

TUE	WED	THU	FRI
35 31	38 33	37 32	38 30

STATEMENT WIN

SEE 'SPORTS' PAGE 5

Cashton's Brady Hemmersbach



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MONROE COUNTY HERALD

Your Local State Award-Winning Newspaper

VOLUME 165 | NUMBER 6

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ONE SECTION | 12 PAGES



Harvey and Jackie Menn, of Lawn View Farm/Menn's Organic Jerseys, have been named Monroe County's Conservation Farmers of the Year. For 170 years, six generations of Menns have milked cows on their family farm, in Norwalk, Wisconsin. Herald photo by Jennifer Rodriguez Moran.

Land Steward banquet nears

Menn family acknowledged as Monroe County Conservation Farmers of the Year

By JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ MORAN
Contributing Writer

Farmers, Harvey and Jackie Menn, of Lawn View Farm/Menn's Organic Jerseys, have been named Monroe County's Conservation Farmers of the Year. Twice a day, for 170 years, six generations of Menns have milked cows on this idyllic sesquicentennial farm, tucked between the hills, ridges, and rushing waters of Norwalk, Wisconsin.

First homesteaded by Johann Jakob Menn in 1854, the Menns' love for the land is deeply rooted. The Menn legacy of conservation has been decades and generations in the making. It was first recognized in 1952 when Harvey's father, Robert Menn, was also named Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Today, Robert's descendants strive to maintain and continue the conservation projects he implemented. In addition, Jackie and Harvey have begun a great number of

other conservation projects. They include the following:

- Practicing organic and contour strip farming
- Utilizing grass waterways and barnyard filter strips
- Creating a cattle lane and drop structure
- Implementing rotational grazing
- Achieving stream restoration and creating a fishing easement
- Planting native wildflowers

Harvey and Jackie remain involved in current conservation projects of the day, and are teaching the next generation these important practices. Harvey and Jackie continually demonstrate their dedication to land conservation.

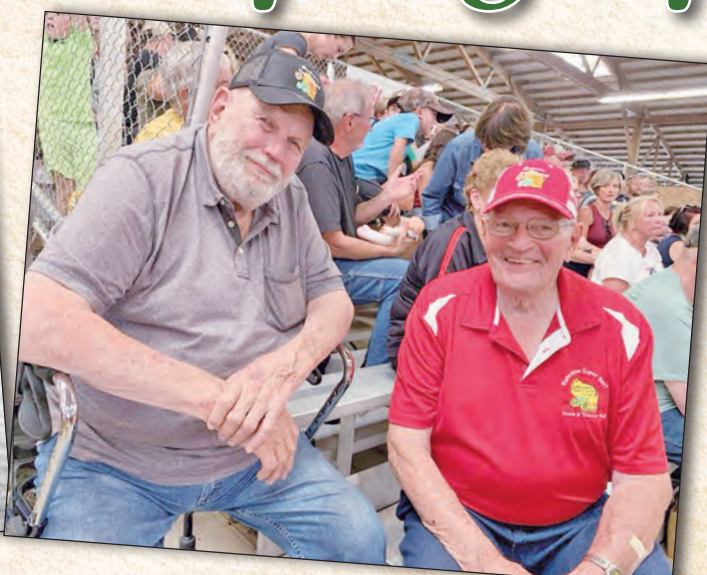
Sustainability in Dairy a Worthwhile Challenge

Today, the Menns milk about 80 cows. Sustainable, organic dairy farming is no easy task. More labor intensive than conventional farming, weeds must be dealt with mechanically, versus chemically; animal sickness is handled by natural homeopathy; and the land must be tended to with special care.

Harvey explained, "Dairy farming is especially hard now, with the price and

'BANQUET'
cont. on pg. 9

Schreiers: A true Monroe County legacy



The Schreier brothers, Dick (left in both) and Dave (right in both) left a legacy in Monroe County that most likely will never be matched. The success of their businesses, combined with their influence on the Norwalk Tractor Pull and the Budweiser Dairyland Super Nationals Tractor Pull in Tomah, as well as the Monroe County Fair, by themselves, seem insurmountable. Add to that their national impact on the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA) and World Pulling International, which governs the NTPA, and their accomplishments prove to be unmatched. Contributed photos.

Brothers in business, purveyors of honor

By BENNY MAILMAN
Editor

Recently, two brothers, both iconic members of the Monroe County community, passed away within 19 days of each other. They were Dave and Dick Schreier. The two were in business together for several decades, with renowned local businesses Schreier Implement, Schreier Oil, and Schreier's Lawn and Sport.

In addition to the businesses, Dave Schreier was an integral force in the Tomah Tractor Pull, having met Johnny Cash through his connections in promoting events. The Herald recently had the opportunity to sit down with Dave Schreier's son, Chris Schreier, to learn more about his father and uncle; someone who was right there by their sides through it all.

Chris started out by telling the Herald that the two brothers, Dick and Dave, never argued during their decades-long business affiliation. "They spent their whole lives together. They knew each other's strengths and weaknesses. Dad would do the promoting and sales, getting the businesses to grow, and Dick would keep the internal strength of the business sound."

In 1964, Dick Schreier bought into a John Deere dealership, in Norwalk. Dave was still farming at the time but bought Melvin Savall's half of the John Deere dealership in 1965, officially initiating the Schreier business bond. The brothers then entered into the oil business, by purchasing John Williams' Standard Oil jobbership in Norwalk, in the early 70s, and then Dick Dana in the mid 70s.

About Schreier Oil, Chris stated,

"We did farm and home deliveries, and dad and Dick started that in the early 1970s, in Norwalk and Tomah. I bought that in the late 80s, when they started getting out of the business."

Chris Schreier explained that he grew up in the businesses of his father and uncle and, at a young age, he started learning the finite details of being a businessman. "I worked in the Norwalk implement business, from working on lawn and garden equipment to working in the parts room, to working sales and eventually running Schreier's Lawn and Sports in Tomah, which they opened in 1972. In 1980 I started managing it, until they closed that up in the late 80s. I have had only two bosses in my life, my family and when I sold the oil business to Midwest Fuels in 1994, I stayed on and worked for them, until I retired 29 years later, on December 26th, of 2023."

Chris went on to say that because he was in a family-run business, he learned the values of being consistent, and putting your all into your everyday. He also stated that the Mathy family, whom he sold the oil business to, had exactly the same philosophy because they are also a family-owned business. "That's the way dad was. He focused strongly on what was at hand, and he was very serious about it. His sole concentration at the end of the day was getting the job done and making sure your customers were taken care of, to the best of your ability."

Tomah Tractor Pull

It did not take long for the Herald interview with Chris Schreier to work its way up to the Tomah Tractor Pull. "My father [Dave Schreier] started the tractor pull in Tomah," Chris started out. "It started out with the Norwalk Lion's Club, when they brought the Blacktop Tractor Pull to Norwalk. Dad was with the Lion's Club at the time. Then he was invited to be on the

Monroe County Fair Board [Monroe County Agricultural Society], around 1968. The board was always looking to raise money and dad suggested that they bring the local tractor pull in. They did, and in 1976 dad decided to bring the national pull to Tomah, to the fair."

Chris Schreier reiterated his father's dedication to anything he was involved with. Chris told the Herald that his father really investigated and thought things through. Dave noted that there was a national pull in Crystal Lake, Minnesota, at their Farm Fest event. "Dad thought, 'Why not put a national pull on here, in Tomah. The national pullers would stop by if we put ours on a week later.'" Withing two years, the Tomah Tractor Pull became so strong that the Tomah High School football field, which was at the fairgrounds, was taken over by them. It was met with resistance from the city council, but with help from the Ag Society, the field was relocated to the High School.

At that time, the County Fair was hosting big name Country & Western artists and both the County Fair & the Tractor Pull were able to give considerable financial support to the city.

Inside Scoop

The Schreier family also competed in tractor pulls. "We went on the National Circuit back in 1973," Chris said. "We pulled all over the country, and starting in 1976, wherever we went, we took fliers for the Tomah Pull. We would walk right up into the stands and hand them out. Dad was on the board for the Wisconsin Tractor Pullers, and with his direction, we grew."

Chris informed the Herald that when they pulled nationally, they started out

'LEGACY'
cont. on pg. 2



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LEGACY

Continued from Front Page

in Nebraska and went East. “Basically, we would head through Missouri and Iowa, then through Illinois and Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. We also pulled in Chapel Hill, Tennessee; the Bull Pull in Hamburg, New York; and Pennsylvania. We started in June and ended in September. It seemed we were somewhere new every week.”

Change of Scenery

Even before the Schreier brothers had sold their businesses, in the mid 80s, Dave Schreier had gone to Ohio, to run the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA), in 1985. “The NTPA was nearing bankruptcy when dad arrived. Dad formed World Pulling International (WPI), which governed the NTPA, oversaw their operations and helped promote the event. Once more people showed an interest in running it [NTPA] like a business, it got strong and grew, and is still running to this day.”

Dave Schreier brought in shareholders that believed as he did, in the future of tractor & truck pulling and formed World Pulling International (WPI). He made them believe that it could work. “Before, it was being run by the pullers and it just grew too big for them to handle it,” Chris explained. “Dad helped guide them, by showing them that everyone had to work together, the pullers, promoters and sponsors. Then there were rules and safety issues that had to be addressed as well.”

Dave stayed in Ohio until around 1997. “When he got back, dad still ran that office from Tomah,” Chris said. “He was CEO of World Pulling International. He stepped down from that job at 80 years old, which was only 4 years ago. That was proof to everyone that his heart was in it ... he loved it. You do not stay with something until your 80 unless your whole heart is in it.”

Chris managed the Tomah store and handled the work at the farm, while Dave was in Ohio. When Dave moved back, he started selling tractors again, and he sold a bunch of them. “When dad turned 80, we sold the cows and farmed part time. He was also still on the fair board and involved with the tractor pull. As soon as he got back we put him right on the fair board — there was no way we were going to let him just sit around.”

Chris said that his dad was a leader, and he was great at giving direction. “He never had an outward temper, even when frustrated,” Chris stated. “For him it was all about communicating with people, talking with them. He was very diplomatic, but not like a politician, where you are lying to people to get through it. Everything he said was honest

and straight forward. He knew there was always a calm way to an amicable answer. He was a great listener. Dad had a saying he really liked, ‘Never argue with a fool, lest you be a fool yourself.’”

“Dad and Dick took pride in whatever they did and that included the pulls,” Chris continued. “Their belief was to always make a good representation. Compete hard, look good, and of course, they stressed winning. There were no slouches in our group. It was expected that everyone contributed 100 percent.”

Chris explained that sometimes it was just his dad and him at the pulls, and sometimes their friends came along and enjoyed the moment with them. “We all dressed in John Deere colors. We have been John Deere since the beginning, back in the 60s.”

Chris is still president of the Monroe County Ag society, which puts on, the Budweiser Dairyland Super Nationals tractor pull, as well as the Monroe County Fair. There are nine members on the board and roughly 200 volunteers that help with the pull.

Chris grew up around the strong energies of his father and his uncle, but he stated that it was just a part of his life. “I grew up side-by-side with dad. I was not involved with a lot of things at school, I was involved with the customers and the business. So, my friends and the people I hung around were all decades older than me. I was always just a part of it.”

There were moments, Chris told the Herald, where he watched his father speaking at award banquets and thought, “Look at what he has done and what he has built.”

Chris remarked, “Look at we got here that not all communities have.”

Johnny Cash and Dave Schreier

Chris informed that Herald that his father was always a big fan of Johnny Cash. Through his promotion of the Tomah Tractor Pull, Dave Schreier was able to meet the Man in Black himself, in the mid 80s. “Dad knew Jimmy Jay [Blauw], who was promoting entertainers, and Jimmy Jay knew Lou Robin, the manager for Johnny Cash, so it was inevitable that dad would meet Johnny.”

In parades around Monroe County, it is not uncommon to see a massive truck dedicated to honoring the memory of Johnny Cash. The truck is an all-black Peterbilt, and it was bought by Dave Schreier at a Mecum Auction, which is famous for high end vehicle auctions throughout the United States. “Dad called it the ‘Cashillac,’ Chris quipped with the Herald. “He brought it home and said, ‘Man, I would really like to put a bunch of Johnny Cash stuff on there.’ He took his ideas and the



Above: Dave Schreier is seen here with his “Cashillac,” a Peterbilt that he had wrapped specifically to honor Johnny Cash. Dave was a huge fan of the Man in Black, having known him through his years as a promoter. Right: Dave shakes the hand of Johnny Cash. Contributed photo.

