

# 1st Annual Sparta Pedal, Paddle, Fish Days this weekend

The Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of its annual kayak rendezvous to its first ever Pedal, Paddle, Fish Days—a weekend full of outdoor activities to promote Sparta’s great outdoor recreation opportunities. This event had a rough take off in 2021 with the weather, but was able to commence a month later with a great turn out. This year we have added days and events in order to appeal to more people. Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Heidi Prestwood, states, “Last year was a get-your-feet wet kind of event. Let’s try it and see what happens. In order to hold up our share of the tourism numbers, we thought that we would bring more to the event. Yes, we have our bike trails, but we also have so much more and this event is our way of showcasing our other outdoor recreation opportunities not just to tourists, but locally as well.”

**Schedule of Events:** We start 2022 on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> with the first ever Cardboard Boat Race that will be held at the Sparta Aquatic Center beginning at 7:00 PM with a pre-race meeting at 6:45 PM. The cost to register for the event is \$20 and includes two crew members per entry. To watch this event, you must pay the entry fee into the pool. Awards will be given for different categories which include the fastest time or longest afloat in your class of Buoy (8-15 years old) or Cutter (ages 16 years to adult). There will be a Titanic Award for the most spectacular sinking, and Pride of the Fleet for the most creative design. Rules and registration can be found on the Chamber’s Facebook page or by calling the office at 608-269-4123 by Friday afternoon.

Saturday is the return of the Kayak Rendezvous. We will begin the days’ registration/check-in at 10 AM at Angelo Dam, located at Hwy 21 and

County I. Play some games, bring your own vodka and make yourself a Bloody Mary with the provided fixings brought to you by the Cotter Pin. Launching commences at 12:00 PM sharp. We will float down the cleaned up La Crosse River listening to music, chit chatting with our friends, and just hanging out. Once you arrive to Amundson Park, load up your kayak and come back Memorial Park, Shelter #2 for the post-party action. Beverages being served by BEER Shop, food by Dub’s Sausages and Spartan Services, play some games and relax with the setting sun while listening to some tunes.

Sunday’s activities include a nice 4 mile bike ride throughout town, down and around Perch Lake and the ball fields. Learn a thing or two with a quick stop at the Deke Slayton Space and Bike Museum and finish the ride with a beverage at the BEER Shop. This ride is being brought to you by Fred Green.

Now to the fish part—about a month ago, the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce put about 400 rainbow trout into the La Crosse River at Evans-Bosshard Park. We tagged a few of them. If you happen to be out this weekend and you catch one of the chamber’s tagged trout, give us a call with your tag number and you will receive double entry into our fishing derby that we are holding from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

This event is being brought to you by Sparta’s new young professionals, FUEL Sparta, and their mission is to enrich our community through Focus, Unity, Engagement, and Leadership. FUEL is also in charge of the Fall Fest Chili Contest in October and the Cash Mob events you see throughout the year. All of FUEL’s information and information about this event with registration links can be found on Facebook or at [www.bikesparta.com](http://www.bikesparta.com).



## Print Shop Tour

A class from Handishop Industries toured Evans Print & Media Group on Tuesday. At the end of their tour, they received goodie bags. Pictured on left is owner, Greg Evans and the Handishop Industries class. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

## COUNTY

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residents near Silver Creek and the Angelo Pond to get this worked out.”

Below is the release from the DNR regarding fish consumption. This was released on June 8th, 2022.

### New PFAS Fish Consumption Advisory Issued For Angelo Pond

Elevated Levels of PFAS Found In Several Fish Species

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) today announced a new PFAS-based consumption advisory for bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass and northern pike from Angelo Pond in Monroe County based on fish sampling.

Elevated levels of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), a type of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), were found in several fish

### SPECIES

- Bluegill
- Crappie
- Largemouth Bass
- Northern Pike

### PREVIOUS ADVISORY

- General/Statewide Advisory\*
- General/Statewide Advisory\*
- General/Statewide Advisory\*
- General/Statewide Advisory\*

### NEW ADVISORY

- 1 meal/week for **everyone**
- 1 meal/month for **everyone**
- 1 meal/month for **everyone**
- 1 meal/month for **everyone**

species sampled from Angelo Pond, a 53 acre impoundment of the La Crosse River near Sparta in May of 2021.

