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Est. 1898

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LOCAL JOURNALISM MATTERS

**Newspaper of the Year**

Wisconsin Newspaper Association, by circulation

**2018 | 2020 | 2021**

\$1.25

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Vol. CXXV Issue 15



**STORIES BEHIND THE STARS**

**Seaman 2nd Class David Joseph Riley**



Photo supplied

**By Krista Finstad Hanson**

For the Times with assistance from Deborah Krauss Smith

The USS Oklahoma was stationed at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941 when the Imperial Japanese Army Air Service launched an attack. An estimated 3 torpedoes hit the ship and she capsized to the port side. 429 crew members died. Some survivors swam to the neighboring ship the USS Maryland and continued fighting. 32 crew members were rescued from the hull of the ship.

**Stories Behind The Stars**

A series that honors more than 421,000 Americans that lost their lives in World War II.

Fallen soldiers from Green County will be highlighted in the Monroe Times.

To learn more about the project, visit [storiesbehindthestars.org](http://storiesbehindthestars.org).

Green County Seaman Second Class David Joseph Riley served on the USS Oklahoma and was one of the casualties.

David Joseph Riley was born February 18, 1916 in Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin to George and Ethel Riley.

From the 1920 US Census, the Riley family lived in Suamico, Brown County, Wisconsin. The household included father George, mother Ethel, and son David. They owned their own home and father George was a fisherman working on his own account.

For reasons unknown, David Riley became a ward of the Children's Home Society of Wisconsin in Madison, and was placed in foster care with the Elmer Asmus family of Juda, Wisconsin when he was 11.

**See RILEY, Page A3**

**Toddler's modern art pays off**

Brodhead family wins \$20k, was a finalist for \$100k prize on TV show AFV after son draws on walls, furniture, younger sibling

**By Gary Mays**  
gmays@themonroetimes.com

MONROE — A Brodhead family made a laughter-filled second appearance on America's Funniest Home Videos Sunday night, took home \$20,000; and got a free trip to Los Angeles for a taping of the show.

The appearance was the first of two the family logged from the same cell phone video of young Braxton Hertzner, now 2 and a half years old, interacting with his younger brother, nine-month-old Beckett. The kids' dad, Logan Hertzner of Brodhead, narrates the clip and sent in the video of his younger son, getting into trouble with his baby brother.

The clip shows the younger child's head generously covered with black marker; and Braxton's dad asks him what

he's done. The marked-up baby was shown after Hertzner pans his camera around the room, where there's also a child-colored mother's wallet, his own toys — and even a white wall with black marker all over it.

The family, including Julia, the mom, initially took home \$20,000 and which qualified them for the \$100,000 prize Sunday night.

"It was actually my mom and mother-in-law's idea," said Logan on Monday, a day after the second show aired. "They told me 'You just have to send that in to America's Funniest Videos'."

For the second show, they were flown to Los Angeles for a studio taping in December, an experience Logan described as unforgettable.

"It was a fast weekend trip but it was still an amazing experience," he said. "It was

**See AFV, Page A7**



Photo supplied  
Brodhead 2-year-old Braxton Hertzner, with father Logan, share the stage with AFV host Alfonso Ribeiro.