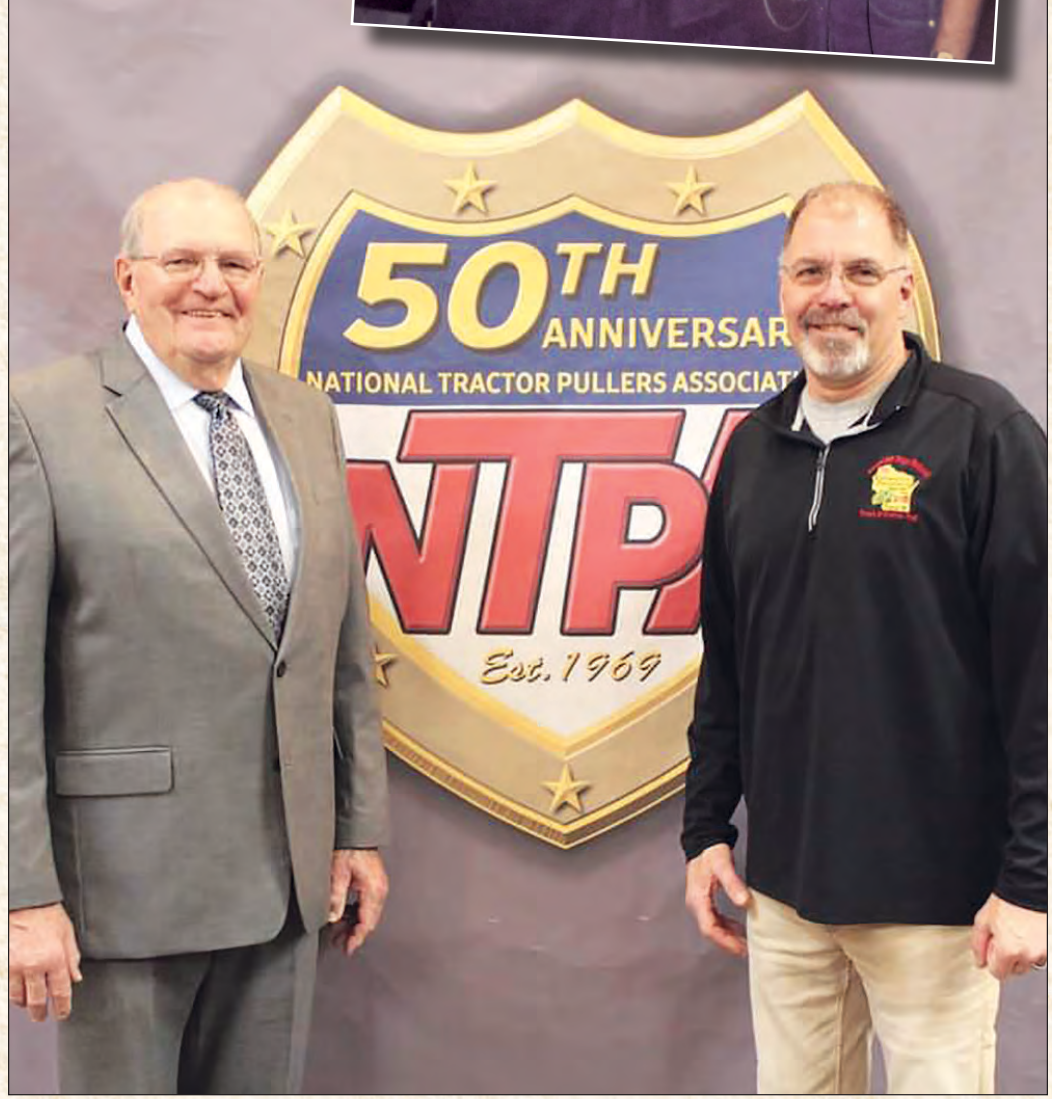


truck up to a guy near the twin cities, and the guy wrapped it that way.”

They were two strong forces of energy, bound by brotherhood and a strong sense of community and professional work ethic. Dick and Dave Schreier grew up on a Norwalk farm, where their parents also owned a tavern and a restaurant. Every Saturday night, in that town of 400, their parents sold chicken dinners, at 25 cents a plate, which provided the socializing event for the town as well. Their record was 350 dinners.

The record of Dick and Dave is a legacy that can be seen in all facets of the Monroe County Fair, the Budweiser Dairyland Super Nationals tractor pull, the Norwalk Lions Truck & Tractor Pull, the strong continuation of the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA) and World Pulling International, which governs the NTPA. The fact that they left 19 days apart is a strong indication that they were determined to accomplish more magnificent feats ... together.

The Herald would like to thank Chris Schreier for his time and extensive effort for this Herald article.



From the left are Dave and Chris Schreier, at the 50th Anniversary of the National Tractor Pullers Association, back in 2019. Contributed photo.



Dave Schreier competing in a tractor pull in the late 1970s. In 1980, Dave would capture the title of NTPA Grand National Champion, in the 7,000 lb. Super Stock class, with his John Deere 4320, “The Green Power Special.” Contributed photo.



Dave Schreier hands out the awards at a tractor pull. Dave’s son, Chris Schreier, informed the Herald that Dick and Dave Schreier were meticulous in all aspects of any tractor pull they were involved with, from planning to the awards. They were always on the pulling track, constantly checking conditions. Contributed photo.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BANGOR AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 & LEGION AUXILIARY monthly meeting. **2nd**

Tuesday each month, 7:00 pm Legion clubrooms. New members welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND HARVEST MOBILE FOOD PANTRY is in Sparta the **third Monday** of each month at the new time of **2:30 p.m.** at their winter location, the **Sparta Hockey Rink, (1121 E. Montgomery St.);** the **first Tuesday** of each month at **4:00 p.m.** at the **Tomah fairgrounds (1625 Butts Ave.);** and the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at **9:30 a.m.** at the **Norwalk Village Hall** for curb pickup.

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

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

Sparta Trailblazers medallion hunt clues

Time again for the Sparta Trailblazers Medallion Hunt. When you find it, call the number on the back, then come to the American Legion on Jan. 27th after 5 p.m. to claim your \$50 prize.

CLUE #1

The medallion is hidden on the edge of where the River runs.

CLUE #2

It may be too cold to stop and play or picnic as you look for the medallion.

2024 Best of Tomah survey announced

Celebrating Tomah businesses & attractions

The Tomah Chamber and Visitor's Center is excited to announce the launch of the 2024 Best of Tomah, WI survey, at tomahwisconsin.com! Website visitors have the opportunity to cast their votes for the "2024 Best of Tomah, WI," across various categories. These include the best aspects of the Community, Drinks & Spirits, Health &

Wellness, Money and Finance, Automotive & Vehicle, Home & Garden, Places to Eat, Recreation & Outdoors, and Services.

Participants can either nominate their favorite picks for all categories or selectively choose the specific areas they want to vote on. The Tomah Chamber and Visitor's Center invites locals, visitors, and the general public to nominate and celebrate the excellence within Tomah, Wisconsin.

The survey is open now and will have business and attraction nominees to choose from in each category,

but survey takers can also nominate others who are not listed. On February 12th, the nomination voting will be closed, and on February 19th, the survey will open again for the final voting round.

Special Note

Only the top-voted nominees will make it through to the final round. Survey takers are encouraged to vote in both the nomination survey and final round!

Recap

Best of Tomah, Wisconsin Now - February 12th - Pre-Listed Nominees & Option to Nominate

February 12th - Nominations CLOSED

February 19th - Survey OPEN with final round voting

March 4th - Final Survey CLOSED

March 11th - 2024 Best of Tomah, Wisconsin Announced

Further inquiries can be addressed by calling the Tomah Chamber of Commerce at 608-372-2166. You may also glean more information from their website, at www.tomahwisconsin.com and follow them on Facebook and/or Instagram.

2024 AARP Tax Preparation

AARP tax volunteers and the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County are pleased to announce the 2024 tax season dates. The free, confidential service is open to low - moderate income residents, with a focus given to adults who are 60-years old or older.

Starting on February 7th, residents can have their taxes completed in Sparta, at the Sparta Barney Community Center, at 1000 E. Montgomery Street. The volunteers will be available on Wednesday and Friday, through April 10th. The service is free. However, reservations are required. Appointments can be made starting on January 15th, by calling 608-487-7112, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You will need to bring your tax information, including a copy of last year's income tax return(s), property tax bills, W-2 forms from each employer, unemployment compensation statements, SSA-1099 form - if you were paid Social Security benefits, all 1099 forms (1099-INT,

1099-DIV, 1099-B, etc.) showing interest and/or dividends and documentation showing original purchase price of sold assets, 1099 - miscellaneous - showing any miscellaneous income, 1099-R form - if you received a pension or annuity, capital gains information, deductible items, mortgage expenses, tax receipts, all forms indicating federal and state income tax paid, any recent IRS or state tax department correspondence, dependent care provider information (name, employer ID - Social Security number), all receipts or cancelled checks - if itemizing deductions, Social Security cards or other official documentation for yourself and all dependents, government-issued photo ID for the taxpayer(s) on the return, and checking or savings account information for direct deposit of refund or balance due.

To ensure our tax season runs more smoothly, we will have packets available for each person wanting to have their taxes done by our service. These packets will

have the forms you previously completed on site, prior to getting your taxes completed. Please stop at the Senior Dining Site, in the Barney Center, to pick your packet up, after you have made your appointment. These forms should be completed prior to your appointment.

Please DO NOT call the Barney Center if you have questions on these forms. They are our host site only. They are not part of the tax process. The forms will be reviewed when you come for your appointment and your questions will be answered at that time.

This process is being done

to further streamline the process, as well as giving you additional time to complete the forms at your leisure. Due to the complexity of the tax laws, we are unable to complete returns for married people filing separately, people who were divorced in 2023, most types of business returns and only complete state taxes for Wisconsin.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, you will need to cancel prior to the scheduled time, by calling 608-487-7112, and let them know. No show clients will be rescheduled at the end of the season, and only if schedules permit.

Quilts Wanted for Butterfest Quilt Show

The 24th annual Sparta Butterfest Quilt Show is seeking quilts and any quilted items, for the show, to be held on June 8th and 9th. Quilts MUST have a 4" sleeve; pinned or basted is okay. Please attach a 3x5 card with a "Story behind the quilt," or make one at registration, which is on Friday, June 7th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can preregister at Quilt Corner, Monday through Thursday. Items that were submitted over 5 years ago, which did not win an award, may be re-entered. There will be 9 awards in 5 categories, including Youth - 18 years or younger. Pick up

of quilts requires returning the registration slip between 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on that Sunday.

Show hours are Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. Location is the Sparta Barney Center, located at 1000 E. Montgomery Street, in Sparta, just next to the Golf Course. Admission is free — donations are welcomed. There will be a quilting demonstration, by a featured quilter, on Saturday, at 2 p.m. For more information, call Mona at 608-487-6584, or email monaquilts@gmail.com

SMELT FRY & WINGS



Friday, Jan. 26

3:30 p.m. until gone

Carryouts Available



Future Dates: February 23 & March 29

Cashton VFW

In Clubroom - Downtown Cashton

HOROSCOPE

Week of January 21-27, 2024

ARIES

If you witness a strange situation, discuss it with those close to you. They'll help you sort out your thoughts. Your friends will tend to confide in you, and you'll lend them a sympathetic ear.

TAURUS

You'll be struck by the urge to renovate your space and rearrange the furniture. You'll also explore the possibility of buying a house and moving, especially if you feel too cramped in your current home.

GEMINI

The stars have aligned, and it's time to act! You'll react quickly and confidently in uncertain situations. In your social media activity, one of your comments will attract considerable attention.

CANCER

You must take time to recharge your batteries; your health depends on it. You could commit to someone close to you, with whom you'll share some incredibly memorable times.

LEO

You can't escape your responsibilities or ignore your obligations. Your presence is required! To have an active social life, you must organize and plan activities that get everyone on board.

VIRGO

You'll have a lot of responsibilities, and many people will be counting on you. It might be a good idea to dedicate some time to getting everything done; you'll be easily distracted this week.

LIBRA

Making all your dreams come true requires meticulous organization and unshakeable determination. You must make adjustments to achieve your personal and professional goals.

SCORPIO

You could find yourself in a worrying situation. It's essential to focus on your priorities. If you're artistic, you'll be inspired to create a work that will set you apart and create a sensation.

SAGITTARIUS

You'll alternate between having a routine and going with the flow. Although you're not always easy to understand, you're trustworthy. You may have to weigh the pros and cons in a specific situation.

CAPRICORN

Cleaning up your home and office will help you see the bigger picture. It's important to get enough rest to prevent your immune system from weakening this winter.

AQUARIUS

You'll perform a heroic act, such as helping someone in need. Even if you just lend someone a listening ear, they'll be eternally grateful.

