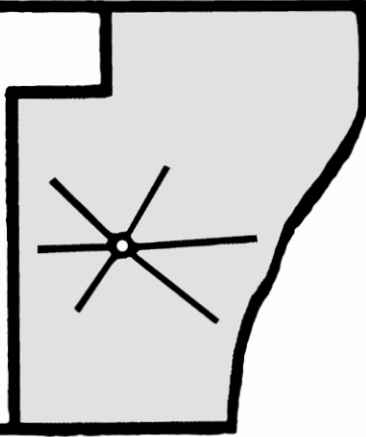


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Time for clocks to fall behind

Daylight-saving time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, so remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday. Local fire departments also recommend that the clock switch is a good time to change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

County OKs budget with stable taxes

By Todd S. Bergmann

Manitowoc County supervisors gave 23 thumbs up and no votes against the 2022 county budget on Tuesday night.

That budget raises spending \$11.8 million, while keeping the tax levy unchanged at \$31.1 million. The plan uses state and federal dollars to increase spending from \$71.7 million in 2021 to \$83.5 million in 2022.

County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer said he expects a typical taxpayer to see a slight decline in county property taxes because of a slightly higher tax base.

Two supervisors had excused absences from the meeting.

The highlight of the budget is a provision to allow cities, towns and villages to use half of the \$15.3 million the county is receiving through the American Rescue Plan Act, a federal coronavirus relief program for local governments, Supervisor Jamie Aulik of rural Manitowoc said.

"This is a really great opportunity in this budget, especially with the American Rescue Plan Act funds," he said. "Manitowoc County has chosen, unlike our surrounding counties, to share that money with towns, villages and cities.... This is a really neat thing."

It will allow cities to replace 100-year-old lead pipes, Aulik said.

See County p. 15



Hoist that Trophy High

Members of the Valders High School girls cross country team lift the trophy up in jubilation after coming in second at the WIAA Division 3 state meet in Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday, the first state trophy for the girls pro-

gram. In on the celebration are, from left, Elizabeth Backus, Alexis Alfson, Avery Kauth, Brooke Lau, Naomi Nelson, Andie Taylor, Hannah Welch and Carissa Hammel. See pages 6-7 for more coverage of the meet.

—Journal Photo

Female pilots show girls the sky is the limit

By Todd S. Bergmann

Area Girl Scouts sent their career plans to new heights as they worked on their aviation merit badge Saturday morning at the Manitowoc County Airport.

About 50 Scouts attended an aviation day sponsored by the Wisconsin Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of licensed women pilots. The girls went inside a retired hot air balloon, saw some airplanes and heard pilots talk about women in aviation.

More than 15 adults shared with the Girl Scouts information on their career or hobby of aviation.

Laurie Probst, a teacher by profession and pilot by hobby, said aviation is connected to math, science and technology, which she teaches her middle school students.

"It is important to give kids opportunities to see what they can do as adults, when they get older," she said. "There are people who are willing to come and share what they do."

Instead of flying an airplane, for ex-

See Flying p. 10

Test results deemed work in progress

Valders exceeds state averages, but more effort needed to bring scores up higher

By Todd S. Bergmann

Valders students beat the statewide average on a key standardized test given last year, but everyone has improvement to do, educators say.

Forward Exam results for 2020-21 show Valders ahead of the state numbers but behind area districts Kiel and Mishicot. The tests measure English and mathematics scores in third through eighth grades, science in grades four and eight and social studies in grades four, eight and 10.

David Schmid, curriculum director and high school principal in the Valders Area School District, said he likes the results, but would welcome improvement.

"It is a minimum shooting point to be better than the state," he said. "We are happy to outperform the state on most of these."

[Percentages given in this story have been rounded for easier comprehension.]

In Valders, 40% of students tested at least proficient in English or language arts, 36% in math, 54% in science and 59% in social studies.

This compares to statewide proficiencies of 34%, 34%, 45% and 40%, respectively.

The test ranks students as advanced, proficient, basic or below basic.

Although the results exceeded state per-

centages, Schmid said Valders teachers will work to raise student scores.

"We work tirelessly to get those scores up," he said. "I would not say that we are totally focused on Forward scores. But, we are focused on making a well-rounded student."

"I don't think that anybody is happy with 40% or 35%."

To help improve math results, the school district this year created a position of math interventionist to assist lagging students. Also, before Schmid started at Valders last year, the district changed and improved its math curriculum.

"While that will certainly pay off big dividends, it will take three or four years for everybody to get caught up in that new math program," he said.

On state Forward exams, average test scores normally go up as students advance in grades, reflecting increased learning from grade to grade.

For example, statewide, the average English test score increased from 626 in seventh grade to nearly 629 in eighth and the average math score increased from 621 in seventh grade math to 639 in eighth grade.

However, in Valders, test scores went the opposite direction from seventh to eighth

grades. English test scores dropped from 631 to 622, while math scores slipped from 623 to 620.

Possible points vary by subject and grade. In the Chilton, Mishicot and Two Rivers school districts, English results went down from seventh to eighth grade, while math scores went up.

Addressing the drop in scores from seventh to eighth grade, Schmid said students in lower grades learned less while they were at home during shutdowns for the health pandemic.

Compared to neighboring districts, Valders students finished in the middle.

In four subject proficiencies and average scores for each of 17 subject tests, either the Manitowoc or Two Rivers had the lowest number of any of seven area school districts, except for 10th grade social studies, where Kiel scored lowest at about 684 and Valders was highest at 713.

Brad Ebert, Kiel superintendent of schools, said teachers in his district will work to change the social studies situation.

"We're not perfect," he said. "I can tell you that. We have some areas in the upper levels that we will have some work on."

Schmid said online learning in spring and

See Scores p. 13