

LOCAL

Rock County Sheriff Troy Knudson won't run for reelection this year, and two potential successors have announced their candidacy. • A3

SPORTS

Seven Milton wrestlers headed to state tournament, a program record. • B1



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Anthony Wahl

Dressed as a chicken, Physical education teacher Seth Ide jumps off a mini-trampoline into a pool of cold water during a polar plunge style event held at Northside Intermediate School in Milton on Friday, Feb. 18. Students raised \$1,418 for Special Olympics Wisconsin. **For more Polar Plunge coverage, please see Page A5.**



Pam Beres/Special to the Courier
Tiffany Jauch tends to loaves of banana bread inside the kitchen at Sharla's Coffee Shop in Milton. Jauch works for the Walkers part time at the shop.

Thriving through the pandemic

Sharla's Coffee Shop expands despite entrepreneurial challenges

By Pam Beres

Special to the Courier

Opening a small-town coffee shop at the beginning of a pandemic would daunt the heartiest of entrepreneurs. But the crisis hasn't stopped Dave and Sharla Walker.

On June 20, 2020, they opened Sharla's Coffee Shop inside the former Milton College Whitford Memorial Hall Library at 525 College St. in Milton. In May, 2021, they added a coffee truck, taking their brew on the go to area events. Recently, they installed a commercial-grade kitchen at 648 College St., and a second coffee shop is set to open in Janesville later this spring.

Sharla's Coffee isn't just surviving in these challenging times. It's thriving.

And while the pandemic still poses problems and delays, their expansion plans are moving forward.

See **COFFEE**, Page A2

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Northside students, staff raise money for Special Olympics with virtual Polar Plunge



Anthony Wahl

Physical education teacher Nancy Debroux is the first to jump into a pool of cold water during a polar plunge style event held at Northside Intermediate School in Milton on Friday, Feb. 18.

By Adams Publishing Group staff

It wasn't one of the eight official Wisconsin locations for the 2022 Polar Plunge, but students and staff at Northside Intermediate School in Milton held their own Polar Plunge style event Friday, Feb. 18, to raise money for Special Olympics Wisconsin.

The event followed the Special Olympics' new Chill at Home option, a virtual plunge event in which participants video themselves at a location of their choosing and jump into a pool of cold water, rather than a lake.

The Milton event raised \$1,418.



Anthony Wahl

Student teacher Gavin Greene jumps in head first during a polar plunge style event held at Northside Intermediate School in Milton on Friday, Feb. 18.

Mural connects West to schools all over the world

All students at West contributed to the project

By Sara Myers

Adams Publishing Group

MILTON

Milton West Elementary School is participating in a traveling mural project that helps connect Milton schools with others.

The art mural is one of 15 from the U.S., China and Canada that will be shared with 120 schools around the world.

Shannon McIntock Miller, a director of innovation and instructional technology at library media at Van Meter School in Iowa, started the project in 2018, and Christina Nording, library media specialist at Milton West School, shared it with students. Milton West has participated

in the project in 2018, 2019 and now in 2022.

"The purpose of the murals is to connect with other schools around the world to create murals of peace, friendship, diversity and love," Nording explained. "Each group mural is different, and the mural theme is decided upon by the group members."

This year's theme is the book, "The World Needs Who You Were Made To Be," by Joanna Gaines. Nording presented this idea to the art, music and physical education classes at Milton West to see whether they were

interested in collaborating on the project.

All students at Milton West participated in the project in one way or another.

In art class, students used various textures to help design the mural. The art students used construction paper patterns and balloons.

Physical education classes also worked on parachute lessons with each classroom, because the book talks about hot air balloons and how each balloon is unique and different.

The music class also

created a song around the theme of the book.

There are 10 different pieces that combined to form one big mural.

On the different pieces of the mural, Milton West students wrote fun facts about their specific school.

"Once the project was complete, we took an all school picture with the mural," Nording said. "The mural gets cut into 10 pieces. You keep one and the nine other pieces are sent to each school in your group."



The theme for the mural revolved around the book "The World Needs Who You Were Made To Be" by Joanna Gaines, which talked about hot air balloons that are displayed in this mural created by students in art class.