PISCES

You'll spend more time at home, perhaps because one of your children needs you. The prospect of working from home could come up, and you'll enjoy the comfort of being in your own environment.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 21

Emma Bunton, Singer (48)

JANUARY 22

Logic, Rapper (34)

JANUARY 23

Tiffany Thiesen, Actress (50)

JANUARY 24

Matthew Lillard, Actor (54)

JANUARY 25

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Leader (46)

JANUARY 26

Kirk Franklin, Songwriter (54)

JANUARY 27

Bailey Zimmerman, Singer (24)

Coffee break

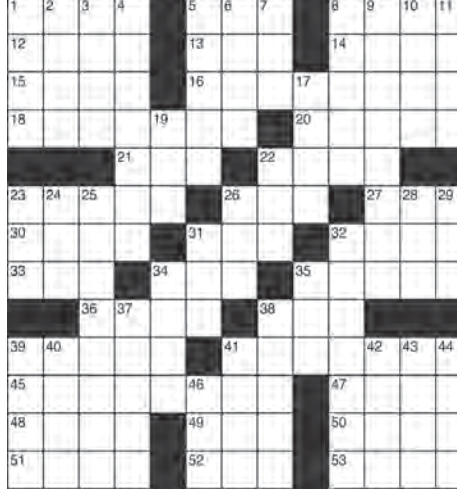
Sparta FAMILY RESTAURANT

Brought to you by the best barista in town!

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

SPECIALS EVERY DAY

CROSSWORDS no. 210



Answers on page 10

ACROSS

- Mop
- Ginger drink
- Fraud
- Soften
- Blot
- Tramp
- Hitched
- Parasol
- Frighten
- Comic
- DeGeneres
- Dobbin's grain
- Chip's partner
- Leading man
- Engine's need
- Fray
- "Cheers" role
- Shag, e.g.
- Champion
- In addition

DOWN

- Tennis match parts
- Delay
- On the water
- Sleeping place
- Full-grown
- Gold fabric
- _____ tide
- Beach memento
- Shouted
- Qualified
- Sound of woe
- Sincere
- Surface, as a road
- Remove sand
- Uninvited picnicker
- Talk fondly
- Humid
- Inning ender
- Mine rock
- Came in first
- Glass edge
- Mound's peak
- Fishhook bait
- Moisten
- Utilize again
- Ravine
- Battle mark
- Humdinger
- _____ moss
- Beg
- Treatment
- Ship bottom
- Swimsuit piece

Sudoku

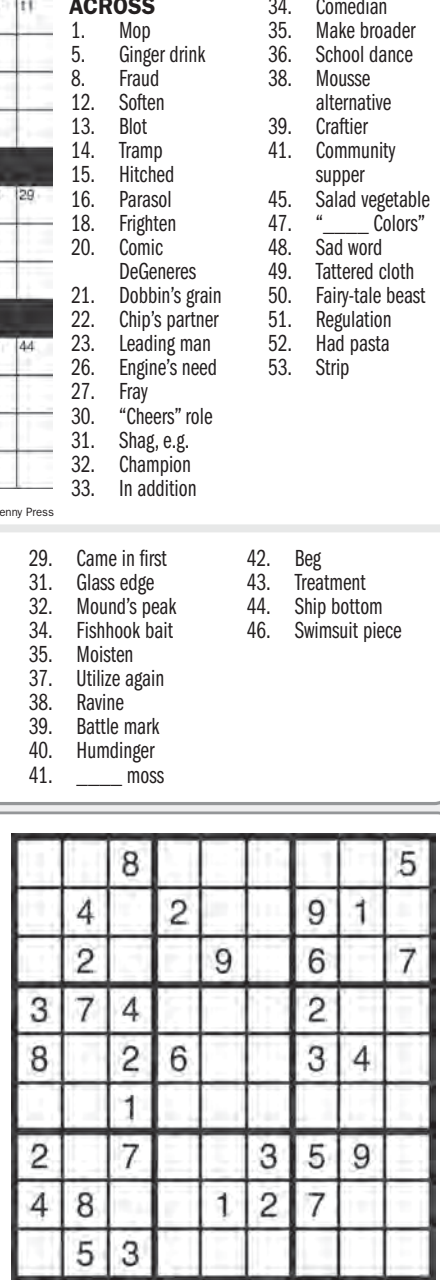
Answers on page 10

PUZZLE NO. 950

HOW TO PLAY

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

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



OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

BARBARA B. BUEHNER

September 30, 1949 — January 18, 2024

TOMAH - Barbara B. Buehner, 74 of Tomah passed away on Thursday, January 18, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on September 30, 1949, in Kalamazoo, Michigan to Richard and Bonnie (Betz) Kingsbury. Barb was a member of the Portage Northern High School High School 1967. After graduation, Barb attended Maranatha Baptist College obtaining a Bachelor of Arts and Education. On February 4, 1972, Barbara was united in marriage to Fredrick Buehner in Portage, Michigan.



Barbara Buehner

As a wife, mother and grandmother, Barb loved being surrounded by family. Spending time with her grandchildren brought a tremendous amount of joy to her life and giving out grandma hugs was her specialty. She was a faithful and devoted member of the Tomah Baptist Church. She will be remembered for her passionate and loving spirit.

She is survived by her husband, Fred of Tomah, children, Nathan (Peggy) Buehner of Tomah, Rachel

(David) Menke of Muskego, Paul (Katherine) of Tomah, Joel (CeCe) of Oshkosh and Jonathan of Tomah, grandchildren, Gary, Dustin, Abigail, Micah, Jordan, Andrew, Daniel, Euphemia, Jason, Adam, Ian, Joel, Charlotte Grace, and Elliott, a great grandson, Matthew, siblings, Pastor Paul (Diane) Kingsbury, Marsha (Doug) Wagner and Richard Kingsbury, and a brother-in-law, Bill (Shari) Buehner. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a grandson, Aleksander.

A Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 11:00 AM at the Tomah Baptist Church, 1701 Hollister Ave., Tomah. Pastor Aaron Smith, Pastor Donald Root and Pastor Paul Kingsbury are officiating. Burial will be in Mount Vernon Cemetery. Relatives and friends are invited for a time for visitation on Tuesday at the church from 9:30 AM until the time of the service. Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

PAMELA P CRAMER

October 14, 1951 — January 16, 2024

TOMAH - Pamela P. Cramer, 72, of Tomah, Wisconsin passed away peacefully and went into the arms of her loving savior on Tuesday January 16, 2024, at Gundersen Lutheran Hospital. She was born October 14, 1951, to Quentin & Jean Weinzierl in Shell Lake, WI. She graduated from Hudson High School in 1970.



Pamela Cramer

Pam was married for 53 years to her High School sweetheart, John Cramer. They were united in marriage on June 13th, 1970, in Stillwater, MN. In that time, they had 3 children. Pam worked at Fort McCoy until her retirement in 2018.

Pam was an excellent housekeeper, cook and gardener. With her love of cooking and John's love of eating they made a perfect match. She enjoyed the Tomah Park & Recreation leagues that included softball and volleyball. She was also an excellent golfer and loved to bowl. Pam was a good friend to all and always ready to help anyone who needed

it. She had a heart of gold and will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Pam was also an organ donor, so even in death she is still helping people.

She is survived by her loving husband John Cramer. 2 children, Chad Cramer, and Keali (Josh) Pfaff. 6 grandchildren, Caitlyn Hoffman, Kayden Cramer, Azlynn Rhodaback, Haili Roberts, Chloe Pfaff, and Zoey Pfaff and 1 great grandchild, Brayden. Her mother, Jean Weinzierl. 3 siblings, Steve (Kelly) Weinzierl, Marilyn Salzmann and Christine (Larry) Charbonneau and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her grandmother Pearl Walker, father Quentin Weinzierl, sister Linda Asplund, granddaughter Cassie Cramer and son Corin Cramer.

A Celebration of Life will be June 13th, 2024. Details will be announced at a later date. Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

TERRY JOE TURNMIRE

July 31, 1967 — January 18th, 2024

FRIENDSHIP - Terry Joe Turnmire, age 56 of Friendship, WI, and formerly of Tomah, WI, passed away on Thursday, January 18th, 2024 at



home surrounded by family. Terry was born to William and Lucretia (Babcock) Turnmire on July 31, 1967 in Tomah, Wisconsin.

He married Lisa Marie (Teebo) Turnmire in Tomah in 1994. They were married for 29 years and raised 4 children together. Terry decided on a career path of driving long haul to provide for his family. He loved this job, being able to earn money and see the world with his carefree lifestyle. Terry enjoyed spending his free time with his grandchildren, going on vacation with his wife, and working on his 1989 Dodge pick-up truck that was his pride and joy. Terry was always there to lend a helping hand, and loved working with his hands making something new out of something old.

Terry is survived by his wife Lisa, his children Christopher Mosley, Kayla (Tony) DeVito,

Mariah (Kyle) Faulkner, Brandi (Tiffany) McNulty. Grandchildren Damien, Keegan, Bryce, Jocelyn, Shawn, Ethan, Ariya, Elijah, and Kinsley and other amazing people that have been taken into the family...

Terry was preceded in death by Lucretia and William Turnmire, his brother Billy, and his grandson Marshall.

We would like to thank the staff of St. Croix Hospice for their kindness that was shown to Terry the last part of his life. We will always remember the kind heart of Felicia, Jessica, Carrie, Chaplain Dave, and the musician Nick.

Funeral Services for Terry will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah. Burial will follow in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Mather. Family and friends are invited for visitation on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home. The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

MERYL JANE (MANKE) KIRKENG

January 18th, 2024

WEST SALEM - Meryl Jane (Manke) Kirkeng, 98 of West Salem, Wisconsin passed away peacefully on January 18th, 2024 at Mulder's Healthcare Facility.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 at Fish Creek Ridge Lutheran Church, 5467 County Hwy J, Rockland, WI 54653. A visitation will be held prior from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Online guestbook is available at www.schanhoferfh.com

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

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

JOANNE MATSON

September 18, 1964 — January 16, 2024

SPARTA - Joanne Matson, 59, of Sparta, passed away on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at



Gundersen Health Systems, La Crosse, due to complications from surgery. She was born on September 18, 1964 to Roger and Elaine Matson in Patchogue, Long Island, NY. She graduated from Sparta High School in 1983.

Joanne was employed at Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Center in Sparta for 25 years as a dietary aid.

Joanne was the epitome of kindness, and always had a smile on her face. She would be the first to step up to help, whenever she could. Strangers were friends she hadn't met yet. Jo was an avid Packer fan, and loved spending time with her sister, sister-in-law, and nephews. She also enjoyed reading and going out to eat. Especially if she could go to Cracker Barrel.

Joanne is survived by her sister, Dawn Bindrim and her husband, Don; sister-in-law, Brenda Matson; nephews,

Connor and Jordan Matson; and her furbaby, Penny. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Roger; and both sets of grandparents.

A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta, with Reverend Jim Radatz officiating.

A visitation was held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home. Joanne's family would like to thank the doctors and staff at Gundersen for their care and compassion. A special thank you to Aunt Mars and Uncle George, for always being there for Jo. In honor of Joanne's love of the Packers, please wear your Packer gear to her service. 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

BARBARA LYNN RICE

November 3, 1958 — January 16, 2024

TOMAH - Barbara Lynn Rice, age 65, of Winona, MN, and formerly of Tomah, WI, passed away on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 surrounded by her loving family. Barb was born on November 3, 1958 in Tomah, WI to William and Linda (Slater) Rice. She is survived by and will be dearly missed by her children, Kim (Nate) Cramblit and their children, Kasyn and Marley; and Mark Collins; her brothers and sisters, Mark (Gayle) Rice, Cheryl (Steve) Fry, Joyce (Duane) Dritelein, William (Sandy) Rice, and Jody (Jim) Miller; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Barb was preceded in death by her parents, William and Linda Rice; brothers, Patrick Rice and Gary Stokely; her step-mother, Marilyn Rice; and nephew, Weslee Rice.



Barbara Rice

Barb had a heart of pure gold and will be remembered for her angelical presence here on earth. She was kind, compassionate, loving, selfless, loyal, strong and independent. Barb always saw the good in everyone, and was willing to do anything for those she loved. The world was a better place with her in it, and we all are blessed to have known her. Barb's passion for decorating was always beautifully displayed in the homes that she lived in, and

portrayed in the landscapes that she built around them. Her talent symbolized who she was, a beautiful soul both inside and out. Barb also enjoyed a countryside road cruise, flower shopping, lobster, vacationing and gatherings with family and friends.

In all the beautiful facets of her life, being a mother and grandmother is where Barb flourished. The bonds she shared with her children and grandchildren were truly something special. Her ability to give advice and guidance was endless, and she built a life that her family will forever cherish.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Wilton. Father John Ofori-Domah will officiate. Family and friends are invited for visitation on Thursday, January 25 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah. Additional visitation will be held at the church on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

The Rice farm was always near and dear to Barb's heart. Her ashes will be spread up on the hill near the apple tree overlooking the farm at a later date.

Torkelson Funeral Home

DUANE R. KALLAND

January 21, 2024

TOMAH - Duane R. Kalland, 79 of Tomah passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at the Serenity House, Tomah.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024, 5:00 PM at the Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E. Monowau Street, Tomah. Pastor Shane Haynes will officiate. Burial will be at a later date in the Blooming Grove Cemetery, Monona, WI. Relatives and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Saturday at the funeral home from 3:00 PM until the time of the service. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

Memorials in Duane's memory can be given to the First Congregational Church, Tomah.