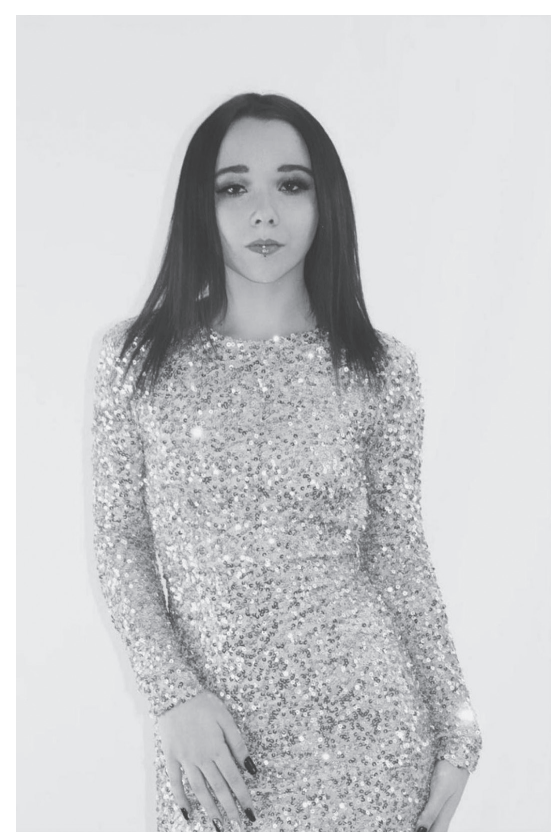


Photo supplied

Jayde Kapple, a 16-year-old Monroe student, will represent Wisconsin in the national Teen Petite USA pageant this summer in Milwaukee.

**MHS student wins state pageant**

Up next: August National competition in Milwaukee

**By Adam Krebs**  
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MONROE — As a young child, Jayde Kapple was introduced to the world of pageants. She competed in the National American Miss from ages 5 through 10. After a few years away, she wanted to get back into the pageantry world, and now, at age 16, she re-entered the fold.

"I was looking into pageants online, and the Petite USA Pageant had caught my eye right away," said Kapple, a Monroe High School sophomore who stands just 5-feet tall. "I picked this pageant to open new opportunities in my life. I wanted to start doing pageants again, and I thought this would be a great start."

Great it is: Kapple was named the 2023 Teen Wisconsin Petite Queen and will represent the state in the Petite USA pageant in Milwaukee, to be held Aug. 9-12.

She said the process was surprisingly simple — she first filled out an application that was sent to a committee. That committee then decided she'd be a semifinalist for the state title.

"About a week later I got the news that I had been selected as a semifinalist for the state title," she said. "I then had to fill out a finalist application and after about another week after I had submitted that, I heard back from the selection committee with the great news awarding me the State Title of 2023 Teen Wisconsin Petite Queen."

Thousands of women around the

**See PAGEANT, Page A6**

**Potential MHS property chosen, dates for informational, elector meetings set**

**By Adam Krebs**  
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MONROE — At a special meeting Feb. 16, the School District of Monroe's Board of Education voted 6-1 to a land contract for a new location for the new high school.

The location is located on the north side of County DR, across from Wisconsin Pallet and Storage near the intersection of Industrial Drive. A more detailed informational meeting about the location is currently scheduled for Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. at the Monroe High School Performing Arts Center.

The land purchase agreement would include parts of four parcels of cropland currently owned by Fran and Sandy Donny. The total land mass is about 70 acres.

property through both searches which occurred this summer and winter" based on the size and layout of the property by the board and administration, Superintendent of Monroe Schools Rodney Figueroa said at the Feb. 16 meeting.

Earlier in the land search process, the administration and board found the location to be the top choice, but the cost was the main drawback. Back in September 2022, the district announced a different location to be the home of the new school, which was later approved by voters in a referendum in November. It was announced that the location off of 31st Avenue on the city's east side was nearly four times cheaper, and cost about \$17,000 per acre for 77 acres.

This new location had its price per acre drop from about

**See MHS, Page A3**



Graphic supplied by the School District of Monroe

**High speed pursuit, hit-and-run, drugs and a foot chase**

Saga unfolds on Monroe's west side on otherwise quiet Friday afternoon

**By Gary Mays**  
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MONROE — Authorities have identified the second suspect after a pair of Illinois men were arrested in Monroe late last Friday afternoon following a police chase that crossed state lines.

The pair from Illinois hit another car and a traffic signal post, and then fled on foot in the 800 block of Wis. 69. According to Monroe Police, the car was being pursued by Stephenson County, Ill.



Jackson Bean

Sheriff's Office deputies and later, those from Green County. After striking another vehicle, the suspect's car left the road before crashing into the traffic signal. The vehicle sustained damage and the two occupants fled on foot, Monroe Police Chief Fred Kelley stated in a press release. They were captured nearby. Both reported minor injuries and were transported by EMS.

**See CHASE, Page A7**