA event we have done is Ag Day I was able to bring in my animals and show the kids how and what I do with each animal. Another very popular event we do is the students who represent the Sparta FFA at the Monroe County Fair, this is a week-long event and I am very grateful I was able to participate in this.

Haydn Leis, Treasurer:

One event I like that we put on is the card parties. I like the card parties as it is a chance for not only the older people in the community to come to, its also for farmers to get out of the house and socialize. Card

parties hold a place in my heart because coming from a farming background you never know what tomorrow is going to bring. This year we hosted a Valentine's Day-themed card party from chocolate-covered strawberries to heart-shaped table cards. The card parties are also very popular and well enjoyed by everyone. I like seeing all the faces of people when they win door prizes and or the 50/50 raffles. I encourage everyone to come and participate in playing 500 or Euchre. It's a great time for the whole community and we would love to see more people.

Camryn Schwarz, Reporter:

My first year in FFA was filled with many fun new experiences and friendships. One of my favorite events was attending the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo, where more than 70,000 members from across the nation filled the Indiana Convention Center. Although those who attended came from all different backgrounds, we all had one thing in common, the blue corduroy jacket. We were inspired by the wise words of several keynote speakers, including the renowned Dr. Temple Grandin. We saw

'SPARTA'
cont. on pg. 3

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The Sparta FFA officer team is extremely active. This group has committed themselves to excellence and are creating new opportunities for its members. Pictured left to right: Jeffarey Swenson- Sentinel, Caden Leis- President, Jordan Zillmer- Vice President, Addison Leis- Student Advisor, Hayden Leis- Treasurer, Hannah Bloyer- Secretary, Camryn Schwarz- Reporter, and Emma Kirkeeng- Parliamentarian. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter



Left: Hadyn Leis and Jeffarey Swenson assisted students with a fun activity while teaching them about dairy at our annual Ag Day. Ag Day is an event organized and run by our high school and middle school members to teach students at Herrman Elementary about different aspects of agriculture in an engaging and hands-on way. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter.

SPARTA

Continued from pg. 2

many individuals and chapters receive recognition for the incredible work they have done in the field of agriculture and their community. Along the way, we toured several agribusinesses and explored different career opportunities. Friendships were made with other local chapters as we put our bowling and escape room skills to

the test. The National FFA Convention was an experience I will never forget and would highly recommend it to other members. I would also like other students to know that it is never too late to join FFA.

Emma Kirkeeng, Parliamentarian:

One of our most popular events that goes well and is very much enjoyed is Ag Day. We have many stations that the 1st through 4th graders can enjoy at Sparta Herman Elementary. The stations range from soils, leadership, pigs, beef, a petting zoo for



These Sparta FFA members volunteered to set up the Sparta Community Holiday Lights in Evans-Bosshard Park. The chapter volunteers every year and enjoys helping bring Christmas spirit to the community. Left to right: Phillip Gardin, Amelia Schumacher, Devin Leis, Caden Leis, Alex Tovar, Jessie Kondor, and Emma Kirkeeng. Submitted by: Camryn Schwarz, Reporter

everyone, and more. I look forward to Ag Day every year because we are engaging with the younger generation of future FFA members. We put in hard work and dedication to put on a day of success.

Addison Leis, Student Advisor:

Going into my senior year I'm trying to soak up all the time I have left within the Sparta FFA. throughout the years I've been able to share my love for showing and animals with all of the little kids at AG day. This year I took on the responsibility

of planning AG day and I can't wait to see the outcome. From stations of leadership for the 4th graders to soils and grains and even the respected areas of animals. Sheep, beef, dairy, horses, and petting zoo. As my time as an officer and FFA member comes to an end I will always love sharing my passion with little kids. I hope to see lots of participation in Ag Day and sharing it within the school.

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How FFA prepares young people for careers in agriculture

This year, Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters nationwide will proudly celebrate National FFA Week from February 15 to 22, 2025. The event is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the impact of FFA on youth leadership and agricultural advancement.

