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Council to consider \$900K in requests for ARPA funds

By PAT MULVANEY Contributing Writer

The Sparta City Council will vote on disbursing some of its more than \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to local hospitality businesses and nonprofit organizations when it meets this Wednesday, Jan.

The finance committee last week forwarded to the council 16 requests for funds from five nonprofit organizations and 11 private businesses, including bars, restaurants and a hotel.

The businesses organizations are hoping to recoup lost revenue due to the COVID pandemic.

The city received half of its \$1.029 million ARPA funding in 2021 and will be receiving the rest in the coming months. The money can be used to

recover the city's revenue losses due to the pandemic as well as to help small businesses and nonprofits that also incurred pandemicrelated losses.

According Co-City Administrator/Treasurer Mark Sund, the city had \$340,000 in COVID-related revenue losses from 2019 through 2020 and will use ARPA money to shore up that deficit.

That leaves available for businesses and nonprofits, but requests submitted total \$897,000 and range from a low of \$2,629 to a high of \$195,202 from Best Western Hotel.

Sund said he didn't expect the council to fund all requests at 100%, adding the city can use some of the ARPA money infrastructure projects

ARPA cont. on pg. 5

Committee recommends FEH for library design

Members also OK land donation to school district

By PAT MULVANEY Contributing Writer

Sparta Finance Committee last week agreed to sign a contract with FEH Design of Dubuque, Iowa, to draw up the plans for the Sparta Free Library expansion project.

The approximately \$330,000 agreement will require approval from the full council this coming Wednesday, Jan. 12. If approved, the city will be

responsible for 70% of the design costs, while the Friends of the Sparta Free Library (FOSFL) will cover the remaining 30%.

FEH is the firm that drew up the preliminary expansion design in 2018 for the purpose of fundraising efforts by the FOSFL, which is raising \$1.5 million for the project. FEH beat out HSR of La Crosse, designer of the recently completed Sparta police station.

The city council agreed to fund 70% of a \$5 million library expansion project, capping the city's contribution at \$3.5 million.

LIBRARY cont. on pg. 5



What do you want your life to look like? This was the question asked of participants in the first Wellness Wednesday event, which started last week with a "vision board" exercise at Vino Anjo in downtown Tomah. These free events are being held each week and are coordinated by Judy Jonson Faulkner.

"I want to start forming a community," she said. "This is my passion - being with people and wellness.'

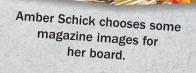
Future Wellness Wednesdays include guided imagery, art therapy with chalk, journaling and belly dance. See Vino Anjo's Facebook page for these scheduled events, at which participation is usually free.

About a half-dozen women braved the wind and cold to attend last week's event, which included a guided imagery session followed by the creation of "vision boards." Jonson Faulkner called the boards a great manifesting tool, asking the participants if anyone could describe manifestation.

Amber Schick said she understood the definition of manifesting. "It's like, I did that, I spoke that into existence," she said. "I envisioned the end goal. It's pretty

Schick said the key is to "focus on what you want, not what you don't want."

HEALING cont. on pg. 5



Friends prop up Tomah family in wake of sorrow

Benefit for Franks Family is Jan. 16

By RHONDA HESS Contributing writer

After Kevin Franks died Oct. 29, his church family, friends and community members came together to take care of his family.

from The 48-year-old Tomah suffered a long battle with COVID, being hospitalized for several weeks.

He left behind his wife, Amy, and their young children Emma, Bergen and Brede, along with many other family members and friends.

A benefit for the Franks family, organized by Amanda Mallmann and others, will be held Saturday, Jan. 16, from noon until 5 p.m. at Murray's on Main, downtown Tomah.

"Our church, Good Shepherd Lutheran, along with community members, want to help with medical bills and living expenses," Mallmann said.

The benefit includes auctions and raffles, some of which are quite extravagant.