Following the memorial service, a gathering will be held at Kelsey's Class Act Bar, 201 Superior Ave. Tomah.

Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home

2024 Private Well Water Sampling Deadline Approaching

The signup deadline for private well water sampling to landowners of Monroe County is quickly approaching. All Monroe County residents who have not sampled their private well within the last 4 years are eligible, but must register for testing by Monday, February 12, 2024. The Landowner Package, which tests for eight items including Nitrates and

Bacteria, will be available for a cost of \$20. Bottles are limited to the first 100 participants.

Please contact the Monroe County Land Conservation Department at 608-269-8973 or email lily.lefebvre@co.monroe.wi.us to register, and for more information on bottle pick up and drop off dates.

Divorces Monroe County Records

Erika E Boyd, 38, Tomah from Joshua A Boyd, 39, Albany with a maiden name of Franklin restored.

Charlotte M Byrdlong, 56, Tomah from Harold D Byrdlong, 58. Eau Claire.

Nathan L Fancher, 29, Tomah from Christin M Fancher, 29, Tomah.

Tammy R Steinbrink, 46, Sparta from Daniel L Steinbrink, Archbold, 49 with a maiden name of Lietzau restored.

Rosemarie A Moser, 42, Warrens from Robert J Moser, 49, Tomah with a surname of Squires restored.

Jiyoung Seo, 42, Sierra Vista from Eddie A Han, 43, Tomah.

Tanya L Snodgrass, 44, La Crosse from Kyle R Snodgrass, 44, La Crosse with a maiden name of Nelson restored.

Mindy J Lawrence, 34, Sparta from Bryan S Lawrence, Tomah, 35 with a maiden name of Harper restored.

Alexa M Coenen, 31, Tomah from Tyler M Coenen, 33, Manitosh Waters with a maiden name of Jolin restored.

Amber M Ludwig, 34,

Sparta from Dennis P Ludwig, 35, Sparta with a maiden name of Abbott restored.

Dawn M Armstrong, 42, Tomah from Jason D Armstrong, 50, Tomah.

Angeline J Tackett, 48, Tomah from Doak J A Tackett, 47 with a maiden name of Baugh restored.

Joan D Prissel, 63, Tomah from Tracey J Prissel, 62, Tomah with a maiden name of Phillips restored.

Gina M Slater, 46, Warrens from Shane A Slater, 46, Freeport with a maiden name of Warner restored.

Megan E Adams, 39, Sparta from Steven M Adams, 40, Sparta with a maiden name of Ashlock restored.

Desiree M Voves, La Crosse, 28 from Jeremy D Voves, 35, Warrens with a maiden name of Tetzlaff restored.

Dorothy S McCown, 55, Tomah from Terry A McCown, 66, Tomah with a maiden name of Eickhoff restored.

Rosa E Mendoza, 47, Sparta from Salvador Ramirez, 51, Winona.

Breanna L Garcia, 38, Tomah from Juan A Garcia Lozano, 40, Tomah with a maiden name of Kuhl restored.



MONROE COUNTY HERALD

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THROUGH MY LENS

Potential loss of Sports Illustrated just part of sad trend

By NATE BEIER
Sports Editor



I was browsing X (Twitter) around noon on Friday and came across a thread that encouraged followers to share their favorite Sports Illustrated covers of all time. It seemed odd and I inferred something was wrong with the longtime standard in sports journalism and photography.

I hate being right in these sorts of situations.

If you didn't hear, there was news Friday alleging that the Arena Group, the group that publishes SI, was laying off most or all of its staff that work on the brand.

As I followed the news throughout the day, reading online and listening to opinions on sports talk radio, I became more and more disheartened in what was unfolding. Though common opinion was mostly that of shock due to the news, the fact remains that Sports Illustrated technically isn't dead, but will go through some obvious changes to survive.

I loved the nostalgic discussion regarding the publication. The idea that each week you'd wait for a new issue to show up, chock full of amazing photography and unique, in-depth stories that you couldn't find anywhere else. The iconic covers, the inventive design - it brought the fan closer to their sports.

However, there was also a common viewpoint that the magazine had been in decline for some time. Most cited that things had started rolling the wrong way as SI cut publication of its magazine from weekly to monthly to quarterly.

I can relate to this frustration in quality. Shoot, I've seen what's happened in the newspaper business over the past 10-20 years - it's the same thing. Large corporations that own these publications look at the bottom line and make cuts to keep them going. Cuts happen on a yearly basis and I continue to wonder what they have left to cut after gutting their editorial staff, using hub stations that aren't local to handle layout and cutting publication dates.

A lot of the blame has to fall on its readers - or lack thereof - for the erosion of standards.

Folks just don't take time to read as they once did. The way we consume our news is different and more immediate now than ever. We as society set the (bad) precedent that anything online should be free, so when newspapers and magazines started going online, they struggled to find a way to monetize

BEIER cont. pg 10

BOYS BASKETBALL CASHTON 75 BANGOR 53



Cashton's Jake Wall welcomes teammate Noah Hemmersbach to the bench after the latter fouled out in the waning minutes of the second half at Bangor. Cashton earned its first win over the Cardinals in nearly 15 years Thursday night to stay perfect in SBC play. Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

STATEMENT WIN

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a moment nearly 15 years in the making. A decade and a half of domination by Bangor in its rivalry with Cashton created a palpable sense of urgency for the Eagles to finally get that monkey off their back as they look to take the next step as a program.

That moment finally arrived in the first of two meetings between these old Scenic Bluffs rivals during this 2023-24 season. And when it did arrive, Cashton let there be no doubt that this was going to be the program's breakthrough night.

The Eagles (13-0 overall, 6-0 Scenic Bluffs) continued their unbeaten run to start this season by going on the road and clobbering the Cardinals (7-5, 5-1) 75-53 in a battle for sole possession of first place in the conference standings

Thursday, January 18 in Bangor.

That victory ended Cashton's 29-game losing streak to Bangor dating back to 2009 and a 17-game losing streak at Bangor for the Eagles that dated back one year earlier than the overall losing streak.

Aside from a couple brief moments where the Cardinals led 8-5 and 12-10 in the early stages of the game, it was all Cashton on Thursday night. The Eagles used a 15-0 run midway through the first half to fly ahead by double digits in what wound up being a pivotal stretch of the game.

Cashton led by as much as 16 in the first half before settling on a 37-27 advantage at the break following a small push from the Cardinals.

After Bangor very briefly had the deficit down to eight at the start of the second half, the game settled into a stretch where the Eagles maintained a lead that

consistently sat in the low double digits. It wasn't until a 13-4 run where Cashton extended its advantage out to 62-41 with six minutes remaining that the Eagles truly pulled away and allowed the celebration to start early.

There'd be no disappointment or heartbreak for Cashton this time. The streak was finally over.

"It was meaningful. It's very meaningful because this has been an extraordinarily difficult place for us to play," said Cashton head coach Scot Wall,

STATEMENT cont. pg 6



Scan for full photo gallery of Cashton at Bangor BBB

BOYS HOCKEY TOMAH 6 ONALASKA 0

Titans finish sweep of Onalaska with 6-0 win

By LOGAN EVERSON
Sports Reporter

After a 3-1 conference loss to Aquinas earlier last week, Tomah/Sparta boys hockey came back swinging with a big 6-0 MVC win over Onalaska at the Tomah Ice Center on Thursday, January 18. This is the Titans' second win over the Hilltoppers this season. However, the Avalanche went undefeated in conference play, which crowns them as the victor of the three-team Mississippi Valley.

Tomah/Sparta chalked one up on the scoreboard with a shot from Collin Ritter

at 3:38 into the first. Next up to get one into the net was Brennan Otten at 10:28, and two minutes later, Parker Holloway slipped a puck in to bring the Titans up 3-0. Another two minutes later, like clockwork, Holloway snagged another point to end the first period, 4-0.

Scoring didn't resume until the third period, when Holloway completed the hat trick with his third goal in-a-row, at 10:30 on a power play. Tomah/Sparta's Landon Burkhardt wrapped up the night with the Titans' sixth goal with less than 3 minutes left in the game.

Leading Tomah/Sparta in goals was

Holloway with 3. Despite outshooting the Titans, Onalaska wasn't able to get a single puck past Tomah/Sparta's Ashton Steele, who had 35 saves. Titans' offense had 26 shots on the Hilltopper goaltenders.

UP NEXT

Tomah/Sparta (9-8) hosts D.C. Everest (8-11) at 7 p.m. at the Tomah Ice Center on Tuesday, January 22. Later in the week, the Titans will go back-to-back on the road. First, they're off to Amery (15-2) this Friday, January 26 at 7 p.m., and then to Baldwin-Woodville (4-12-1) on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

WIAA TOURNAMENT



Tomah's Jeff Brieske helped guide his team to its third victory of the year with a 74-73 win over Black River Falls on Thursday, January 18 at THS. Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

Gerke's trip to FT line sets up win

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

Tomah guard Quinn Gerke has been a revelation for the Timberwolves during his highly successful freshman season. The impact he's been able to make on this team this year was perhaps never more apparent than with what he helped do to will them to a win late last week.

Behind the best performance yet of Gerke's young career, the Timberwolves (3-10) managed to scrape out a 74-73 victory over Black River Falls (2-10) in a closely contested non-conference battle Thursday, January 18 in Tomah.

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for Tomah and became the team's first win of 2024, but it took until the final seconds to make it a reality.

The Timberwolves narrowly trailed 32-31 at the halftime intermission before settling into a back-and-forth second half between the two teams.

It ultimately came down TOMAH cont. pg 7

BOYS BASKETBALL TOMAH AT SPARTA

County rivals face off with first MVC win on the line

By NATE BEIER
Sports Editor

The wintery outburst the Coulee Region was dealt back on January 12 shook up the high schools sports calendar with dozens of postponements and cancellations.

The first meeting between Sparta and Tomah in boys basketball fell victim to the circumstances and was rescheduled for tonight, Monday, January 22. The cross county rivals will play starting around 7:15 this evening in Sparta.

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STATEMENT

cont. from pg 5

who picked up his 100th win with the Eagles on Thursday night. "I couldn't be happier for (the players). I just love the way they approached it."

On an evening where Cashton got strong contributions from all over its senior-laden rotation, it was Noah Hemmersbach who stole the show by dropping 30 points. That marked his third 30-point performance in the Eagles' last four outings.

"We've been working all year for this game," Hemmersbach said. "It's a big game and it feels great to win."

In addition to Hemmersbach's 30 points, the Eagles also had Connor Butzler with 15 points, Brady Hemmersbach with 11 points, Brett Hemmersbach with 10 points and Ben Grandall with

We haven't arrived yet. We're hunting. This is a group — we have so much more to get.

- Scot Wall, Cashton basketball head coach

nine points.

Bangor senior forward Chase Horstman led the way for his team with 23 points and 19 rebounds for an impressive double-double, senior guard Nolan Michek contributed 11 points, senior forward Willis Pollock finished with six points and six rebounds and senior forward Lucas Horman hauled in five rebounds.

With that win, there's now no doubt who is the team to beat for the Scenic Bluffs crown heading into the home stretch of this season. It's the Eagles who are in pole position as they pursue their first conference championship since 1987, but they certainly aren't resting on their laurels yet.

"We'll never arrive until we've arrived. We haven't arrived yet," Wall said. "We're hunting. This is a group — we have so much more to get. So, they're looking forward to the next challenge."

UP NEXT

The Eagles have little time to bask in the glow of the Bangor win, as they get another massive Scenic Bluffs showdown when they welcome in Royall (11-2, 4-1) Tuesday, January 23 at 7 p.m. in Cashton. The first meeting between the two came on December 8, when Cashton beat the Panthers 56-52 in Elroy.

Elsewhere on Tuesday night, the Cardinals will host the Necedah Cardinals (4-7, 2-4) at 7 p.m. in Bangor.

BY THE NUMBERS

100

It was memorable night for both the Cashton program and its head coach Scot Wall, who picked up his 100th win at the helm of the Eagles.

29

Cashton's win over Bangor ended a 29-game winning streak by the Cardinals in this rivalry series, as well as a 17-game losing streak for the Eagles in Bangor. Cashton's last win against the Cardinals was January 23, 2009, with their last victory in Bangor coming a year earlier on January 8, 2008.

The two teams only played once in the 2017-18 season due to weather and scheduling conflicts.

22

Cashton's 22-point final margin of victory against the Cardinals also matched the largest lead of the night.

15-0

After briefly trailing 12-10, the Eagles used a 15-0 run in the middle portion of the first half to surge ahead. Bangor never got closer than an eight-point deficit the rest of the way.



ABOVE Cashton's Connor Butzler finishes a breakaway run to the basket with a layup in the second half of Thursday's game.