The mission of FFA is to equip future generations with the skills needed to tackle the challenges of sustainable farming and food production. With over 700,000 members, FFA plays a significant role in youth development through agricultural

education. Its goals include:

- **Leadership development.** FFA encourages members to organize and lead community service projects, instilling a sense of responsibility, civic engagement and resilience.

- **Agricultural education.** The organization offers hands-on experiences and training workshops in various areas of agriculture, including sustainable farming practices, agricultural technology, science, business management and environmental conservation.

These opportunities allow members to apply knowledge directly to real-world situations.

- **Career preparation.** FFA facilitates internships, job shadowing and career fairs, allowing members to gain firsthand insights into careers ranging from agribusiness and crop science to veterinary medicine and food technology. The organization also connects members with industry mentors to guide them along their professional journeys.

- **Networking opportunities.** FFA organizes various regional and national events where members can meet industry professionals, alumni and peers from diverse agricultural disciplines. FFA also organizes competitions in various agricultural disciplines, fostering teamwork and collaboration among peers.

By fostering these essential skills, FFA effectively prepares young individuals for successful careers in agriculture, ensuring they're equipped to face future challenges.

Why are more and more young women pursuing careers in ag?



Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week takes place from February 15 to 22, 2025. This event provides a great opportunity to explore the increasing trend of young people, particularly young women, entering the agricultural sector. Here are some compelling reasons why women are increasingly drawn to careers in agriculture.

Shifting cultural norms

The traditional perception of agriculture as a male-dominated field is changing. Society is increasingly recognizing that women play vital roles in the industry, not just as workers but also as leaders and innovators. Increased encouragement for women to pursue careers in farming is dismantling outdated stereotypes and opening doors to a wider range of opportunities.

Diverse career options

Agriculture is no longer limited to traditional farming. The field has expanded dramatically, offering a wide range of career options, including agribusiness, biotechnology, food science, environmental science, and agronomy. This diversity

appeals to women with various interests and skill sets.

Desire to help feed the world

Many young women are motivated by the desire to make a meaningful impact, both locally and globally. With pressing issues such as hunger, food waste and equitable food access becoming more prominent, the agricultural sector serves as a vital arena for creating positive change.

Supportive organizations and programs

Organizations like the Future Farmers of America (FFA) play a crucial role in nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders. By providing mentorship, resources, scholarships and a supportive community, FFA empowers young women to carve their own paths in the industry. Through workshops, networking events and leadership training, the FFA equips women with essential skills and confidence.

One thing is certain: the next generation of women in agriculture is poised to make a powerful impact!



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CELEBRATING... TOMAH FFA

Tomah FFA Year in Review 2024-25



Left: Students attending the Wisconsin FFA State convention in Madison. Back row (left to right)- Mrs. Nelda Bailey, Josie Bailey, Lucas Sazwedel, Adam Johnson, Addy Gerke, Allysa Marth, Mr. Andrew Simon. Front row(left to right)- Kerialynn Tupper, Morgan Jensen, and Kylie Moake.

Right: Middle and High school members snow tubing at whitetail ridge, at Fort McCoy.

Written by KYLIE MOAKE

FFA is an organization offered to grades 6th through 12th, where students can be members of a group that is dedicated to giving back to the community, as well as working side by side with them. FFA members have the opportunity to take part in different leadership events, where they also get to meet new people from around the country. Our advisors, Andrew Simon, Nelda Bailey, and Justin Eckelberg have worked extremely hard to help the chapter gain new opportunities and help them be more prepared for their future. This year

the chapter has had more than 150 members participating in FFA events including workshops, leadership development events, career development events, and different conventions.