At the top of that list is a five-day hunt for six people in South Africa. This \$15,000

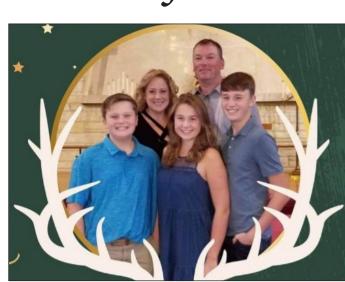
value prize is being sold in a separate raffle. One hundred tickets are being sold for \$100 each for a drawing at 4 p.m. that day. Another high-ticket item is an event donated by Burlap and Bells Wedding Venue with a \$6,000 value, which will be auctioned off during a live auction that day. Other prizes include a Matthews crossbow and three different airplane flights (a flying lesson, a lunch and buffet flight, and a photoopportunity flight).

"We also have a fivecourse dinner at Murray's on Main with wine pairings for eight people," Mallmann

said. "And, we have a Green Mountain Daniel Boone pellet grill smoker worth \$800, a pair of Pilla Panther X7 shooting/hunting glasses worth \$799, a wine tour for 24 people, camping packages, a push lawnmower, ice fishing packages and various baskets. There are so many incredible things donated by the community and throughout the state of Wisconsin."

There is no entry fee for the event, however, different colored tickets may be purchased throughout the day for the basket raffles and other

BENEFIT cont. on pg. 5



A benefit will be held for the family of Kevin Franks on Jan. 16 in Tomah. Contributed photo

Season of giving

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ROBERT ALAN SCHENDEL

September 5, 1945 — January 7th, 2022

Schendel, age 76, passed

peacefully on his farm rural Wilton, Wisconsin, on January 2022. 7th,



born on September 5, 1945, to Elmer and Elna (Pasch) Schendel. He was baptized and confirmed at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Wilton

On May 27, 1967, he married Viena Nauman at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ridgeville. This union was blessed with four children: Laura, Eric, Sara, and Todd, Bob started farming with his parents and later with his wife, Viena, establishing a farm on Hwy 131. October 3rd, 1978 was a defining moment for Bob and his family. His farming accident had far-reaching implications for the family, farm, and community. Although one could focus on negative aspects of this devastating event, the grit and determination by Bob could be seen around Wilton, closely supported by his family, friends, and community. Bob's personal struggles and success relied on countless people to keep the farm viable. The prayers offered toward surgeries, illnesses, and challenges were greatly appreciated. Bob had an affinity for fishing, playing cards, legendary nicknames, deer hunting, animals, teasing his siblings, and of course farming. He could maneuver a tractor, baler, and wagon

like no other. He enjoyed playing cards throughout his life and more recently at the Tomah Senior Center, providing transportation and support with his van for many people. He went fishing with countless people and really enjoyed some great memories in Canada with his sons Eric and Todd. Bob moved off the farm for a few years and on one of his Minnesota fishing trips, became acquainted with his second wife, Eden Ebrada. They were united in marriage on November 2, 2002, at Bible Evangelical Free Church, Tomah, WI.

WILTON - Robert Alan They have enjoyed a happy union, supporting each other, and establishing a loving relationship. Eden's devotion to the relationship and his healthcare needs have been critical to Bob's quality of Bob is survived by his

> wife Eden, former wife Viena Ebersold, children Laura Marriott, Wilton and her children Calvin, Ellen, Henry, and Pierce Marriott; Eric Schendel, Wilton, and his children Katelyn and Tangie Schendel; Sara (David) Dechant, Camp Douglas, and their children Melissa O'Neill (Timothy), David Dechant (Emily Therneau), Ashley Dechant, and Erin (Aaron) Steffel; Todd (Amy) Schendel, Iowa City, IA; and great grandchildren Jackson, Clark, and Claire Steffel, and Rory and Reagan O'Neill, siblings Vivian Buchholz of Pickett, Vera (Steven) Shie of Baraboo, Steven (Tammy) Schendel of Wilton, Susan Hanson of Onalaska and Sharon (James) Stroh of Wilton and many nieces and nephews..