ABOVE The Cashton student section cheers on their basketball team as they pull away from Bangor in the second half of Thursday's SBC meeting.

LEFT Bangor's Chase Horstman pulls up for a shot. Horstman led BHS with 23 points in the loss.

Herald photos by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.



ABOVE Cashton's Brady Hemmersbach works his way around a defending Chase Horstman on his way to the basket before taking a shot, grabbing the rebound on a miss and getting fouled on the second attempt following a make.

LEFT Cashton's Noah Hemmersbach sprints away from the Bangor defense after a Cardinal turnover in the second half of Thursday's Scenic Bluffs showdown.



GIRLS BASKETBALL SPARTA 38 LA CROSSE CENTRAL 33

Sparta's 16-0 run sets up win against Central

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

In just three games since senior guard Evie Tripp returned to the Sparta lineup after her recovery from a major knee injury, the difference has been palpable. Beyond just playing better, the Spartans are finding their way into the win column.

After dropping their first five games of the season against MVC competition, the Spartans (6-12 overall, 2-5 Mississippi Valley) have now won two conference games in a row thanks to a tight 38-33 victory over La Crosse Central

(6-10, 3-3) Friday, January 19 in Sparta.

The Riverhawks got off to a 7-2 start in the opening portion of Friday night's game, but Sparta was quick to strike back with a 16-0 run to surge ahead by double digits. La Crosse Central closed the half strong to get its deficit down to 20-15 at the midway intermission.

A 10-2 Spartan run to begin the second half allowed them to take their largest lead of the night at 30-17. The Sparta offense went cold with only eight points over the final 12 minutes, but it was enough in the end as La Crosse Central

never got closer than a three-point deficit down the stretch.

Sparta sophomore Izzy Mickelson led the charge with 10 points and six rebounds to lead the team in both categories, Evie Tripp finished with eight points and four rebounds, senior Amelia Russ and sophomore Lily Seifert each scored five points, senior Corin Milne and junior Kylie Burton both hauled in five rebounds and sophomore Elexa Jones contributed four points, five assists and five steals.

La Crosse Central senior forward/guard Summer Lonning tallied a game-high

14 points in the loss.

The Riverhawks won the first meeting between these two teams 57-41 back on December 5 in La Crosse.

UP NEXT

The Spartans get a tough road conference test when they battle the Holmen Vikings (7-8, 5-1) Tuesday, January 23 at 7:15 p.m. in Holmen. The Vikings are coming off a 50-36 win over La Crosse Logan.

Sparta will then host La Crosse Logan (3-12, 2-5) on Friday, January 26. The Spartans were felled by the Rangers in overtime back in December.

GIRLS BASKETBALL AQUINAS 48 BANGOR 38



Bangor's Ella Janisch takes an arm to the face as Aquinas' Maddie Murphy commits a foul in the second half of Saturday's meeting between conference leaders. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

Cardinals come up short against #8 Aquinas

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite a game effort, Bangor was unable to knock off one of the state's top Division 3 teams. The Aquinas Blugolds (13-3) downed the Cardinals (13-2) 48-38 in their non-conference clash Saturday, January 20 in La Crosse.

Bangor took an early 7-0 lead in the matchup between defending conference champions of the Mississippi Valley and Scenic Bluffs Conferences. The Blugolds battled back and finally captured the lead at the 4:36 mark as the team went up 14-11. Bangor answered



Scan for full photo gallery of Bangor at Aquinas

with a three-pointer by Kiera Cavadini on the next possession, however.

Aquinas scored again at the 1:04 mark and held that 16-14 advantage at halftime. Though the Cardinals clung close across the first 18 minutes of play, the Blugolds then proceeded to outscore Bangor 32-24 over the final 18 minutes. Aquinas sophomore Samantha Davis connected on three three-pointers early

in the half before fouling out midway through the period.

The Cardinals were led in the loss by junior guard Anna Fronk with 10 points, freshman Kiera Cavadini with nine points, junior guard Aubrey Langrehr with eight points and senior forward Ella Janisch with six points.

Leaders for the Blugolds included sophomore forward Samantha Davis with 15 points, senior shooting guard Maddie Murphy with 10 points, freshman point guard Eva Willenbring with eight points and sophomore guard Alaina Elias with seven points.

TOMAH

cont. from pg 5

to a trip to the foul line for Gerke with his team trailing by one with seven seconds remaining. He calmly made both free throws to put Tomah ahead 74-73, the Tigers missed their final attempt at a game winner and the Timberwolves survived to notch their third win of the 2023-24 campaign.

Gerke led the charge for Tomah by posting a career-high 35 points to go along with eight rebounds and three steals. His electric performance featured him going 5 of 11 from 3-point range and 10 of 12 from the charity stripe.

Other leading contributors for the Timberwolves in the victory were freshman shooting guard Owen Laudon with 14 points and six assists,

sophomore forward Michael Zastoupil with 12 points, senior forward/center Jayden Brieske with five points and nine rebounds and both senior guard Landon Pierce and junior guard Jackson Steffl with five rebounds each.

Black River Falls senior forward Colin Zillmer was on fire from deep, going 7 of 12 on his 3-point attempts as part of a 24-point performance. Other top contributors on the night for the Tigers were freshman guard Braylon Backaus with 19 points and six rebounds, junior guard Nolan Boehm with 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists and junior guard Zaedyn Roseth with eight points and six rebounds.

Both teams put on a free-throw shooting clinic on Thursday night, as each squad went 22 of 26 from the line.

ONALASKA 64 TOMAH 32
Coming off its third win of the season the night prior

against Black River Falls, Tomah wasn't able to follow it up with its first conference victory. The Timberwolves (3-10 overall, 0-4 Mississippi Valley) fell to Onalaska (10-5, 5-0) 79-45 Friday, January 19 in Tomah.

Leading the way for Tomah in the defeat were freshman guard Quinn Gerke with 14 points that included four 3-pointers, sophomore forward Michael Zastoupil with 10 points and both junior forward Bruce Rezin and freshman shooting guard Owen Laudon with eight points apiece.

Onalaska senior guard Evan Anderson exploded for 32 points in the win.

UP NEXT

The Timberwolves are on the road in MVC action two nights in a row, playing Sparta (3-10, 0-4) on Monday, January 22 and La Crosse Aquinas (12-2, 3-2) on Tuesday, January 23.

GIRLS BASKETBALL BANGOR 85 CASHTON 24

Fronk posts career high in lopsided win over Cashton

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

The Bangor girls' basketball team continues to slowly lurch toward another Scenic Bluffs title, with their latest win coming in lopsided fashion against rival Cashton.

The Cardinals (13-2 overall, 9-0 Scenic Bluffs) bulldozed their way to an 85-24 victory over the Eagles (12-4, 6-3) in their SBC matchup Friday, January 19 in Bangor. By comparison, Bangor won the first meeting between the rivals by a much closer 59-40 final margin back on December 7 in Cashton.

In last Friday's rematch, the Cardinals put together a dominant opening half to build up an insurmountable 61-12 lead at the halftime break. After that, they were able to take their foot off the gas but still outscored Cashton 24-12 over the final 18 minutes.

Bangor junior guard Anna Fronk gave perhaps the best performance of her career by pouring in 38 points in the win. Other leading scorers for the Cardinals were junior guard Aubrey Langrehr with 16 points, freshman Kiera Cavadini with seven points and both senior Emily Warsing and sophomore

Kennedy Hamilton with five points.

Cashton senior guard Sydney Helgerson was the lone player on her team to hit double figures with 10 points, while junior guard Marlee Schroeder and junior center Taylor Lindley-Schendel chipped in five points apiece.

AROUND THE SBC

Bangor continues its pursuit of a 10-straight SBC title after moving to 9-0 in league action. The Cardinals have just five SBC contests remaining with just two against teams currently in the upper half of league standings.

Second place and D5 sixth-ranked Royall blocked out Hillsboro for a 59-39 win Friday night.

New Lisbon earned a 39-34 win over rival Necedah.

UP NEXT

The Eagles make a brief foray back into non-conference play when they host the Westby Norsemen (5-12) Monday, January 22 at 7:15 p.m. in Cashton.

Bangor doesn't return to action until taking on the Royall Panthers (15-1, 8-1) Thursday, January 25 at 7 p.m. in Elroy. The Cardinals can take big step towards capturing their 10-straight Scenic Bluffs title with a win over the second place

GIRLS BASKETBALL WONEWOC-CENTER 65 BROOKWOOD 47

Second half surge by W-C grounds Falcons

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

A lackluster second half ultimately spelled doom for the Brookwood Falcons (10-6 overall, 5-4 Scenic Bluffs) in their 65-47 conference loss to Wonewoc-Center (8-7, 3-6) Friday, January 19 in Wonewoc. After the two teams were deadlocked 28-28 at halftime, the Wolves held a decisive 37-19 scoring edge over the final 18 minutes.

Brookwood senior guard Vanessa Anderson put up 18 points to set the pace for her team, while sophomore guard Ruby Muehlenkamp scored 10 points and both senior forward Kymber Kaiser and sophomore guard Reagan

Muehlenkamp added six points apiece for the Falcons.

Wonewoc-Center junior guard Brooklynn Bolton poured in a game-high 27 points to help fuel the victory and senior guard Estanna Graewin tacked on 13 points of her own.

The win allowed the Wolves to earn a measure of revenge after losing 48-43 to Brookwood in their first meeting back on December 7 in Ontario.

UP NEXT

The Falcons will next make a detour into non-conference play when they host the Ithaca Bulldogs (8-6) Monday, January 22 at 7 p.m. in Ontario.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ONALASKA 64 TOMAH 32

T-Wolves drop eighth-straight MVC match

By ZACH RASTALL
Assistant Sports Editor

Tomah (3-13 overall, 0-7 Mississippi Valley) fell victim to a season sweep at the hands of the Onalaska Hilltoppers (11-5, 5-2) in their second matchup of the year, losing 64-32 on Friday, January 19 in Onalaska. The Hilltoppers also won their first meeting 69-34 in Tomah on December 5.

In the most recent of those matchups, the Timberwolves were led by junior forward Lily Noth with 13 points and nine rebounds and freshman guard Brielle Plueger with nine points on a trio of 3-pointers. Onalaska freshman guard Lauren Pica

splashed seven 3-pointers to score a career-high 21 points while senior guard Anna Skemp accumulated eight points, nine assists and six rebounds.

AROUND THE MVC

Aquinas (13-3, 6-0) held its lead atop the MVC with a 60-55 win at Onalaska on Tuesday, January 16.

UP NEXT

Things don't get any easier for the Timberwolves in their next MVC game, as they welcome in La Crosse Aquinas (13-3, 6-0) Tuesday, January 23 at 7:15 p.m. in Tomah. The Blugolds are ranked No. 8 in Division 3 in the most recent WisSports.net coaches' poll.



Sparta's Logan Engel prepares to take the mat during Saturday's invite in Sparta. Complete tournament coverage will be in Thursday's edition of The Herald. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

STANDINGS MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONFERENCE AS OF 1-22-24

GIRLS BASKETBALL

SCHOOL	OVERALL	MVC
AQUINAS	10-10	10-10
HOLMEN		
ONALASKA		
LA CROSSE CENTRAL		
LA CROSSE LOGAN		
SPARTA		
TOMAH		

BOYS BASKETBALL

SCHOOL	OVERALL	MVC
ONALASKA	10-5	5-0
LA CROSSE CENTRAL	6-7	5-0
AQUINAS	12-2	3-2
HOLMEN	4-11	2-3
LA CROSSE LOGAN	3-12	2-4
SPARTA	3-10	0-4
TOMAH	3-10	0-4

WRESTLING

SCHOOL	OVERALL	MVC
HOLMEN	8-5	4-0
AQUINAS	13-4	4-0
TOMAH	2-4	2-2
LA CROSSE	4-5*	1-3
SPARTA	8-8	1-3
ONALASKA	2-5	0-4

*incomplete records

BOYS HOCKEY

SCHOOL	OVERALL	MVC
AQUINAS	13-5	3-0
TOMAH	9-8	2-2
ONALASKA	5-12-1	0-3

STANDINGS MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONFERENCE AS OF 1-22-24

GIRLS BASKETBALL

SCHOOL	OVERALL	SBC
AQUINAS	10-10	10-10
HOLMEN		
ONALASKA		
LA CROSSE CENTRAL		
LA CROSSE LOGAN		
SPARTA		
TOMAH		

BOYS BASKETBALL

SCHOOL	OVERALL	SBC
ONALASKA	10-5	5-0
LA CROSSE CENTRAL	6-7	5-0
AQUINAS	12-2	3-2
HOLMEN	4-11	2-3
LA CROSSE LOGAN	3-12	2-4
SPARTA	3-10	0-4
TOMAH	3-10	0-4

WRESTLING

SCHOOL	OVERALL	SBC
ROYALL	5-3*	3-0
NEW LISBON	2-3*	2-1
HILLSBORO	2-4*	2-1
BROOKWOOD	3-7	1-3
CASHTON	0-13-1*	0-3

*incomplete records

AREA SCHEDULES
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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY



COULEE



SCENIC BLUFFS



BOYS BASKETBALL BROOKWOOD 61 NEW LISBON 45

Brookwood parlays five-point halftime lead into first win of 2024

By **ZACH RASTALL**
Assistant Sports Editor

For the first time in over a month, the Brookwood boys' basketball team got to enjoy the taste of victory.