Spring - Summer Events

CDE's: In March, Tomah FFA competed in Career Development Events, with 4 teams, at the University at Platteville. The teams were Dairy cattle judging - Joise Bailey, Payton Ake, Brycen Krohn, Teagan Bailey; Livestock team - Makayla Ueeck, Abby Dohlgan, Lynn Ueeck, Addy Gerke; Poultry team - Kylie Moake, Norah Betcher, Rylee Perry, Lucy Hall; Agronomy team -



Sarah Zarembo, Aiden Hernandez, Caden Fravel, Kerialynn Tupper.

All teams put in a lot of work but didn't move on to state. In April we had 2 teams go to Madison for the state competition. Those teams were Dairy Handling - Josie Bailey, and Nursery Landscape - Brad Granahan, Aiden Hernandez, Kylie Moake, and Sarah Zarembo. CDE'S are a great opportunity for members to learn and develop more knowledge and experience in these different categories. These competitions are always extremely fun for the members!

FFA Awards Banquet

Every year, we hold our FFA Awards Banquet. At this banquet, members are presented awards for the events they participated throughout the year such as; Annual Fundraisers, Leadership Development Events, Distinguished Service Award, and Proficiencies.

Wisconsin FFA State Convention

The Wisconsin FFA State Convention takes place every June, at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. State Convention consists of sessions with keynote speakers, workshops, and other events/competitions. This convention allows FFA members to learn more about FFA, as well as meet other members from around the state. Addy Gerke and Kylie Moake were state

delegates and were able to help select the new FFA state officer, Jazmin Wagner. Tomah FFA Chapter received a gold rating on the National Chapter Award. This award is based on the chapter activities throughout the year. Tomah then advanced to the National competition. Josie Bailey was selected for Three Star Leader and was also a Star Farmer Finalist. Josie Bailey was also a state officer candidate.

Morgan Jensen, Alyssa Marth, Lucas Sazwedel, and Adam Johnson qualified and played in the Wisconsin State FFA Honors Band. Kerialynn Tupper qualified and participated in the Wisconsin State FFA Honors Choir. Brad Ganahan, Caleb Fox, Joise Bailey, Erin Perry, and Abby Dohlgan received their State Degrees. Lucas Sazwedel was a finalist for his Fruit Proficiency. Kerialynn Tupper, Addy Gerke, and Lucas Sazwedel all performed in the State Talent competition.

Finally, our Conduct of Chapter team- Lynn Ueeck, Kerialynn Tupper, Lucy Hall, Anja Johnson, Tegan Bailey, Rachel Zastoupil, and Emma Waltemath competed at state and lost by a narrow margin. Lucas Sazwedel advanced in Extemporaneous

'TOMAH'
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We salute the local FFAs and their members.

TOMAH

Continued from pg. 5

Public Speaking, where he competed at the state level. It was a great week with many of the students being recognized. The members did a great job representing the Tomah FFA chapter.

Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck and Tractor Pull

Every year, the alumni and FFA members sell 50/50 raffle tickets during the tractor pull sessions. In addition, Monroe County FFA chapters were able to participate in the Salute to the Farmer Pre-Show on Saturday, June 22nd. This was a great way to display agriculture in the community and to the spectators of the tractor pull, and it served as a great fundraiser.

Monroe County Fair

This year, the fair was July 23rd - 28th. A lot of work was put into preparing the fairgrounds for this year's fair. FFA members displayed a wide variety of projects that displayed their hard work and dedication over the past year. Projects ranged from plants to sewing and art to animal exhibits. Members showed goats, sheep, swine, beef, dairy, poultry, rabbits, and horses. The theme for our FFA chapter last year was, "Through the Decades". Members decorated their fair boards with the famous blue and gold colors of FFA and agriculture facts. The fair was a great success this year, with everybody involved having a great time and gaining valuable experience.

Other summer trips include Milwaukee Brewers game, the Wisconsin State Fair, National Night Out, Canoeing down the Kickapoo, biking on the Elroy-Sparta State Trail, and attending Farm Technology Days.

Monroe County Mobile Food Pantry

Tomah FFA members volunteered at the Monroe County Mobile Food Pantry. Volunteers from all over the Tomah area come to the fairgrounds to help out, by passing out food items and helping customers get their items to their vehicles. It is a great way for FFA members to get community service hours and give back to the community that gives to them.

