

## SPORTS

Schwartz, Stein will represent Sun Prairie girls tennis at state • B1



## BUSINESS

Guardian Fabrication in Sun Prairie Business Park scheduled to close by December 17, cutting 82 positions • A2

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### ANNUAL SPASD ELECTORS MEETING

## Board apportionment vote fails 114-52

By Chris Mertes  
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Despite civilized, but passionate, arguments on both sides, Sun Prairie Area School District electors during their annual meeting on Monday, Oct. 4 rejected apportionment of the Sun Prairie School Board on a vote of 114 to 52.

Opponents of apportionment argued that the decision to require board members to live either on the west or east side of the district would split the district and pit east against

west, while others said there was no need to change the current system of at-large board candidate election.

Apportionment proponents, however, said that if the SPASD is truly interested in equitable representation that its electors would approve apportionment.

One of those was Changsok Isaac Sung, an assistant professor of computer and data science at Ripon College, who argued the arguments against further division were false ones. He predicted that inequities from unequal

representation on the Sun Prairie School Board will create division. Sung argued that a board member who lives in a neighborhood will more closely understand the values of those living there, as opposed to being elected at-large.

He said — unlike his experience in the SPASD — that he wants his daughter to feel welcomed in the district, and in order for that to happen, the current board election system should change to represent east or west sides.

Recent Dane County

Supervisor candidate Kristin Morris argued that the most important thing about a school board candidate should be their attitude, and not their address.

Morris predicted that political issues will begin to make their way through the board if the board is apportioned. She predicted the board could also be subject to gerrymandering in future years and urged a no vote on the proposal.

Lisa Goldsberry, among

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### ELECTORS MEETING

## Electors OK \$69.3M school tax levy

By Chris Mertes  
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Sun Prairie Area School District electors on Monday night, Oct. 4, approved a 2021-22 tax levy of \$69,274,324 during the annual electors meeting at Sun Prairie High School. That translates to a 2021-22 school purpose levy of \$11.61, or an 8.9% decrease from last year's school-purpose mill rate of \$12.75.

Electors set the levy after a presentation by SPASD Director of Business & Finance Phil Frei, who recounted multiple presentations on the 2021-22 SPASD Budget, including a July 26 public hearing and an Aug. 23 recommendation from the board to the Annual Electors Meeting.

Frei did say, however, that the final decision to set the levy rests with the Sun Prairie School Board after Oct. 15 (the board won't take any action until its Oct. 25 meeting). That's because on Oct. 15, the Department of Public Instruction will share figures about the district's property value increase. The levy approved by electors includes a budget calculated with a 6% property value increase, but Frei said he heard on Oct. 4 that number could be 6.5%.

But the budget was also calculated using a 50 student increase in the Third Friday Count of the SPASD's student population. The actual SPASD Third Friday Count showed a decrease of 35 students.

### Other electors action

Electors also approved:

- Setting the School Board President's annual salary at \$6,000 and the other board member salaries at \$5,000;
- Authorized reimbursement of board member expenses incurred in the performance of their duties;

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### WE SHALL NOT FORGET

## Shelley Joan Weiss: an officer and an educator

By Jennifer Fetterly  
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A teacher in a classroom and a Lt. Colonel in the Wisconsin Air National Guard. They may not seem to have a lot in common. But Shelley Joan Weiss knows they do — she's been both.

This summer, Weiss saw teachers team up with Wisconsin National Guard members to learn how to be leaders at the Educator Leadership Rendezvous at Fort McCoy. They slept in barracks, climbed up a rope on a 50-foot tower, and ate MREs.

"Within minutes they all realized that they were working on the same thing, trying to support young people to be their best," Weiss said.

That's what Weiss has done all her life: lifting up others to achieve their potential both in education and in the military.

### Being a leader

Weiss was motivated by her

father, Willard Weiss, an Army and Army National Guard veteran who served during the Korean War, Berlin Crisis, Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.

He told his daughter to think big when considering a career in the military: "Wait until you can get an officer position."

Weiss kept that in the back of her mind as she graduated from Columbus High School and headed off to the University of Wisconsin to get a degree in education.

She paid her way through college by cutting hair at Truax Field and it was there that she heard about a position in the Army National Guard.

After scoring high on the military aptitude test, a general told her: "Get in here now, we are taking you."

Always adventurous and eager to learn, Weiss found the

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Shelley's father, Willard Weiss, designed and developed the site for the Columbus Veterans Memorial. With her father in his nineties, she helps with the memorial selling commemorative bricks.

## Alders welcome new assistant police chief

By Chris Mertes  
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Despite the fact that the council chambers were supposed to be closed to the public, family and friends of new Sun Prairie Police Department Assistant Chief Shunta Boston jammed the council chambers to witness her official swearing-in and badge pinning.

Mayor Paul Esser made no effort to ask those in the

chambers to leave, but instead praised the hiring of the new assistant police chief — the first female and African-American assistant chief in the city's history.

"We have a young police department and especially the upper ranks, the lieutenants and the sergeants are a pretty young group right now. The chief is a mature person saying that he has had some years in police work and now Shunta is

in the same position, but what she brings to it is a unique set of experiences," the mayor told the council from the council chambers podium during the first in-person interaction in the council chambers since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

"She's coming to us from the Milwaukee Police Department, so a much larger department. And that means she's

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## Student in custody after alleged threat at SPEHS

By Jennifer Fetterly  
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The Sun Prairie East High School was put on a "secure hold" for almost an hour Thursday morning after a student threatened a school dean on social media.

Sun Prairie Police and school staff took the teen who allegedly made the threat into custody to interview him.

Lt. Ryan Cox said the incident is under investigation and could not offer more information at this time.

Communications and Engagement Officer Patti Lux said students and staff were not in danger. Lux said the secure hold procedure was put into place so there was no movement in the building until the

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