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INSIDE



Carson Hinzman's official signing ended a recruiting process that dates back to his freshman year at St. Croix Central and involved interest from over 20 of the biggest and best football programs in the country. **Page B1**

Hemlocks are the most shade tolerant tree in their range, while paper birches are at the other end of the spectrum, and yet, here the two species were, growing just a few steps apart in the Northwoods. **Page A10**



All eyes will be on Sectional 1 when the Division 1 boys hockey playoffs begin next week.

The 13-team sectional includes the top three ranked teams in the state, highlighted by top-ranked Hudson as the No. 1 seed. **Page B3**

OBITUARIES PAGE B6

June C. Brosi
Lee W. Brown
Vonnice Hall
Frederick Hallamek, Jr.
Henry Waltman Higgins
Hendrix Rodney Price
Robert Allen Walton



HUDSON HOT AIR AFFAIR

Balloons stay grounded

Festivities draw crowds to E.P. Rock

BY HANNAH COYLE
Staff Writer

The Hudson Hot Air Affair was a burning success, despite the balloons staying on the ground.

Each year, pilots from across the country gather in Hudson to present the city with a spectacular sight. This year, more than 30 balloons were ready for lift off, but unfavorable weather conditions deterred them from flying.

Patience was one of the most important lessons Scott Wooge learned when he became a pilot.

"There's a time to go ballooning, and there's a time not to force it," he said. Conditions have to be just right. Winds under 7 mph, clear visibility and high cloud ceilings or sunshine make for the perfect flight.

This weekend, with temperatures dipping into the negatives, winds nearing 10 mph and a light snow on Sunday morning, the pilots made the call to stay grounded.

"Every flight is different," Wooge said. And every day's conditions are different. It calls for a keen eye and flexibility.

Wooge traveled from St. Louis, Missouri, for the Hudson Hot Air Affair. He returned home yesterday to more snow than he left.

Having traveled across the world to fly hot air balloons, the Midwest is still one of Wooge's favorite places to launch, especially in the winter. Flying from frozen lake to frozen lake is a unique, northern experience.



HANNAH COYLE/STAR OBSERVER

The two balloons inflated just as the snow started to fall on Sunday, Feb. 6.

See Balloons Page A9

NEW RICHMOND



TOM LINDFORS

The Beebe Building at 307 S. Knowles Ave. was demolished the week of Jan. 31, 2022 to make way for a new multi-unit housing development.

End of an era

Beebe Building demolished for new development

BY TOM LINDFORS
Contributor

NEW RICHMOND – It took less than a week to erase more than

a century of history when crews from Jacon LLC began to demolish the Beebe Building last Monday, Jan. 31.

According to Wisconsin Historical Society records, the Beebe family settled in New Richmond in 1891.

Following the 1899 cyclone,

See Beebe Page A7

RIVER FALLS

Student climbs Mount Kilimanjaro

A University of Wisconsin-River Falls international student climbed to new heights over winter break.

Phanice "Nissy" Obasi, of Nakuru County, Kenya, a dual major in economics and computer science and information systems, spent seven days in December climbing and descending from Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, in northern Tanzania. The mountain is 19,431 feet high.

Obasi, a senior international student who graduates in May, took the trip in with her brother, Jay, sister, Ma, and two friends, Muthee and Njure.

Obasi finished her final exams in River Falls early and headed home to Kenya in mid-December. On Dec.



SUBMITTED

University of Wisconsin-River Falls senior Nissy Obasi.

15, she and her siblings drove six hours from Nairobi, Kenya, to Tanzania and stayed in Arusha, the town closest to the Roof of Africa, a nickname for the mountain.

See Obasi Page A8

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