Fall/Winter Meeting Activities included: Kickball, pumpkin carving, pie making, Christmas card making, "snowball" fight, and making paper flowers.

Fall - Winter Events

Fall Leadership Workshop: Middle school and High school FFA members attended the Fall Leadership Workshop in Melrose-Mindoro this past September. This event consists of workshops hosted by the Wisconsin State Officer team. They learned how to communicate more effectively, build

leadership skills, and serve others. Overall, they gained many new abilities that will help improve the FFA chapter and it was a very beneficial experience for everyone who attended.

World Dairy Expo

World Dairy Expo is held every year in Madison, Wisconsin. This event displays dairy production worldwide and helps the community learn more about Wisconsin's leading industry. People from around the world travel to Madison for this educational event, to show their cattle and learn about new technology coming to the industry. A bus full of our FFA members went to the World Dairy Expo. This event allowed them to learn more about the Dairy Industry and how it influences not only their home state but the rest of the world as well. Tomah's FFA members were able to participate in judging dairy products and forages. This opportunity allowed us to see different products that farms are producing and get a taste of the different activities that the industry offers.

National Convention

This year, eight of our FFA members- Sarah Zaremba, Lynn Ueek, Kylie Moake, Grace Schindler, Norah Betcher, Rylee Perry, Aiden Hernandez, and Addy Gerke went to the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year, Gabe Tucker and Erin Perry received their American Degree. As a chapter, we also received our National chapter award placing Two Star.

While at the National Convention, they had the opportunity to attend sessions led by the National Officer Team, as well as hear motivational speakers. They were able to meet FFA members from all over the nation. The convention also featured a career show that housed many agricultural businesses and colleges. They also received a lot of free Culver's custard, which was amazing. This was a great way to network with other FFA members and different agricultural businesses around the nation. It was a great experience for the members and showed them the impact of FFA across the nation.

Leadership Development Events

Tomah FFA attended the District 8 Leadership Development Event at Holmen High School. Students competed in various speaking events, which helped them to step out of their comfort zones and practice public speaking. Caden Fravel competed in Creed speaking. Lucas Sazwedel and Makayla Ueek competed in Extemporaneous Speaking. The Parliamentary Procedure team was Carter Ollendick, Cale Ollendick, Kerialynn Tupper, Kylie Moake, Addy Gerke, and Aiden Hernandez. Rylee Perry, Norah Betcher, Karlee Bailey, Lucy Hall, Tegan Bailey, and Anja Johnson competed



Students attending the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. With our Tomah's school superintendent coming to support us as we walked the stage for our national Chapter award. Back row (left to right) - Mr. Andrew Simon, Addy Gerke, Rylee Perry, Grace Schindler, Sarah Zaremba, Adian Hernandez, and Dr. Mike Hanson. Front Row (left to right)- Mrs. Nelda Bailey, Norah Betcher, Kylie Moake, Lynn Ueek.

in the middle school quiz bowl.

Lucas Salzwedel, Parliamentary Procedure, and Middle school quiz bowl all made it to the sectional competition in GET.

National FFA Week

FFA week celebrates the FFA mission: premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. FFA week is filled with various events, such as the FFA Assembly, leadership activities, and dress-up days. This week is a great way to promote FFA in the Tomah school and community. Tomah FFA's annual Pancake Supper is their largest event of the year. Join us Monday, February 18th for the all-you-can-eat Pancake Supper in the Tomah High School cafeteria.