He is preceded in death by his parents Elmer and Elna Schendel, brother-in-law Richard Buchholz, formerin laws Harvey and Ethelyn Nauman, infant Marvin Nauman, former brotherin-law Lester Nauman, and his father-in law Marcelo

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2022, 11:00 AM at. St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, 21693 County Hwy A, Tomah (Ridgeville). Pastor Robert Gerke will officiate. Burial will be in South Ridge Lutheran Cemetery, Township of Wellington. Relatives and friends are invited for a time of visitation on Saturday at the church from 9:00 AM until the time

A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2022, starting at 1:00 PM at the Wilton American Legion, 508 Walker Street, Wilton.

Sonnenburg ramily Funeral Home, Tomah is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www. sonnenburgfamilyfh.com

> **Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home**

PAUL J. DICKMAN

June 15, 1931 — January 6, 2022

CASHTON - Paul J. Dickman, 90, of Cashton, WI, passed away Thursday, January 6, 2022, at the Rolling Hills Rehab Center in Sparta, WI. Paul was born in Melvina, WI, on June 15, 1931, to Henry and Anne (Dunahoe) Dickman. He was united in Holy Matrimony to Bernice Barbour on October 12, 1957.

Paul wore many work hats during his lifetime. For over 50 years he worked as the Town of Jefferson patrolman while operating his farm and raising tobacco at the same time. He bartended at Danceland under five different owners. Proudly volunteered the with Cashton Fire Department. When he wasn't working Paul and Bernice loved listening to polka music; and he enjoyed doing carpentry and woodwork. Although Paul was a hard worker, he loved spending time with his

family and friends. Paul is survived by his wife of 64 years, Bernice; sons, Dennis of Cashton, and Bill (Kay Picha) Dickman of Camp Douglas; daughter, Linda Dickman of Hardwick, MN; grandchildren, Derek

Sara

Rest in Peace

(Lizzie) Dickman,

Dickman, Jacky Dickman, Calli (Sam) Wilhelms and Bailey (Austin Kirchner) Dickman; sister, Diane Schmitz of Sparta; sisterin-law, Mavis Dickman of Sparta; a good family friend, Shelly Vance; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Ann; daughter Paula; brother Eugene; sister, Alice (Pete) Wolfe; brother-inlaw, Clayton Schmitz; and a niece, Sherrie Wolfe.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 10:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cashton, WI. Father Michael Klos will officiate. Burial will take place at a later date in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited for visitation Monday, January 10, 2022, 4-7:00 p.m. at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Cashton. Visitation will also be held on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

Online Condolences may be offered at www. torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Torkelson Funeral Home

OBITUARIES Free Fishing Weekend coming up from all walks of life to give

The Wisconsin Department Natural Resources hosting Free Fishing Weekend Jan. 15-16 to share the fun and excitement of winter fishing. No fishing license or trout and salmon stamps are

Anglers can state waters where there is an open season. All other fishing regulations apply, such as limits on the number and size of fish you can keep and any seasons when you must release certain fish species.

As a reminder, anglers cannot fish spring trout ponds during the Winter Free Fishing Weekend. Please review the trout regulations and 2021-2022 Hook and Line regulations for more information.

If you plan to keep your catch, be sure to review the DNR's safe eating guidelines to stay informed of potential advisories consumption impacting some waterbodies throughout the state. "Free Fishing Weekend is

a great opportunity for people

Theresa Stabo, DNR Fishing Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation Coordinator. "Fishing is about so much more than the catch. Get out there and enjoy nature, spend time with friends and family and, if you're lucky, bring home some fish for your next at-home fish

angling a try, without the

added step and expense of getting a fishing license," said

Remember, no ice is 100% safe. Check with local bait shops for current ice conditions in the area you plan to ice fish. Stay safely on shore if ice conditions are questionable and if open water is within casting distance, give that a try. Always tell someone where you are going and when you'll return.

Lastly, dress for winter comfort, and don't forget your safety gear: warm layers that are water-resistant, sturdy waterproof boots with spikestyle creepers for traction, extra hat and gloves, rescue throw rope and ice claws.