The Falcons (3-10 overall, 2-3 Scenic Bluffs) ended their six-game losing skid and registered their first win of 2024 by going on the road and defeating the New Lisbon Rockets (1-11, 1-4) 61-45 in their conference matchup Thursday, January 18 in New Lisbon.

Brookwood only held a 25-20 lead at the halftime intermission but outscored the Rockets 36-25 in the second half to pull away for a 16-point victory.

Leading scorers for the

Falcons in the winning effort were senior forward/guard Wyatt Maurhoff with 24 points, sophomore forward/guard Jackson Cunitz with 16 points and senior guard Brady Hansen with 10 points.

New Lisbon junior center Ethan Forschler tallied 15 points on a 7-of-9 shooting performance to set the pace for his team.

UP NEXT

Brookwood has road games on back-to-back nights to begin the new week. The Falcons play De Soto (8-4) in non-conference play Monday, January 22 at 7:15 p.m. and then face Woneoc-Center (1-13, 0-7) in conference action Tuesday, January 23 at 7 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL AQUINAS 67 BANGOR 44

Blugolds exact revenge against BHS

By **ZACH RASTALL**
Assistant Sports Editor

In a rematch of a memorable regional game from last March that was won by Bangor, it was La Crosse Aquinas (12-2) who got the last laugh this time around by beating the Cardinals (7-5) in non-conference action 67-44 Saturday, January 20 in La Crosse.

Aquinas jumped out early, though Bangor made a run to make things manageable, but trailed 30-18 at the halftime break.

In the defeat, Bangor senior forward Chase Horstman recorded 14 points and nine rebounds, senior guard Nolan Michek finished with nine points and five rebounds and senior forward Lucas Horman with five points.

Leaders for the Blugolds included senior forward/guard Walter Berns with 16 points and senior guard Tanner Peterson with 14 points.

The win marked the 100 career victory for Aquinas head coach Brad Reinhart.

Slow start dooms Sparta against high-powered Central offense

By **ZACH RASTALL**
Assistant Sports Editor

Sparta's hunt for its first conference win of the season trudges on after the Spartans (3-10 overall, 0-4 Mississippi Valley) suffered an 82-47 defeat at the hands of the La Crosse Central RiverHawks (6-6, 5-0) Friday, January 19 in La Crosse.

The Riverhawks blew past SHS, leading 37-7 at the eight minute mark in the first half before cruising to the 45-point league victory.

In the loss, Sparta senior point guard John Rice and junior forward/center Gavin Rhead tallied 13 and 12 points, respectively, while junior forward Nate Guns tacked on five points. La Crosse Central was led by senior guard/wing Henry Meyer with 14 points, senior power forward Noah Dingel with 12 points and junior point guard Derrick Pangier with 10 points.



Scan for full photo gallery of Sparta at Central BBB

UP NEXT

The Spartans host a pair of MVC games on back-to-back days, welcoming in Tomah (3-10, 0-4) on Monday, January 22 and Holmen (4-11, 2-3) on Tuesday, January 23. Both games are set to get underway at 7:15 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL LA CROSSE CENTRAL 82 SPARTA 47



Sparta's Owen Berendes attacks the outside edge of the La Crosse Central defense with a dribble drive past the Riverhawks' Joey Pretasky in Friday's MVC contest. Herald photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

GYMNASTICS TAMI EFFINGER MEMORIAL INVITE



Westby's Isabell Korn (Cashton) performs a backwards walkover during her beam routine during Friday's invite. Korn scored an 8.55 on beam, placing fifth. Complete coverage of last week's invite will be in Thursday's edition of The Herald. Herald photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

BEIER

cont. from pg 5

their content. Even now, our periodicals can't seem to find a way to make people pay for viewing even a single story.

I get it, though. I, myself, just want to follow a headline from start to finish, but if you put any sort of paywall, I'll just click away. The thought of taking the five minutes it may take to set up some new account, no matter how cheap, is enough to make me just...move on to my next thought. I also don't trust most newspapers' security when it comes to my bank info - most seem to have websites built out of duct tape and paperclips, hardly the thing I want my credit card associated with.

So here's the double jeopardy publications face - people aren't rushing to the newsstands for the newest issue and people aren't giving the clicks desired to help pull in advertising.

If you have less clicks, less subscriptions, it's hard to get quality advertising to help fund the endeavor.

If there's no money coming in, how can you hire a quality writer or publisher that will deliver quality content readers

will race towards every time it's dropped?

The industry as a whole is in trouble and the Sports Illustrated debacle is just a high profile publication that's taking the limelight for the time being.

Through the recent layoff news I learned that SI had an AI (artificial intelligence) scandal in recent history. I have wondered how long it would take before our publications would be composed by robots. Obviously, it's been happening already and the length we let it reach has yet to be seen.

Let's face it, though. We as a society want things as quickly and cheaply as possible. The value we place on someone's time to write, on someone's time to research, to photograph, to come up with intelligent design is next to nil in most cases I've seen.

It seems to be that if we can make the robots do it, and do it quickly and cheaply, then it's all okay.

The loss of a publication - if that's where it goes - like Sports Illustrated signifies more than just a loss of a pretty magazine with neat little sports pictures and cute stories. It's a sign that today's society doesn't find enough value in that sort of thing. The metrics - subscriptions, clicks, sales and the like just don't

support it.

It's a sad thing to me. It shows me that our society doesn't find value in being literate and exercising that ability for something that could be more thought provoking than reading the menu at the local McDonald's.

However, that's a slippery slope to be on.

Losing a publication like SI is one thing. It's there to entertain. What are the consequences of losing that in the big picture?

I'll extrapolate this scenario out some and also bring it home.

When low readership numbers yield low advertising revenue for local publications, that's when we lose our local outlets for news. Losing our local news outlets is something that no citizen should be okay with.

The press, the media are considered the fourth estate. It and its representatives were acknowledged by the forefathers of this country when they established our system of government. They wanted the fourth estate to exist and be protected so that it may help work as yet another cog of the system of checks and balances that were created via our three branches of government.

The media is allowed to

exist in a certain space so it can perform its number one function - inform the public of what its government is doing.

A great example of this situation is the ordeal we had in Wilton two summers ago. The Wilton pool issues and other government turmoil we had surrounding that would have mostly gone unnoticed even by the local community.

However, the persistent and thorough coverage by the County Line newspaper in Ontario put a light on what was happening. It put our elected officials in the limelight and challenged their decisions. It put our town on notice and managed to motivate several folks to get interested in what they were doing.

As much as our government didn't seem to want anyone asking questions about what they were doing, that was the right thing to do.

Fast forward to 20 months or so later and we now have embezzlement charges against our former clerk.

These things wouldn't have happened if we didn't have something like the local newspaper keeping readers informed on what was going on with their elected officials.

Like I said, losing SI is one thing, but where does the trend end? Losing the fourth estate at the local level is something

that too many communities have already had to deal with.

Are we ready for more places to not have a watchdog for their public representatives? Are we ready to live in a world where our government can do deals in the dark, hide in the shadows and not be held accountable for their actions?

That's something none of us can afford.

How do you reverse the trend? Well, buy and read a newspaper. Send email or letters asking why they are or aren't covering certain topics - especially when it comes to local government. Consider advertising in a publication or, when you notice one that does advertise, let that business know where you saw their ad.

To close, I'll wrap this back to back around to the Sports Illustrated layoff story.

Should the publication cease to be, so be it. That's a huge loss for so many reasons. I'll lament the loss like others, but will also look back on what it meant to me in the casual connection I had with it.

To me, getting a copy of Sports Illustrated meant that I had the standard of a sports publication in my hand.

The photography was jaw-dropping and made me aspire to capture similar moments.

However, the real kick for me was studying the layout

and design. The creative design work is something that inspires me to do what I do even now in these pages. Losing that type of soulful approach to a publication is something I can't fathom, something we all lose from if it should go away. Talented artists and designers do work that stands out at times, but the majority of it never gets noticed - it just 'happens' and blends in with the rest of the package.

Those things that just 'happen,' though will forever remain iconic in the minds of its loyal readers. The photos from 'Leading Off,' and those covers that heralded the week's biggest stories - those are things that forever changed the way we consumed sports.

It's a shame to think that could all be gone, but maybe we took it all for granted a little too much. Maybe this shakeup is exactly what we need to give us all new purpose to reinvest in something we supposedly put value in, both in a national publication we find fun and entertaining, but in a local reader as well, in order to make sure we're informed and involved about the communities we've chosen to live in.



Charlie Neitzel, of New Lisbon, failed to yield on a trail just west of Kendall, and struck the vehicle of Lori Bandle, in her driveway. Only minor injuries were reported. Contributed photo.

Snowmobile crash in Kendall

MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
News Release

One man was injured after a snowmobile crashed into a car on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024. Just before 1 p.m. the Monroe County 911 Communications Center received a 911 call from a 3rd party, advising that her sister was involved in a crash with a snowmobile, at an address on Hwy 71, just west of the Village of Kendall.

After more information gathering, emergency responders were able to locate the crash, which occurred where the snowmobile trail crosses a private driveway.

Deputies investigating the crash found that Charlie Neitzel, of New Lisbon, had been traveling the trail on his 2021 Skidoo when he failed to yield at the driveway. Lori Bandle, of Kendall, was driving up the driveway when Neitzel struck the front of Bandle's vehicle, causing him to be ejected from the snowmobile. Neitzel suffered minor injuries from the crash that did not require medical attention.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Monroe County 911 Communications Center, Kendall Fire Department, and Wilton Ambulance.

TOMAH SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Monday, December 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
The meeting was held at the Robert Kupper Learning Center, 1310 Townline Road, Tomah.
The meeting was called to order by Michael Gnewikow at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023.
Present: Susan Bloom, Michael Gnewikow, Aaron Lueck, Ricky Murray, James Newlun, Spencer Stephens Absent: Cathryn Rice. Also Present: Michelle Clark, Mike Hanson, Robert Joyce, Brian Oberweiser, Angela Plueger, Lily Joyce, and 14 spectator(s).
A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion made by Aaron Lueck, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve the student application to study abroad. Motion made by Spencer Stephens, seconded by Ricky Murray. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve the Tomah High School band and choir students out of District trip to Honors Festival hosted by Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, for Honor Choir - January 7-8, 2024, and Honor Band - February 25-26, 2024. Motion made by James Newlun, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve the gifts of money/materials, as presented, with many thanks. Motion made by Susan Bloom, seconded by Ricky Murray. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Traditional Academic Calendars, as presented. Motion made by Aaron Lueck, seconded by Susan Bloom. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve two new courses for the 2024-2025 school year: Tomah Middle School Introduction to Woods (8th Grade) and Tomah High School Introduction to Robotics: Robotics Application that is transcribed through Western Technical College (WTC) as an Industry Credential Certified Course. Motion made by Susan Bloom, seconded by Spencer Stephens. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve three new Carrier rooftop units at Tomah High School. Motion made by James Newlun, seconded by Ricky Murray. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Return to School Plan, as presented. Motion made by Susan Bloom, seconded by Ricky Murray. All ayes, the motion carried.
Second Reading and Consideration for Approval Policies: Policies 1421/3121/4121 - Criminal History Record Check and Employee Self-Reporting Requirements (Revised); Policies 1623/3123/4123 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment (Rescind); Policies 1630.01/3430.01/4430.01 Family and Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) (Revised); Policy 2340 District Sponsored Trips; Policies 3139/4139 Staff Discipline (Revised); Policy 5505 Activities Code (Revised); Policy 7440.01 Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring (Revised); Policy 8310 Public Records (Revised); Policy 8913 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment (New/Renumbered). Motion to approve the policies, as presented. Motion made by Ricky Murray, seconded by Aaron Lueck. All ayes, the motion carried.
Contemplated closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute section 19.85(1)(c) to discuss the compensation of a recently hired teacher; and discuss the terms of the contracts for administrators as well as the approval and renewal of administrator contracts. Reconvene in open session. Take action, as appropriate, regarding closed session business. Motion to go into Closed Session at 9:01 p.m. Motion made by Susan Bloom, seconded by Aaron Lueck. Roll call vote: Aaron Lueck - Yes; Susan Bloom - Yes; Michael Gnewikow - Yes; Ricky Murray - Yes; Spencer Stephens - Yes; James Newlun - Yes. There were 6 'yes' votes and 0 'no' votes and 0 abstains, the motion carried.
Motion to reconvene to open session at 9:13 p.m. Motion made by James Newlun, seconded by Spencer Stephens. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve up to \$1000 being reimbursed to a recently hired teacher. Motion made by Susan Bloom, seconded by James Newlun. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to approve administrative contracts, as presented. Motion made by Aaron Lueck, seconded by Ricky Murray. All ayes, the motion carried.
Motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Motion made by Ricky Murray, seconded by Spencer Stephens. All ayes, the motion carried.
1/22 WNAXLP

UW-Eau Claire Fall Dean's list announced

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire extends congratulations to the 2,778 students named to the fall 2023 dean's list. Their academic performance has been outstanding, and we recognize these students with pride. Congratulations, Blugolds!