FFA is a great opportunity for all students, not just students who are interested in Agriculture. There are opportunities to volunteer in the community, develop leadership and speaking skills, and create great friendships with members from across

the nation. If you are interested in helping or joining FFA or the FFA Alumni & Supporters, Contact Nelda Bailey at (608) 374-7964, Justin Eckelberg (608) 374-7904, or Andrew Simon at (608) 374-5014

If you are interested in joining the FFA Alumni, You DO NOT have to be a previous FFA member to be an alumni member. You just have to have an interest in helping kids in agricultural education and supporting our youth. All help is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Tomah FFA Advisors and Officer Team, they would like to send out a huge thank you to everyone who participated and supported their chapter in the past year. As FFA members they are all about Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve! We appreciate all of you; with your support, you are helping them to grow into the next generation of leaders and achievers.

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CELEBRATING... CASHTON FFA

This past year has been another successful year for the Cashton FFA! Starting last March, we hosted our annual Ag Day for the entire elementary school. FFA members created and presented stations at the Peaceful Valley Dairy, about agricultural-based topics, which included everything from eggs to goats to milking robots. Students also had the opportunity to participate in our annual casino night.

To round out the 2023/2024 school year, members were recognized for all of their hard work, at our banquet. On that night, our new FFA Officer team was announced. Our 2024-2025 officer team consists of Isabell Korn - President; Lyla Schmitz - Vice President; Brooke Bruegge - Treasurer; Aubrey Peterson - Secretary; Katie Leis - Reporter, and Grayson Schmitz - Sentinel.

To kick off June Dairy Month, members assisted at the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast by supervising the cow bounce house. Students also set up an educational booth for people to learn more about FFA and agriculture.

We then had multiple students attend the 2022 State FFA Convention. While there, Reba Flock competed in the talent show. She also participated, in the State FFA Choir, along with Avery McDaniel. We had two students represent us as delegate: Lyla Schmitz and Aubrey Peterson. Isabell Korn also received the 3-star leadership award. Students also participated in a number of workshops and watched multiple informative sessions.

To round out June Dairy Month, members served free ice cream sundaes at the Bank of Cashton and WCCU! Shortly after, we had a number of members busy putting the final touches on their fair projects, for the Monroe County Fair. In the sheep ring, we had Lyla Schmitz, Grayson Schmitz,



Officer Team: Left to Right: Advisor - Kori Blank, Treasurer - Brooke Bruegge, Reporter - Katie Leis, President - Isabell Korn, Secretary - Aubrey Peterson, Vice President - Lyla Schmitz, Sentinel - Grayson Schmitz.

and Katie Leis. Exhibiting pigs were Drew and Connor Butzler, Katie and Grace Leis, Audrey, Evelyn, and Elise Weber.

After the county fair came the state fair. We had two members representing our chapter in the state FFA band/choir at the state fair. They spent 4 days performing with other members from around the state, for the general public. To round out the summer, our officer team made a trip to Three Bears Lodge, where they worked together to plan out our upcoming school year. They had the opportunity to participate in different team-building activities and spend some time getting to know each other.

To help kick off the new school year, the FFA, along with the FFA Alumni and Supporters, hosted their annual Chicken

Q. Here, members had the opportunity to mingle with alumni members, while enjoying a delicious meal. In September, we participated in multiple Fall Fest festivities, which included hosting the annual Toy Show, making a scarecrow, and handing out Kwik Trip milk in the parade!

Next came the Vernon County Fair. We had one member, Emma Leis, exhibit beef and sheep. In October, our members were able to attend the World Dairy Expo, the Foundations in Reaching Excellence (FIRE) Conference, and the National FFA Convention! Shout out to Emma Leis on receiving her American Degree at the National Convention. We also had members who created and presented a Halloween Safety presentation to the elementary students.

November brought more conferences, including the I Am and Connect State conferences. Our members also hosted a RoouBall tournament for neighboring FFA Chapters and the Cashton FFA Alumni and supporters, which was a fun-filled evening for all of those in attendance. We once again had our annual Fruit Sale. Thanks to everyone who helped sell, deliver, and purchase; we had another record year of sales! Huge thank you to everyone that made that possible!! In December, we had an FFA Fun Day for kids around the area, to come in and do winter-themed crafts. Members

also voted on the winner of the Big Buck Contest! Shout-out to Preston McNulty for winning with his amazing buck.