ARPA Continued from Front Page

such as storm water and sewer Hospitality and water installation.

"We're still trying to figure out what all we're going to use it for," said Sund.

Those requesting funding include:

Nonprofits

- Sparta Area Cancer Support • Friends of the Sparta Free
- Deke Slayton Museum
- Sparta Gridiron Boosters
- Morrow Home

Harris Crossing

- Club 16
- The Hangout
- · Wayside Tavern VFW
- Lynda Lou's
- Sparta Steak House
- Dorine's Family Restaurant
- Foxhole Pub · Slice of Chicago
- Best Western
- The city council meeting
- begins at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

LIBRARY Continued from Front Page

The FOSFL, a nonprofit organization that raises money for the library, was to come up with the rest of the funds, \$1.5 million. To date, it has \$1.3 million pledged to the project with \$1.02 million already donated. At the time the city

agreed to the funding split, the estimated project cost was \$5 million for a roughly 12,000-square-foot expansion to the north side of the library, which would have doubled the current floor area. However, due to rising construction costs due to the COVID pandemic, the project has been scaled back to 8,800 square feet to meet a budget, which also has been reduced.

The city indicated it will only honor a match of the \$1.02 million the FOSFL has so far collected, paring its 70% contribution accordingly and bringing the total project cost to \$3.4 million. The city has indicated that any new donations raised by the FOSFL can be used for nonbrick-and-mortar aspects of the project.

In other business, the finance committee approved donating a small piece of land in Memorial Park to the Sparta Area School District for its football/soccer field project.

According to Co-City Administrator Mark Sund, the land is located on the southeast corner of the field across from the aquatic center and will give the school space to nudge the project in that direction. Sund added that the land is useless to the city.

The school district is planning an up to \$3.3 million Memorial Field renovation project that includes artificial turf, a 1,750-person capacity grandstand, a press box, all new lighting, asphalt walkways and handicap accessibility and an elevated concrete area connecting the existing Gridiron building to the grandstands.

The facility will serve as both a football and soccer field. The city council will have to approve the land donation at its meeting Wednesday, which begins at 6 p.m. in City Hall.

Continued from Front Page

select items. One ticket sells for \$1, six for \$5 and 30 tickets for \$20.

Separately, plinko and bags games will be played for specific prizes, at \$20 for three chances

There will be 50/50 raffles throughout the day and youth from the schools are offering gift certificates for time and service because they wanted to help their friends in the family.

Members of the Franks family will be raffling off baked goods, as well. "There is something for every single person," Mallmann said. 'We feel so blessed for every donation, every person who has helped organize this event and everyone who comes on January 16th to participate and support the benefit," she said. To find out more, go to the Franks Family Benefit Facebook page, which can also be accessed through a QR code on posters in the community.

Mallmann said Kevin Franks loved taking his family camping and their nickname was "franksandbeans." To honor that part of his life, people can contact Mallmann and other organizers through an email - franksandbeans@ gmail.com.

Most importantly, Mallmann said, she and the other organizers are hoping as many people as possible turn out for the event to help the

"We wanted to show Amy and her kids we are all here to support them," she said.

everything,"

HEALING Continued from Front Page

Jonson Faulkner agreed, adding "instead of a resolution, let's think about evolution,' which she said was a sentiment she had found on social media.

She said, instead of saying "I want to lose weight," think about "achieving a good weight," instead. Lisa Kirschbaum put a new

spin on her board. She wants

'better health and good mood."

"COVID sort of squelched

Winchell said. "I'm trying to get back to where I was and beyond." Abby Skowronski said her goal is "to think at least one

energy and

positive thought each day, letting go of the stuff that doesn't matter." As she pasted magazine

photos to her board, she said, "maybe setting small goals will help turn this year around."

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Science **Made Easy**

What's the

difference between germs, bacteria and viruses? **ANSWER**

The word "germ" is a catchall phrase that can be any microscopic particle that can cause a person to become sick. The word germ comes from the Latin word germen, which means seed or sprout. Early scientists thought germs as little seeds that spread between organisms.