Students from the Monroe County area who were named to the Dean's List are as follows.

Cashton, WI

Rachel Klinkner, College of Arts and Sciences

Natalie Kramer, College of Education & Human Sciences
Evelyn Kuhn, College of Arts and Sciences

Sparta, WI

Owen Budin, College of Arts and Sciences

Bryson Gasch, College of Business

Anna George, College of Education & Human Sciences

Katelyn Humphrey, College of Education & Human Sciences

Cali Martozie, College of Arts and Sciences

Toby Mohr, College of Arts and Sciences

Carly Muller, College of Nurs and Hlth Sciences

Cammi Stelter, College of Nurs and Hlth Sciences

Kennedy Stuessel, College of Education & Human Sciences

Paige Winterton, College of Nurs and Hlth Sciences

Reghan Yourell, College of Arts and Sciences

Tomah, WI

Hanna Adler, College of Nurs and Hlth Sciences

Zaine Daly, College of Arts and Sciences

Colton Dechant, College of Arts and Sciences

Peyton Foster, College of Nurs and Hlth Sciences

Michael Holtz, College of Education & Human Sciences

Samantha Spang, College of Education & Human Sciences

Warrens, WI

Jocelyn Battista, College of Education & Human Sciences

Emmalyn Koboski, College of Nurs and Hlth Sciences

Matt Murphy, College of Education & Human Sciences

consumption of dairy milk so low. At the same time, the costs of milk production are going up. So many dairy farmers are going big to stay in business, which keeps the supply up and milk prices low. We are determined to stay small, sustainable, and organic."

In order to stay organic, in the summer, 30% of the food the cows eat needs to be organic pasture. To fulfill this need, special paddocks have been created, which feature a mix of organic clovers and grasses. Well water is also brought up to the paddocks by water lines.

In addition to grazing, the Menns grow a mix of organic alfalfa, corn, oats, and barley, to feed their Jersey heifers, cows, and singular bull. Jackie and Harvey were happy to clarify the differences between all these classifications: "Once a heifer has her first calf, she is a cow. Cows are not bulls and bulls are not cows, and don't ever try to milk a bull!" laughed the couple. Humor and faith seem to be very important to this family, who understand that, "We have to take it day by day. It's all very much in the hands of God."

Conservation Measures

Over the years, the Menns have been steadily taking increasing measures to conserve the land. Organic farming, in itself, is an act to conserve the land. Growing organic feed, by using contour strip farming and grass waterways, protects from the feed from chemical exposure and erosion. Crop rotation helps with weed control and erosion, as well as protecting against issues, such as drought.

By planting alfalfa with oats and barley, the alfalfa is able to grow deep roots and thrive under the protection of the quick growing and anchoring grains. After the grain harvest, the alfalfa was well established and even survived the drought. Restoring the stream and creating a fishing easement has been a win-win, for both wildlife and recreation. As another example of a win-win situation, Monroe County Land Conservation Director, Bob Micheel, reached out to the local high school Agriculture Department, for help with the stream restoration project. Students participated in making the

BANQUET

Continued from Front Page

stream's lunkers and gained important experience in land management, ecology and teamwork. A lunker is a crib-like, wooden structure that creates cover and a resting are for fish. By renovating paddocks and planting native wildflowers, the Menn family has also increased wildlife habitat.

Hard Work and Keeping Busy

Despite any and all challenges, milk production continues. Every other day, like clockwork, the "milkman" comes and hauls the Menns' organic milk to Westby, to be processed by the organic division of Westby Cooperative Creamery. Harvey stated, "It seems like having a 40-hour work week would afford a lot of free time. We are always working. I have my career in farming, and taught as more of a hobby for 28 years - Technology Education, at Brookwood High School, and raised 4 children with my wife. We like to stay busy."

Jackie continued, "We sometimes wonder at how we did it. I was also working for 4-H while getting my masters, raising our children, and running the farm."

In addition to all of this, the Menns explain, "The sixth generation of Menns have added numerous critters to the farmstead, including horses, goats, rabbits, chickens, show pigeons, AKC collies, sheep, and pigs, to delight our animal-loving visitors. Every year we load up our menagerie and head to a variety of community events, to share our petting zoo with others."

Supporting Our Local Farmers

The Menns offered this compassionate insight into sustainable family farming: "Generally speaking, people don't understand what farmers go through, taking care of their farms, day and night. They don't think about the heartbreak of sick animals, or the tears shed over one that they try everything for, but end up losing the battle anyway. They don't know how many things farmers give up, or how late they stay in the barn at night, treating an animal, in hopes it's going to be better in the morning ... and then she's not. And then there is sadness, frustration, defeat. Caring so

much, trying so hard, hurts. The comfort comes in knowing that working this hard, doing all things as to God, to do our best with what he has given to us, is all we can do. He gives. He takes. We must trust his wisdom in the outcome."

Heritage Depends on Helping Hands

As newlyweds, Harvey and Jackie were fortunate to have the skilled hands of Robert Menn on the farm, during those early years, as well as Harvey's mom, Donna Menn, to help with after school but drop offs. Later, when some of the children were a little older, the family found more harmony, by homeschooling and encouraging the children to take part in dairy farming.

Local high school students in Harvey's classes, who showed an interest in agriculture, have also worked on the farm over the years. With homeschooling now complete, Jackie and Harvey's fourth and youngest son, Kyle Menn, has begun his college short course in farming, while working on the farm because he wants to help continue their family tradition. Harvey and Jackie are glad that all 4 children, Kayla, Jenna, Ryan, and Kyle, want to help their family's heritage continue into the future.

To learn more about the Menn Family Farm, visit: lawviewfarm@yahoo.com

To enjoy organic products made from their Jerseys' organic milk, check out: <https://www.westbycreamery.com/organic>

Tickets Still Available for Award Banquet on Saturday, January 27, 2024

The public is invited to the 2024 Monroe County Land Stewardship Awards Banquet. The dinner banquet will be held at 5 p.m., at the Sparta American Legion, on Saturday, January 27, 2024, with an evening meal, award presentations, youth poster contest recognition, and speakers. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth under 15, and can be purchased through the Land Conservation Department, located at 820 Industrial Drive, Suite 3, in Sparta. Please register by 1/22/24. For additional information, contact Tracy, at 608-269-8973, or via email, at tracy.antonneau@co.monroe.wi.us

Dexter the Dog update Abandoned canine thriving in new home

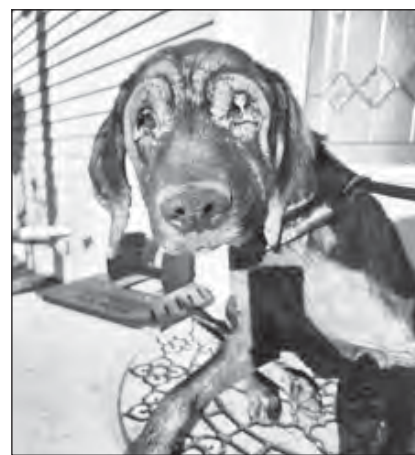
By BENNY MAILMAN
Editor

Recently, Herald reporter, Jayme Bahl, reported on an abandoned dog. The following was the intro to the article.

Along the county border, in the village of Cashton, on November 21st, 2023, a dog was found, alone and in poor health. Upon discovery, the property owner contacted Monroe County's humane officers, who responded to the residence and took the dog.

While the dog received veterinarian care, the shelter did some searching and found out that the owner was Caleb J. Seibert, 21, of Westby. Further investigation, along with the Westby Police Department, resulted in Seibert being referred to the Vernon County District Attorney's Office, for animal cruelty and abandonment. While the case is still under investigation, it has not stopped the community from showing the dog, Dexter, love.

The Herald is happy to report that not only has Dexter been adopted, but he is thriving and healthy in his new home. Dexter's loving new foster mother is Amy DuPont



(left)When Dexter was found, he was in very poor condition. Abandoned, the best that Dexter could hope for was to be recued. He was rescued and is receiving top care and love from his new foster mother, Amy DuPont Guzman. Contributed photo.
(right)This is Dexter today. He looks so much better, but is still having trouble with his kidneys. Contributed photo.

Guzman. The following message was received at the Herald, via email, from Guzman:

I'm reaching out with an update. This week, the Vernon County District Attorney's Office charged Caleb Seibert with a misdemeanor charge of intentionally mistreating an animal. I wish Seibert was facing additional and more serious charges, but one charge is better than none at all.

Seibert's first court appearance is February 7th. I will be there. I know it's unlikely, but I don't want

Seibert to receive a plea deal. I'm hoping by being in court on Dexter's behalf, the judge won't forget what Dexter looked like the day Seibert dumped him and left him to die.

I also hope you will continue to report on Dexter's case. Your coverage may not have an impact on Dexter's case, but it may encourage someone who witnesses animal abuse and/or neglect to report it.

Guzman also reported that she had stopped into the Veterinarian's office last week and all staff members stopped in to see Dexter. "It's

no surprise they love him too," Guzman told the Herald. "Dexter has an impact on everyone he meets."

Guzman also reported that the vet delivered encouraging news. "Dexter is improving. His hair is almost all back, and he's up to 70lbs, but unfortunately, his kidney disease has not improved. We hope with more time and medicine, it will get better."

The Herald will keep readers updated on Dexter and the court case against his former owner.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN - CIRCUIT COURT - LA CROSSE COUNTY
CREATIVE FINANCE, INC.
 815 Business Park Road
 PO Box 454
 Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965,
 Case No. 23CV482
 Plaintiff,
 v.
RONNY LEO POFF
 813 Mclean Avenue
 Tomah, WI 54660

OLIVIA MARIE BELL
 813 Mclean Avenue
 Tomah, WI 54660
 Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
 To each person named above as a Defendant:
 You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above Creative Finance, Inc., by its attorney, Christopher M. Kern, filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within Forty (40) days the 4 th day of January, 2024, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is: Clerk of Circuit Court, La Crosse County Courthouse, 333 Vine Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601, and to Plaintiff's attorney, Christopher M. Kern, 815 Business Park Road, PO Box 454, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, 53965. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not provide a proper answer within forty (40) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. Dated this 4 th day of January, 2024.

General Counsel for Plaintiff
 Signed By: Christopher M. Kern
 Christopher M. Kern
 State
 Bar Number: 1093883
 Creative Finance, Inc.
 815 Business Park Road
 P.O. Box 454
 Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
 Phone: (608) 254-6855
 Fax: (608) 253-5005
 legal@creativefinanceinc.com
 1/8, 15, 22 WNAXLP

MEETINGS

■The Monroe County Board at 6:00pm at the District Broadband Special Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Justice Center.
 ■The Trustees of Erv's Sparta Area Fire Protection District will meet on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm at the District Station 2, 118 E. Oak St., Sparta.
 ■The Monroe County Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:00pm at the Justice Center.

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HELP WANTED

Water System Operations and Maintenance Position Opening

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

POSITION SUMMARY

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

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintenance and operation of a water production and distribution system.

Monitoring and operation of wells, filter plants, hydrants and valves including data and water sample collection.

Assist in repairs of water main breaks, service leaks and curb boxes.

Install water meters, cross connection inspections, perform leak detection and inspections, customer service complaint investigations, and meter reading. Tests and records data for meter maintenance.

Ability to complete locate requests. Ability to perform physical and manual work including lifting, pulling, climbing, standing, and walking.

Ability to work under various weather and working conditions including confined spaces.

Ability to communicate effectively and courteously with the general public, board members, administration, supervisors, other City employees, construction contractors, and others.

Ability to take direction, facilitate communication, resolve problems, work individually and as a part of a team.

Ability and strength to fabricate plumbing from ¾" to 12" piping, safely and repetitively lift 50 lbs. and the exertion of physical effort in water repair situations.

Complete annual maintenance on hydrants and valves.

The position also requires the employee to rotating weekend and holiday shifts.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Graduation from high school or equivalent.

Must possess a valid Wisconsin driver's license and access to an operable and licensed vehicle.

The candidate shall hold or have the ability to obtain OIT Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Certifications in Groundwater and Distribution within one (1) year under NR 114. Experience in day-to-day Water Utility operations is a plus.