To kick off January, members decided to use the Tie Blankets that were made last year, to give out as BINGO prizes at Morrow Home Community in Sparta. Here, 3 officers went out to Morrow Home and had a fun-filled morning putting on BINGO for residents. Shortly after that, we had two students attend the State FFA Halftime Conference. To round out January, members had an awesome time putting on this year's Vendors Market.

We also had three high school members and 9 middle school students participate in the District FFA Leadership Development Events. Brook Bruegge and Aubrey Peterson participated in Employment Skills, and Katie Leis participated in Prepared Speaking and Discussion Meets. Katie made her way to the top in Prepared Speaking that night and will be representing us at Sectionals next month. We wish her the best of luck! For our middle school quiz bowl teams, participants included: Danna Cenil, Harper McDaniel, Easton Bruegge, Todd Dolan, Riley Leis, Maddie Geier, Galileia Anderson, Makalya Herricks, and June Jacobson.

February always brings us lots of fun activities. For FFA week, our committees have been busy planning a fun-filled week, from dress-up days to our pancake breakfast to our FFA Week Assembly. We look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Pancake Breakfast, to kick off FFA week on Sunday, February 16th, from 7 a.m to 11:30 a.m. Throughout the week, we will be collecting money for our Kiss the Mystery Animal contest and selling 50/50 raffle tickets to raise money for Sparta Area Cancer Support (SACS). Members will be ending FFA week with drive your tractor to school and our annual school assembly! We are looking forward to an excellent end of the school year and are excited for all of the events we are planning for the next couple of months. Some of these include Ag Day, Ag Safety Day, and our Chapter Banquet.

Thank you to all of our FFA Alumni and Supporters for helping make all of our events possible! Also thank you to our members, their families, and all other individuals and businesses who support us. We gratefully appreciate all that you do for us!

'CASHTON'
cont. on pg. 12



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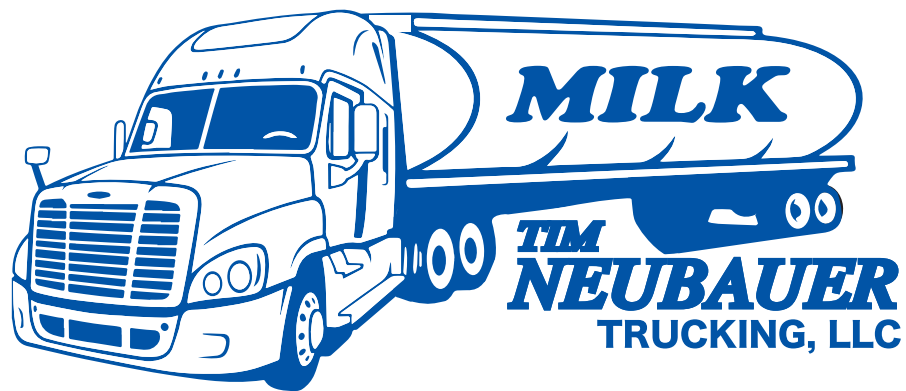
CELEBRATING... BROOKWOOD



Brookwood's 2024-2025 Officer team, (L to R) Chance O. (Sentinel), Sophie H. (Parliamentarian), Anna P. (Reporter), Emily O. (Secretary), Payge C. (President), Alice W. (Vice President), Miranda A. (Treasurer), Aaron V. (Chaplan).



The Leadership Class assembled and delivered gift baskets for local farmers around Christmas time, as their community service project. Contributed photo.



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Proud to Support FFA

This year, the Brookwood FFA has an active membership of 85 students engaged in our agricultural classes. Proudly maintaining our status as an affiliated chapter, our commitment to excellence has shone through the collective and individual achievements of our members.

Our summer was filled with many different activities. One of these was State Convention, where Skylar Hansen and Jaden Drier received their State degrees. We also had many students show at the Elroy Fair, as well as the Monroe County Fair. Fortunately, many were able to participate in the Jr. Livestock Sales. Our FFA chapter was also featured at the Tomah Tractor Pull, in the "Salute to the Farmer."

