

FLYING TO SECOND PLACE

RHS grads finish as runners up at Red Bull Flugtag

By Jonathan Bailey
jbailey@riponpress.com

As the Farmers Unincorporated team prepared to launch its human-powered aircraft off a 27-foot platform last week Saturday afternoon at the Red Bull Flugtag in Milwaukee, it hoped it could glide “at least some distance.”

It accomplished a whole lot more than that. The team, which was comprised of Ripon High School graduates and friends Ben Retzlaff, Jonah Roeper, Mitchael Perr, Tommy Schram and Tyler Granados, finished second out of 34 entries in the competition. It excelled in the three judging criteria: creativity and design of the craft, showmanship of skit and distance traveled.

A team of suburban dads, which also competed in the Red Bull Soapbox Race last month in Iowa, called “Flight for Your Right to Party,” won the competition. Its Viking-inspired craft was declared the champion of the Red Bull Flugtag Milwaukee after recording a jump of 66 feet and recording a perfect 50 from the judges panel.

This year marked the first time that the Red Bull Flugtag took place in Wisconsin. The event saw more than 50,000 spectators flock to Veterans Park in downtown Milwaukee to watch teams of five members launch their homemade, themed-aircrafts into Lake Michigan. Entering its 30th year, Flugtag began in 1992 over the Danube River in Vienna, Austria. Since then, the event has spread its human-powered wings

FOR MORE ON THIS
✓ For photos and a video from Red Bull Flugtag, visit www.RiponPress.com.

See **FLYING/back** page



BEN RETZLAFF PILOTS Farmers Unincorporated's aircraft off a 27-foot platform into Lake Michigan as the rest of the team members watch from the stage during last week Saturday's Red Bull Flugtag in Milwaukee. Inset, the Ripon team celebrates its second-place finish.

Red Bull and Jonathan Bailey photos

Ripon schools seeking community input on possible referendum

Referendum would not impact RASD's tax rate

By Joe Schulz
jschulz@riponpress.com

The Ripon Area School District (RASD) is looking for community feedback regarding a possible operational referendum that would have no impact on the district's tax rate.

The referendum could be on the ballot in November due to anticipated post-COVID budget needs for the district.

Without a referendum, RASD could see a more than \$1.2 million budget reduction in the 2023-24 school year, due to the loss of federal pandemic relief funding and a freeze on state aid and revenue limits.

"To have a balanced budget, we need to make sharp cuts,"



RASD BUSINESS MANAGER Jonah Adams gives a presentation about the proposed referendum.

RASD Business Manager Jonah Adams said of the budget situation without a referendum. "We're expecting sharp cuts in revenues, so we're going to have to make sharp cuts in expenses."

School Board members held a community engagement session Monday, and will host its third session Tuesday, July 26 at

Ripon changes zoning to promote housing flexibility, affordability

By Joe Schulz
jschulz@riponpress.com

As part of a month's-long initiative, the city of Ripon has updated municipal codes, aimed at promoting affordable housing.

That's after the Ripon Common Council last week Tuesday approved changes to the city's zoning code, and municipal ordinance changes related to planned unit developments (PUDs) and short-term rentals.

The city has been working to modify its zoning codes since March to help alleviate Ripon's housing shortage, with the overall goal of making small zoning code changes to allow greater flexibility for property owners and developers to increase housing availability and promote housing affordability.

Ripon had the opportunity to

work with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the Congress of New Urbanism to be a case study community in a guide to zoning code reform in Wisconsin to promote affordable housing.

"It set out guidelines on how to appropriately amend zoning codes to promote better housing, more flexibility with housing and housing affordability," City Administrator Adam Sonntag said.

Since January, the city has received free technical assistance in rewriting portions of its zoning code to address zoning reform changes.

Under previous zoning conditions, Sonntag said Ripon faced issues with compliance within historic neighborhoods.

"When we're applying mod-

See **SEEK/page 11**

See **CHANGES/page 10**