

Spring Valley & Elmwood School/Community Highlights

Spring Valley Dance Team competes in River Falls

By Sam Niebeling
Sun-Argus/ Gateway News
RIVER FALLS, WI - On December 18, the Spring Valley Dance Team traveled to River Falls for a dance competition that consisted of 168 performances from 38 teams. Spring Valley participated in both Small Varsity Pom, and Small

Varsity Jazz. Spring Valley, as a team came in third place in the Small Varsity Jazz Division. The team placed fifth in the Small Varsity Pom Division. During the 9 hours of performances, Spring Valley had 4 individual performances that were done by Abby Biggs, Grace Haug, Danelle

Nyhus, and Trista Falde. All of the individuals competed in the Small Varsity Solo Category with Abby and Taylor making it to a four-way tie for 3rd place out of 19 participants. Grace placed 9th in the category and Danelle placed 14th. Dance performances are scored on three main things including Content,

Execution, and effectiveness. The Jazz Division and the Pom Division both are scored similarly with a few key differences. Performances receive a score out of 90 based on the 3 main principles listed above. With 384 total registered athletes, this was the biggest Wildcat Invite that River Falls has had to date!



Abby Biggs performing her third-place solo routine. Photo by Sam Niebeling



The Spring Valley Dance Team performing their Small Varsity Jazz Routine that got them third place. Photo by Sam Niebeling



You would think at this point, living in the great northern states I would have developed a symbiotic relationship with winter. I haven't. I detest snow driving, and I am the person who drives extra cautiously slowly. Not because I don't know how to drive, but because I have been in a snow accident, and I don't care to experience it again. Also, because every time I hit something with my car, usually some form of wildlife, it costs me a \$500 deductible and the newspaper business is not a get rich quick career. Shocker, right?



While that's all in good fun, when I woke up on Monday morning to the shiniest, iciest snow we've seen all year I wasn't too surprised. With a day off, I wasn't worried about driving and planned on leisurely watching Netflix, maybe doing some laundry, and sipping on a cup of hot cocoa.

Tony was the first to leave the safety of the house, and as he stepped out the door, his feet went up, his back went down and away he went cascading down the driveway on a sheet of ice. Returning to the indoors, he proclaimed, "yep, it's slicker than shit out," which if you don't know is the Wisconsin way of saying it's slippery.

I ignored his warnings and suited up because with an old, fat dog like Hunter, the deck needs to be shoveled so he doesn't go sliding down the stairs and get stuck. This is a real risk since I have had to pull him out of the stairs once already this year.

The deck seemed to have missed the brunt of the ice because I had no issues peeling the snow up with my shovel and pushing it off.

Still ignoring Tony's warnings, I made it onto the driveway where I attempted to shovel but, lacked the muscles to get the job done. I volunteered to move my car back so he could get to that spot, and as I did, I hit a patch of ice, my legs went sideways, my knee went down, and

I was laid flat out on the ice. Tony stared at me for a few seconds in shock, laughed, and helped me back up with dogs Drake and Ruby in tow checking out what happened.

With the falling out of the way, I ventured to the animal pen, stopping my way up the hill to get some footing. The goats were pretty stationary snacking on a bale of hay, but even as they moved around their little hooves wavered on the ice. As I approached the bird pen, I stuck with routine and opened the door. As the birds came flying and running out, there little webbed toes stayed on top of the icy snow, resulting in what could only be described as a disaster. Some tried to fly a little to keep their bearing but, they only succeeded in propelling themselves faster down the slight hill - resulting in speed skating ducks. Others gave up and pulled their feet up as their little feathered bodies gained momentum, taking out anyone in front of them. Eventually they came to a sliding stop, quacked angrily at me, and immediately turned around and went back into their coop. They decided that was enough of the outdoors for them. I managed to shovel them a little path through the ice if they felt like strolling and was able to keep myself upright for the rest of the day. After the clearing of the snow, I also retreated back inside, grateful that we are one day closer to spring!