Starting off our school year, we held our annual crops fair, where students were able to showcase their best crops, baked goods, and cultural arts. In September, our officer team attended the Fall Leadership workshop in Melrose-Mindoro. While at the workshop, officers learned how to better fulfill their positions and improve our chapter.

Towards the beginning of October, our chapter took 45 members to World Dairy Expo, where they were able to watch the show, network with industry professionals, and learn about new technologies related to agriculture. Our dairy judging team at WDE placed 42 out of 110 teams.

Later in October, we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from our Section 3 State Officer, Jazmin Wagner. She brought a variety of activities that promoted leadership and teamwork. At the end of October, we had seven members attend the National Convention in Indianapolis. While there, members toured a honey farm and a plant nursery. They also had the privilege of listening to Dr. Temple Grandin's keynote address. They also went to an escape room.

Cora Brandau received her American Degree while at National Convention, which is the highest degree an FFA member can be awarded. We held our annual fruit sale, which was a great success this year. Before Christmas, the officer team went angel tree shopping and was able to purchase gifts for two local families in need. In January, Miranda A. and Melissa L. participated in District Leadership Development Events, where Miranda advanced to the Sectional competition in March.

We are looking forward to hosting our annual blood drive and staff appreciation breakfast in the near future. We also have a group of Junior High members that will be attending the FIRE Conference, to learn more about FFA. Our chapter will be celebrating National Ag week in March, by having various activities, treats, and dress-

'BROOKWOOD'
cont. on pg. 9



BROOKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL FFA MEMBERS

1st Row: Chance O'Rourke, Alice Wiedmeyer, Miranda Arndt, Emily O'Rourke, Payge Clark, Sophia Hyatt, Marshall Doll, Aaron Voigts. **2nd Row:** Ruby Muehlenkamp, Emma Elder, Emma Haggerty, Hannah Myers, Reagan Muehlenkamp, Emily Cunitz, Braeden Pasch, Hunter Zimmerman, Caston Gosda, Molly Hansen, Owen Wang, Teryn Kaufmann. **3rd Row:** Allison Maulsby, Evelyn Gibson, Katelyn Lee, Calista Zimmerman, Gavin Havlik, Josue Nicolas-Velasco, Mitchell Schlafer, Jackson DeWitt, Michael Godlewski, Nathaniel Bautista-Velasco, Landon DeWitt, Wyatt Ferries, Cullen Brueggeman. **4th Row:** Annabelle Brandau, Ava Gruen, Gracie Nottestad, Rosemary Hegland, Bella Bryant-Sheehan, Grace Johnson, Shelby Suhr-Leland, Samantha Markee, Melissa Leis, Lily Freiberg, Deagan Haldeman, Jayden Hamilton, John DeWitt. **5th Row:** August Rueckheim, Mallory Wallace, Ellie Thieman, Linus Arndt, Bentley Myers, Tamara Norman, Lydia Voigts, Payjah Clark, Saleen Ford, Breanna Nevsimal, Caelin Calkins, Carson Johnson. **6th Row:** Blake Baker, Asher Havlik, Sierra Pasch, Stella Mack, Matthew Hyatt, Jonas Rueckheim, Annabelle Rasmussen, Addisyn Miller, Mariah Semann, Madalyn Wallerman, Leo Wallace, Marlee Bohn, Liberty Monsees, Emma Wiedmeyer

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BROOKWOOD

Continued from pg. 8

up days for the staff and students.

This spring, we are planning to host our greenhouse sale, where we will be selling a wide array of plants. We are hoping to have a great turn out and see a lot of

customers! In May, the officer team will be collaborating with the Tomah Parks and Recreation Slide Into Safety Event, where we will educate fourth graders about farm and animal safety. To finish out the school year, we will be hosting our annual banquet, where we celebrate the achievements of our members with our community.