First bacteria. Bacteria (bacterium) causes throat, pneumonia, diphtheria, cholera, tetanus, typhoid fever, plague, tuberculosis, anthrax, Lyme disease, tooth decay and tonsillitis.

Bacteria are all around us, in the air, in water, in food, on our skin and inside our bodies. They are so small they can only be seen by using a high-powered microscope. There are no male and female bacteria. Bacteria multiply by splitting. And if they have the right conditions of food and temperature, they keep right on multiplying.

Bacteria have only one cell. The outside is a membrane, like a skin, and the inside is called "protoplasm," usually without a central core or nucleus that normal cells have. The membrane is slimy and often has tiny tails, called "flagella," that allow them to move. Others move by extending and shrinking their cell bodies, much the way worms move. The skin or membrane is not waterproof. The only way to destroy bacteria is for chemicals to get through that membrane and destroy the bacteria.

Bacteria causes diseases, or infections, but bacteria are also very useful. Long before people knew what bacteria were, they knew that bacteria could ferment wine, make milk sour, and make plants and animals decay.

Bacteria must get into our system to do bad things. Our body has a whole army of defenses. Dry skin, stomach acids, washing hands, and brushing teeth, all help to make life difficult for bacteria. Bacteria can enter the body through damaged tissue, wounds, bites, or the mucus barrier that lines the alimentary canal (mouth to anus). Once bacteria get into our

system, they are free to grow and spread. Usually, they start as small local infections and spread rapidly once in the blood stream. Most bacteria inside us never make us sick. We all have some E. coli bacteria in our intestines. But sometimes the E. coli can acquire a gene that causes it to secrete a toxin. Then we get sick. Turning to viruses. A virus

is a microscopic life form that does not have DNA, so it needs a host to reproduce. That host

can be us. Viruses survive inside us in huge numbers, and new ones are discovered on a regular basis. Flu, AIDS, chickenpox, Ebola, hepatitis, vellow fever, rabies, mumps, measles, rubella, polio, herpes and smallpox are caused by viruses.

Viruses need other cells to reproduce. They enter the cell and replace its genetic material with their own. But instead of making additional cells, the cell then begins to make more viruses, sort of a Trojan horse. Trillions of copies are made, exploding the cells of its victim. When sufficient cells are damaged, the host, which is you and me, can get sick.

Many viruses behave themselves inside us, causing no harm. Others go wild, get out of control, replicating nonstop. Then they overwhelm our cell mechanisms, disrupt normal cell function, and cause our organs to stop working.

A war is going on. Our immune system fights the good fight and does its best to kill off bad viruses. White blood cells hunt down and kill viruses. Our body can produce interferon, which stops viruses from reproducing. We humans can increase our body temperature

to kill viruses. Viruses are extremely difficult to attack with drugs. They adapt, modify, mutate, or evolve so quickly, they build up a resistance to a drug. Such is the case with the omicron

variant of COVID-19. Some viruses have an animal "reservoir" from where they can affect humans, such as rabies from bats, dogs and foxes; West Nile from birds; influenza from birds, pigs and horses; and Ebola and HIV

from chimps and monkeys. An epidemic is an outbreak of a virus infection in a community. A pandemic happens when there is a worldwide epidemic. In 1918, a flu pandemic killed about 100 million people around the world. An unusual aspect of this pandemic is that it killed healthy young adults rather than the weakened and elderly. HIV is considered a pandemic as an estimated 35 million people are living with the disease. COVID deaths thus far are about 5.3

There is some really good news. Yes, viruses kill thousands of people very year. But learning about the ability to insert new genetic material into living cells could lead to a cure for cancer.

million worldwide.

Larry Scheckel is a retired Tomah High School science teacher and author of Ask A Science Teacher and Seneca Seasons: A Farm Boy Remembers. Larry can be reached at lscheckel@charter. net or view his web page at http://larryscheckel.com.



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