SALARY & BENEFITS

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

Email to City of Sparta water@spartawisconsin.org
Mail to City of Sparta, Attn: Todd Hanson | 201 W Oak St, Sparta, WI 54656

Applications/resumes must be received no later than **February 9, 2024.**



Ted Lange and Mollie B, famous performers and both International Polka Association Hall of Fame members, bought a small farm, in Monroe County, in May of 2021. They play a 130 shows a year. Contributed photo.

Mollie B and Ted Lange call Monroe County home

Famous musicians have a storied life

By **LARRY SCHECKEL**
Contributing Writer

A pair of musical talents have arrived in the rural Driftless Area of Monroe County, in southwest Wisconsin. Mollie B and Ted Lange both grew up in musically saturated families, which thrust them both into the magical world of music at the earliest of ages. The musical duo has seen Hall of Fame inductions, many successful ventures, and even a role in a famous movie, directed by a huge fan of theirs, Clint Eastwood.

Mollie B was born in Dubuque, Iowa, into the musical family of Jim and Mary Busta. Jim says, "I grew up on a farm in northeast Iowa, and Polka music was played. My father had a button accordion at home, and I used to sneak away and play it. When I was in my early 20s, I purchased my first concertina, and I bought a self-instruction book."

The family moved to Spring Grove, Minnesota, where Jim Busta was hired as Superintendent of the Spring Grove School System. Spring Grove is big on the Arts, boasting the Giants of the Earth Norwegian Center and Ye Olde Opera House.

Mollie's big break came at age eleven, when a trumpet player was needed for the Jim Busta Polka Band, her father's musical endeavor. She also played keyboard. After High School, it was off to Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa, where Mollie majored in Music, with a minor in Business Management.

Mollie taught music at West Salem Elementary and Middle School for a year, and another five years at Lanesboro, Minnesota. Mollie B says, "A highlight of that time in my life was playing Maria, in the *Sound of Music*, at age 23, at the Ye Olde Opera House."

Now About Ted

A big boost to the Mollie B and Ted Lange careers came in 2011, when they arrived in Branson, Missouri, with Christmas Shows at the RFD-TV Theatre and the Jim Stafford Theatre. Since 2017, Mollie moved her Christmas Show to the CAL Center, at Reedsburg High School.

The three sellout performances on December 2-3, 2023, featured 38 cast members, who played, sang, and danced to the delighted crowds, highlighting Christmas from around the world.

Mollie's tour de force was playing the Twelve Days of Christmas medley. Yes, Mollie played 12 instruments, including the alphorn, with bits of 12 Christmas carols. It's an amazing feat. Mollie B plays 17 different musical instruments. She revealed,



Mollie B plays 17 different instruments, with her favorite being the Grand piano. Her next favorites are the saxophone and trumpet. Contributed photo.

"The grand piano is my favorite, followed by the trumpet and the saxophone." Mollie B and Ted Lange were married in October 2011. They perform approximately 130 shows per year, which translates to 300 days on the road.

Movie

Mollie and Ted were featured in the Clint Eastwood movie, *The Mule*, filmed in 2018, in Jonesboro, Georgia. When asked what it was like to be in the same film with a famed movie star, Mollie B said, "Oh, he was just a regular guy, easy to talk to, and very kind. Eastwood is a big polka music fan and watches our show on the RFD Channel on Saturday night."

In the two-minute segment, Mollie sings, plays trumpet, keyboard, and saxophone, and then greets and dances with Eastwood. Ted Lange sings and plays accordion. Mollie and Ted co-wrote the song they performed, which was pre-approved by Clint Eastwood. Mollie wrote the instrumental part and the chorus, and Ted wrote the lyrics and music of the verse.

Awards

Mollie B's awards are many, including being named the 2013 Polka Performer of the Year. But arguably the most prestigious honor came in 2018 when Mollie B became the youngest performer inducted into the International Polka Association Hall of Fame.

Ted Lange is a famed accordion player, two-time Grammy nominee, member of the International Polka Association Hall of Fame, and the 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 IPA Best International Male Vocalist. He co-manages the SqueezeBox Band with Mollie B, and has worn the hats of award-winning musician, D.J., promoter, engineer, song writer, arranger, and producer.

Buying a farm.

How did a pair of famed

stage performers end up on a small farm in Wisconsin? Mollie B answered, "We wanted to be close to my parents, who live in Onalaska. We wanted a somewhat isolated place, small acreage, good neighbors, and beautiful vistas. We love this land, this quiet place, so we bought it in May 2021. We have our two-year-old dog, Tom-Tom, and four goats. And we have converted an out-building to Ted's office/studio." The small farm that they now call home, is in Monroe County, just south of Tomah.

Future

The Jimmy Sturr-Mollie B Caribbean Polka Cruise sets sail out of Ft. Lauderdale, from January 13th through the 20th, 2024. My wife, Ann, and I took the Cruise in January 2023, and it was fantastic. Mollie B. has been to 15 European countries, and she is going back. It's a land tour, from June 24th through July 7th, 2024, called the Mollie B and Ted Lange European tour. The tour will visit Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Germany. Mollie B emphasized, "We have one slot left, two tour buses with a total of 90 travelers, hosted with a family decades-old touring company."

Where to find Mollie B

The Mollie B Polka Party is on the RFD Channel, on Wednesdays, at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9 p.m. They have recorded from 2011 to 2016. Covid hit in March 2020 and live shows were shut down. Ted and Mollie moved their focus to their YouTube Channel. Mollie B can be found on YouTube.com/MollieB, that has 26,000 subscribers, showing 199 videos that are free for anyone to watch.

When asked about the future, Mollie B replied, "I love what I do. God has blessed me with some talents, and I want to share them with others."

To learn more about Mollie B, visit MollieB.com.

Job Opening

Sanitation System Operations and Maintenance Position:

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

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

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

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Old school barbering by Curt Wells

BY JOHN GESSNER
Staff Writer

On March 25th, 2024, local barber, Curt Wells, will have completed 58 years in a profession he loves. In this time, it is estimated that Curt has performed over 100,000 haircuts from his start at the former Sidney Hotel, to Fort McCoy, to his present location, at Curt's Family Hairstyling, at 116 East Franklin Street, in Sparta.

Old School
Curt graduated from the Waterloo, Iowa Barber College, on March 24th, 1966, back in the day when the trade was apprenticed from experienced gray-haired barbers, who had mastered their techniques over the decades. Curt's career plans were almost derailed when he was drafted, during the Vietnam War era. A simple medical condition kept him from going into the service.

Having been in business for 58 years, Curt is able to take us back to Sparta's early days,

as he chats with his customers on a variety of subjects. The day after graduating from barber college, he entered the work force, first employed at the former Sparta Sidney Hotel, on the Northeast corner of West Oak and Court Streets. The 50-room hotel was constructed in 1879, as the Warner Hotel, changed to the Sidney Hotel in 1928.

Early Days
The Sidney was billed as a modern European style hotel, with full services, including a dining room and barber shop. The hotel burned down in 1968 and the Union National Bank now occupies the corner. Back in those days, Sparta had a booming downtown business district, with at least three drug stores, three shoe stores, jewelry stores, a JC Penney's, and a Sears department store. At that time, haircuts were \$1.75, rounded to \$2.00, if Curt were to receive a quarter tip.

Curt's first barber experience was in the half-basement level of the Sidney Hotel, with

windows looking out at the sidewalk level. Curt said that he got to know the residents of Sparta by their legs because that's the outside view he saw from his barber chair.

Branching out
In 1971, it was time to branch out on his own, as he joined forces with Bob Libke, at his present location. Since that time, thousands of patrons have passed through his doors, most of them loyal customers, who continue to come back for a quality haircut. Curt learned a the most important barber lesson, a long time ago, from one of his mentors; "Listen to what the customer wants, not what you think he wants." That way, if you give a good haircut, customers will return.

A Call to Cut
In the 53 years at the Franklin Steet shop, Curt has varied his routine slightly. He joined an increasing number of barbers at Fort McCoy, during the early years of the Afghanistan and Iraq War deployments. He very much enjoyed the stories from the

soldiers, especially those who received their redeployment haircuts. Another change was relocating to Cashton, after the local barber retired. He still drives to Cashton on Fridays, remaining the town's barber.

In August of 2018, Colonel James Parkinson - Deputy Garrison Commander of Fort McCoy, was getting his haircut and noticed that the exterior of the shop had seen better days. Jim mentioned this to his son, Cody, who mobilized the youth group from Sparta's Faith Evangelical Free Church. In a few days, Curt's Family Hairstyling was descended upon by students with buckets of paint, to give the building a like new facelift. Curt was speechless when the bill for the painting was zero.

On the side, Curt owns a farm, but as he ages, he plans on passing the farm and associated duties down to his sons. In his earlier years, he continued mentoring himself, as he traveled throughout Wisconsin and into Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota, to assist



Barber, Curt Wells, in front of his Franklin Street barber shop. Herald photo by John Gessner.

in training other young barbers, the techniques of the trade. By doing so, he hopes that what he learned will continue long after he is gone. But, until then, he continues in his real passion — to cut hair, until "They take me out of here," as he has no plans to retire. Curt plans on cutting hair, telling stories, and continuing to be a mainstay in the Sparta business community.

A sign in his shop reads,

"Business Hours: Open most days at 9 or 10, occasionally at 7, but some days as late as 12 or 1. We close at 5:30, occasionally at 4 or 5. Sometimes at 11 or 12. But lately, I'm here just about all the time, except when I'm not." Actually, his Sparta workdays are Monday through Thursday. It's best to call for an appointment, at 608-269-2919.

Snowball Festival hits wall with frigid temperatures

By JAYME BAHL
Staff Writer

Justin Trails, Sparta Soda Works, and Sparta Floral and Greenhouse hosted multiple vendors at their locations, in what was to be a Spartan trifecta winter-market extravaganza, on Saturday, January 20th, 2024. The events had been initially created to coincide with Sparta's Snowball Festival that was going to be held at Memorial Park. Unfortunately, the Snowball Festival was cancelled by the Sparta Chamber of Commerce, due to safety concerns of holding the event in the frigid temperatures that have been camping out in the area. The winter-market businesses stood firm and went forward, as planned, having the advantage of warm, enclosed spaces. Their reward was a successful venture.

Justin Trails
The heated indoor market at Justin Trails, located at 7452 Kathryn Avenue, in Sparta, started at 10 a.m. and went until 3 p.m. The event was featured on the first floor of the century-old Elegant Barn. The Lodge, which is their restaurant on site, offered breakfast or lunch, as well as wine or hot cocoa, as shoppers perused through nearly twenty different vendors.

Some of the vendors included typical farmers market products, such as honey, meats, and cheeses, while others offered more unique products, such as JNJ Engineering's wooden vases; Badgerin' Bass Baits' fishing tackles; and Maddie Days' candles. "The event [Maker Market] was awesome," Donna Justin told the Herald, in a short interview after the event. "There was a lot of good traffic, and our vendors walked away very happy."



Sparta Soda Works held their first craft vendor event on Saturday, January 20th, 2024. Photo by Jayme Bahl.

Donna contributed the event's success to her daughter, Dawn, who planned and organized the event. This weekend was one of 13 markets planned to be hosted at Justin Trails, from January to March.

Sparta Soda Works
Sparta Soda Works, located at 121 East Oak Street, Winter Warmer Pop-Up Shop, hosted 20 vendors, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The cocktail and soda bar created some special cranberry old-fashions and hot cocoa with orange creamsicle marshmallows. There was live music playing, by Cass Magpie and Sara, and a chainsaw carving demonstration, by Chet's Chainsaw Carvings, to spruce up the shopping experience.

Vendors here included personalized art, jewelry, and beard butter. According to co-owner, Jeanette Burlingame, the event was a busy success. "We've had a really great turn out," Burlingame told the Herald when asked about the events success. "I think we were super busy right away, early in the morning. We've seen a lot of new faces come through our space, so we have been happy with that."

Sparta Floral and Greenhouse
Located at 636 East Montgomery Street, Sparta Floral and Greenhouse's

Snowball Vendor Market ran from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., on Saturday. Inside the newly renovated store, there was a warm, natural atmosphere for customers to enjoy an alternative local shopping experience. Among the ten vendors present, some of the items sold included dog bandanas - from Woof Naturals, mugs - from 2200 Pottery, and scarves - by Too Crazy Hookies.

Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter was also at the event, to raise awareness for their non-profit organization. This winter vendor event is anticipated to be the first of many, which was something the owners hoped for when designing a larger store. "When we rebuilt, we were excited to have a space to be able to provide for this," Becki Solberg, co-owner of the store, told the Herald in an interview. "Our hope was originally to do some winter farmers market, but just being a new space, we just haven't been settled in long enough. So yes, this was sort of our first opportunity."

Solberg continued, "We were originally trying to piggyback it with the Snowball Fest that was supposed to be happening on this side of town, but it still ended up being an awesome day."



Dr. Mike Hanson
Superintendent Tomah Area School District

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