Jaden D. and Skylar H. received their State FFA Degrees. Contributed photo.



For the December chapter meeting, Bangor FFA members worked together to make tie blankets that were donated to a local hospital to be shared with patients.



Bangor FFA President Alexa Heitkamp and Treasurer Grace Giraud attended the Half-Time Conference in Stevens Point where they learned about keeping the chapter active and growing in the second half of our year.

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CELEBRATING... BANGOR FFA



Eight FFA members travelled to Indianapolis to attend the National FFA Convention and Expo. Activities included attending the Opening and General Sessions, workshops, a concert, and rodeo. Back row: Andrew Schaub, Raeanna Keuler, McKenna Keuler, Mya Hoth, Colten Schroeder Front: Paityn Barney, Sam Lexa, and Syrrina Mathison.

As National FFA Week kicks off, we're taking a moment to look back on all the amazing things our chapter has done this year. From national events to local projects, it's been a year of learning, service, and making an impact.

We started by attending the National FFA Convention and Expo, where our members got to experience FFA on a bigger stage and bring back fresh ideas to share with the chapter. Our members also had the chance to grow as leaders by attending conferences like the Half-Time Conference, Fall Leadership Workshop, Connect, and I AM.

These events helped our members develop new skills, make connections, and deepen their passion for leadership and agriculture.

Back home, we've been busy giving back in some meaningful ways. This year, we harvested corn to donate to local food shelves and pantries, helping families who need it most. We also made tie blankets, to donate to the hospital, bringing a little comfort to patients.

We're gearing up for our Greenhouse Plant Sale, where we'll be selling plants grown by our chapter. It's a great way to promote agriculture and show the community what

we're working on. And let's not forget our Food for America event, where we got to share what we love about agriculture with students and families, while raising awareness about how important farming is to all of us.

As we reflect on the year, we are proud to live out the FFA motto: *Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve*. Our chapter continues to grow, learn, and serve, making a difference in our community and beyond. Here's to another great National FFA Week and all the things we've accomplished together!



FFA members travelled to Cashton to participate in Rooball. Back row: Neven Peterson Gianunzio, Rian Lueck, Grace Giraud, Matthew Schaub Middle Row: Alexa Heitkamp, Andrew Schaub, Raeanna Keuler Frpnt Row: Sam Lexa, Kalli Giraud.

CASHTON HIGH SCHOOL FFA MEMBERS



2024/2025 Cashton High School FFA Members. Front Row L to R: Grayson Schmitz, Isabell Korn, Lyla Schmitz, Brooke Brueggen, Aubrey Peterson, Katie Leis, Advisor Kori Blank, Braden Pederson. 2nd row l to r: Alli Letterly, Anna Marx, Marlee Schroeder, Sarah Schroeder, Addison Pieper, Taylor Lindley-Schendel, Jenna Fennigkoh, Adrianna Biever, Mateya Kaduc, and Evelyn Weber. 3rd Row L to R: Lauriel Gnewikow, Maddie Miller, Destiny Carothers, Audrey Weber, Lucy Tirado, Vivie Dempsey, Makena Hall, Avery McDaniel, Emma Lukaszewski, Tempi Straight. 4th Row L to R: Jace Gierczak, Lily Barney, Faith Schout, Melody Johnson, Kendal Weiker, Sophia LeJeune, Kora Passe, Alexa Kabat, Brianna Anderson, Maycee Schmitz, Payten Pederson. 5th Row L to R: Nathan Schaitel, Juliette Stuebs, Ethan Schmitz, Brady Wells, Owen VonRuden, Brew Butzler, Kalen McCracken, Evan Hanson, Parker Mlsna, Carter Brueggen, Gunnar Brueggen. 6th Row L to R: Rory Mlsna, Trandan Reiter, Darren Lusk, Damian Kempf, Jacob Steiger, Aiden Pieper, Hunter Kabat, Jack Christensen, Cameron Olson and Mason Hagen.



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