As a result, the DNR and DHS recommend the following consumption guidelines for bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass, and northern pike harvested from the La Crosse River at Angelo Pond:

Angelo Pond Fish Consumption Advisory Guidelines

\*The general/statewide consumption advice for women <50 and children is 1 meal/week for panfish and 1 meal/month for all other species. For women >50 and men, the general/statewide consumption advice is 1 meal/week for all species

except for panfish, which are unrestricted.

In April 2021, the DNR and DHS issued a consumption advisory of 1 meal/month for brook and brown trout caught in Silver Creek, which flows into Angelo Pond. Sampling efforts continue in consultation with Fort McCoy due to results of elevated PFAS surface water samples received from Silver Creek in 2019.

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used for decades in various products, such as non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foams that have made their way into the environment.

Health risks may increase when fish with high levels of PFAS are consumed. These can include increased cholesterol levels, decreased immune response, and decreased fertility in women, among other health effects. More information is available on the DHS website.

Following fish consumption advisories will help protect you from consuming excess PFOS, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury. A complete list of up-to-date consumption advisories can be found in the DNR’s Choose Wisely booklet.

Additional fish consumption advice and information on the effects of PFAS can be found on the DNR’s website.

## SHS

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served as the school district maintenance man for many years. Teacher Karen Edwards (class of 1960) was also present. Her husband was the principal for more years than she can remember. He was known as strict but fair. All said they had graduated from Sparta High School and never left. Pete Perkins, a former social studies and science teacher, visited his old classrooms, now turned into apartments. He spoke of an old gas pipe that stuck out of the floor about 2 feet high. Each year he asked to have it removed and later placed his teaching podium next to the pipe so the students wouldn’t trip over it. One year it was gone

until he realized that they had cut a hole in the bottom of his podium and then placed it over the pipe. Today, the pipe is gone to history.

The Commonwealth Companies operate in 24 states with the goal of providing quality, affordable housing. They work closely with neighborhood leaders, urban planners, and state and local governments to achieve these goals. Housing at the Spartan Lofts is available for low to mid-range income families. Applicants for the housing are encouraged to stop by the sales office on site and submit an application. Otherwise, contact [Spartanlofts@commonwealthco.net](mailto:Spartanlofts@commonwealthco.net).

## TOMAH

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Tomah’s Senior Executive Team recommended awarding the appraisal contract to Associated Appraisal.

Fiscal impact to the city, the present assessor contract costs \$132,000 for a three-year period. The new contract will cost \$186,100.

Council approved a six year statement of project intentions for improvements to Tomah’s Bloyer Field (airport). The plan is required by state statute for communities to be eligible to seek federal or state aid to offset costs.

There are no projects on tap this year. But according to the proposed plan, a design for runway lighting would take place in 2023 with the

work planned for 2024. Design estimate, \$40,000. Replacement estimate \$300,000.

The plan calls for land acquisition of additional easements for approach protection in 2025, cost estimate, \$200,000. In 2026 the plan targets crack seal for airfield pavement, estimate at \$50,000.

Council made official to eliminate the city administrator position with a resolution for a budget amendment. The action will save the city \$93,000 on a yearly basis. Money will be moved to contingency accounts to use as needed for wages and other expenses for the remainder of 2022.

# Sparta Superintendent Investigation update

By KYLE EVANS  
Interim Editor

Dr. Amy Van Deuren, Superintendent of the Sparta Area School District is under fire with an investigation. There are roughly fifteen complaints against her from staff stemming back to March 25.

The school board announced that they will be having a hearing with Van Deuren present in closed session. At this time, the board will decide if they will take any disciplinary action. They have not set an official date yet.

The Herald has learned

recently that Dr. Amy Van Deuren was also a finalist for a District Administrator position for the Rosholt School District in Rosholt, WI. The Rosholt School District ended up choosing a different candidate for their position.

Dr. Van Deuren has been on paid administrative leave and under investigation since a special meeting on March 28. The Herald put in an open records request for documents and details regarding the investigation. The Herald has yet to receive anything regarding the investigation from the district.

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