Congratulations Emma Buck!

Buck writes award-winning Bill of Rights essay
Submitted by Jessica Shafer, Spring Valley MS Social Studies Teacher
SPRING VALLEY, WI - Spring Valley eighth grade student Emma Buck was a finalist in the U.S. Courts Second Annual Bill of Rights Day Event. This was hosted by the United States Courts of Appeals along with the United States District Courts in the Seventh and Eighth Circuits. They had sent out a flyer to Buck's Social Studies teacher who passed it on.

Emma wrote a 600-word essay on the importance of the Bill of Rights. She was selected as one of the top 18 finalists from hundreds of students in ten states.

On November 15, 2021, Emma was selected as a finalist in the essay contest. On December 2 she attended a virtual award event with the other 18 finalists.

(Here with permission to publish is the award-winning essay by Emma Buck)

"The Bill of Rights in Today's Society"

In today's world, we have many conflicts. There are wars going on that many won't hear about, such as the war in Darfur. Other conflicts we hear about on the daily. Nowadays, you can turn on the news and hear people argue about the ongoing virus. Or you see BLM protests, LGBTQIA+ protests, indigenous

protests, etc. When we see this stuff on the daily, we tend to forget that one of the only reasons we as people can protest is because of the Bill of Rights. Without the first amendment, these protests would never be allowed to exist, or even be heard.

In today's society, when most people hear of the Bill of Rights, they think of the first ten amendments. And, although knowing the Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments, it is also important to know the history and why it was added to the Constitution. At first, we only had the Constitution which consisted of the government's powers. However, the anti-Federalists opposed just having a Constitution. They argued that the Constitution had no safeguard in regards to the people's individual liberties and the state's rights. The anti-Federalists refused to vote for the Constitution without the Bill of Rights, hence the Bill of Rights was added in 1791.

The Bill of Rights ensures mine and others civil liberties. Without the Bill of Rights, we would be people without safeguards against the government. For instance, without the first amendment, the protests that happen on the daily wouldn't be allowed. On top of that, the people of the United States would be unable to have their own beliefs in religion.

And, while other amendments are quite simple to interpret, the

second amendment has had people arguing for years. Starting off, some believe that the second amendment allows them the right to bear arms, which is what the amendment says. However, others argue that they don't have the right to bear arms, because the amendment was written in a different time and for a different purpose, to protect against British soldiers. They believe that to maintain the militia or army, people need weapons.

Now, while the third amendment is often the most forgotten amendment, it prevents military troops from quartering in a private home in a time of war or peace. To this day, the U.S. Supreme Court has never had a case regarding the third amendment. The fourth amendment can help protect those protesting if they get arrested. It prevents the government from searching a property or person without a reasonable cause based on evidence. It ensures that the government must have a search warrant that specifies the location, person to be searched, and what they are looking for. The fifth amendment can also protect those protesting and arrested. People can plead the fifth, meaning said person refuses to answer questions or provide information that could be used against them. It also protects people from self-incrimination and double jeopardy. It prevents the government from



Spring Valley eighth grade student Emma Buck who has written an award-winning essay about the Bill of Rights of the U.S Constitution. Submitted photo

taking someone's property without paying them appropriate compensation. It also ensures that everyone is able to have a fair trial. The sixth amendment allows accused people to have a speedy and public trial. Meanwhile, the seventh amendment gives people the right of trial by jury. The eighth amendment helps those found guilty. They can't be given an excessive amount of bail. It also protects people from cruel and unusual punishments. The ninth and tenth amendment are arguably the simplest, giving people and states unlisted rights. Overall, the Bill of Rights helps form today's society.

Great job Emma!!!

Boys' hoops team handles Boyceville to head into break on winning note

By Ron Cipriano
Sun-Argus/Gateway News
SPRING VALLEY, WI - When the basketball season started with returning All-Conference player Connor Ducklow on the bench with an injury, it was probably a stretch to think the team would be able to compete well without that inside presence and size.

But the Cardinals came into the break with a 5-1 overall record and a 2-1 conference mark, something that probably seemed impossible at the beginning of the season.

Ducklow should be rejoining the team after the break, no exact date is known. The team has handled his absence quite well, with great play inside by some unexpected players - senior Charlie Maier and sophomore

Jameson Bauer, as well as every other player on the team.

Two weeks ago, the Cardinals faced a foe with a big inside presence in sophomore Grant Kaiser of Boyceville, but the Cardinals handled the Bulldogs on their way to a 57-42 win.

It was clear from the beginning of the game that Boyceville was planning to shut down Spring Valley senior Tyler Bowman, who finished the game with just two points. The Cardinals are not a one-dimensional team however, three other players picked up the scoring duties with double-digit scoring.

The Cardinals jumped out to an early lead but struggled with getting into a rhythm with the physical play of Boyceville. The Bulldogs did just

enough to keep within reach of the Cardinals throughout the first half. Valley forged a 29-20 halftime lead and outscored the Bulldogs 28-22 in the second half, but every point was a battle.

The Cardinals shot 49% from the floor as a team, making 21-of-43 shots including going 6-for-18 from three-point range. They held Boyceville to just 32% shooting (17-of-53 from the floor and 1-for-15 from three-point range).

The Bulldogs forced Valley into 19 turnovers in the game, as well as 13 steals with a lot of busy hands defensively, but foul trouble was definitely an issue for Boyceville as they were whistled for 19 personal fouls.

Maier led the Cardinal charge

with 16 points and 14 rebounds in dominant play on both ends of the floor. The senior also drew the lone charge of the night defensively for the Cardinals. Freshman Cade Stasiek also scored 16 points coming off the bench and sophomore Jameson Bauer had 10 points to help the effort.

Boyceville was led by Simon Evenson with 14 points as the Cardinals clamped down on their leading scorer, Nick Olson, holding him to just four points (he had an average of 13 points per game coming in).

Valley will next play at Unity on Tuesday, January 4 and will host Glenwood City on Friday, January 7, 2022.

Somerset girls dominate Cardinals to snap Valley win streak

By Ron Cipriano
Sun-Argus/Gateway News
SOMERSET, WI - Win streaks are confidence builders, when they can keep on going, but inevitably there comes a time for it to end.

The Spring Valley girls' basketball team saw their three-game win streak, their first since the 2015-16 season, come to an end last week on the road at Somerset by a 73-30 margin.

Somerset dominated the Cardinals in all aspects of the game, jumping out to a big lead in the first half, 26-1 at one point, 40-11 by the intermission.

The second half scoring was a little better for the Cardinals as the Spartans took off the full-court press and Valley responded with some better opportunities. Regardless, Somerset still outscored Valley 33-19 in the second half.

The Cardinals made just 27% of their shots in the game, making 10-of-38 shots from the floor (including going 2-for-12 from three-point range). Somerset connected on just 40% of their shots in the game, making 27 of 68 shots from the floor (including 8-for-22 from three-point range).

Somerset's press coverage

forced the Cardinals into 28 turnovers and combined with their 20 steals helped to dominate Valley. Somerset also dominated on the glass, pulling down 28 offensive rebounds and 25 defensive boards compared to just eight offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for the Cardinals.

Sophomore Mara Ducklow led the Cardinals with 14 points and freshman Halle Thomas contributed another 10 points and 10 rebounds to help the effort. Somerset was led by MyKenzie Leccia with 19 points, Lucy Nichols had 13 points and Roni

Fagan had 11. Six other players scored for the Spartans in the winning effort, while just two other players scored for the Cardinals.

The loss drops the Cardinals to 4-3 on the season, 2-1 in conference play. Valley hosted Cumberland last night in another non-conference game and will travel to Chetek-Weyerhaeuser next Tuesday for another non-conference game before heading into the heart of the D-SC by traveling to conference leading Colfax. The Vikings are ranked #9 in the state with a 9-1 overall record.

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