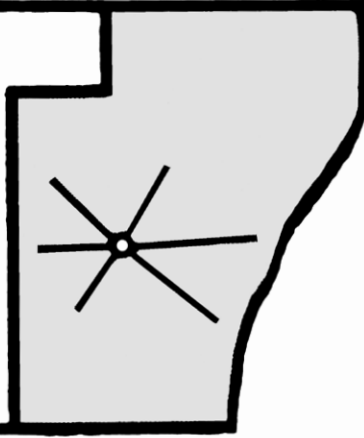


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Board poised to honor Nelson

The Valders Area School Board will consider dedicating the high school basketball court to former longtime coach Dick Nelson at its meeting on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in district board room 101 at Valders High School. Other agenda items include a presentation of the high school youth apprentice program, and extended trips for FIRST Team Droid Rage Robotics and FCCLA competition, along with readings of various policies, accepting donations, and accepting resignations and employment of staff.

Numbers do not add up for Dems

Evers' budget raises lots of legislative eyebrows

By Todd S. Bergmann

Area lawmakers, all Republicans, said they are planning many changes to the 2023-25 state budget that Gov. Tony Evers introduced last week.

State Rep. Paul Tittl, R-Manitowoc, said he dislikes the overall budget from the governor, a Democrat.

"The budget seems like a liberal wish list," he said. "I don't know if we have enough money to spend on all he (Evers) wants to spend."

Similarly, in statements last week, Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, R-Oostburg, showed his dislike for Evers' budget.

"The governor's budget lacks the responsible decision making that the Legislature has provided in the past two budgets," LeMahieu said. "The growth of government and the handouts to special interests are out of control."

LeMahieu said he expects a better budget when the Joint Committee on Finance finishes work on the document and sends it to the floor of the Assembly and Senate.

"You will see a budget that provides real tax relief for all Wisconsin families, not the bait-and-switch the governor has introduced," he said.

Evers' budget proposal calls for a \$2.6 billion increase in spending for public schools, a 10% tax decrease for people earning less than \$100,000 a year, removal of tax deductions and credits that high-income earners use and designating 20% of sales tax revenue for cities, towns, villages and counties.

Sen. Andre Jacque, R-De Pere, who represents northern Manitowoc County, finds some good points in the governor's budget, unlike LeMahieu, who represents southern and central Manitowoc County.

"There are a half dozen of my bills that the governor is including in his budget proposal," Jacque said.

These include Hmong veteran recognition legislation, veterans' property tax credits, accounts for individuals with special needs, the Every Kid Outdoors program, sales tax exemptions for diapers and feminine hygiene products and assistance for septic tank replacement.

The budget process will include listening to state agencies in Madison and conducting hearings around the state, Jacque said.

"Everything that the governor proposes is part of the conversation," he said.

Early in the process, Tittl said the Joint Finance Committee will remove from the budget policy items and then start using the 2021-23 budget as a base budget.

Further, Tittl addressed the \$4.3 billion surplus with which the state ended its fiscal year on June 30, 2022.

"We have a surplus, yes," he said. "But, some of it is one-time money. Some of it will be ongoing."

"The No. 1 thing about our surplus is that it is not our money. It's the taxpayers' money."

In the biggest piece of the pie, Evers proposed...
See Budget p. 17



How Does It Taste?

Students erupt in laughter as Valders Elementary School counselor Libby Bishop takes a pie in the face from 4K student Isabel Hay during

an assembly last Thursday. The top fundraisers during the school's recent kindness challenge got the chance to toss cream pies at a teacher.
—Journal Photo

Campaign shows kindness really does win

By Todd S. Bergmann

A few weeks of showing extra kindness and raising funds ended with a friendly pie in the face for several teachers at Valders Elementary School last week.

The two-week Kindness Challenge ended Feb. 10, said physical education teacher Joy Palecek, who is a member of the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports team.

"Students try to do as many acts of kindness as they can," she said. "For every 10 acts of kindness that they do, they earn a

little incentive."

For every 10 acts of kindness, Palecek said students earned a small prize and put a circle in a balloon in the hallway.

"We really don't count the total," she said. "It is so much. I would not even know what to guess."

Besides kind acts for others, students raised money to benefit themselves by helping the school. They raised funds for new basketball hoops for the playground and for a skateboarding curriculum for the physical education program, Palecek said.

"This is a fundraiser in the non-traditional sense," she said. "They are not selling things. It is just a donation to the PTA."

Students asked parents, other relatives and neighbors to donate to the cause and some took money out of their piggy banks, Palecek said.

The students raised nearly \$18,500, far exceeding the goal of \$10,000.

"The support from the families in our community just blows me away," she said.

The eight students who raised the most
See Pies p. 24

VHS retires #30 to honor one of its own

By Brian Thomsen

Luke Goedeke was welcomed back as a hero Friday night, getting his football jersey retired by his alma mater and signing dozens upon dozens of autographs to boot.

Goedeke just recently completed his first season as an offensive lineman for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, drafted in the second round of last April's NFL draft.

"It's been surreal," Goedeke said. "Getting drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and blocking for the greatest player of all time [Tom Brady]. It's a real experience."

The ceremony honoring Goedeke preceded a boys basketball game at Valders High School and drew a large crowd. After the game was over, Goedeke got to work signing LG #67 on a lot of football memorabilia brought by appreciative fans.

As if being drafted wasn't a dream come true for the 6-foot-5, 312 pound Goedeke, getting to block for Brady was the icing on the cake.

"He's an incredible individual," Goedeke said of Brady. "The work he puts in, the time



Welcome Home

Luke Goedeke waves to the crowd as he enters the gym at Valders High School on Friday night, where his high school football number was retired.
—Journal Photo

he puts in, the accountability he has. It's no wonder he's the greatest player of all times. He's just always so detailed in his work."

But Brady announced his retirement after the season was over, and that has Goedeke wondering what next season will bring.

"He's had a great career in the NFL," Goedeke said. "I wish him nothing but the best whether he stays retired or comes back."

Goedeke told of his own ups and downs this past season.

"My first start, obviously butterflies," he said. "It was Sunday night or Monday night football against 'America's Team,' if you will, the Cowboys. After I had a few plays and settled in, it was all good."

An elite college lineman at Central Michigan, Goedeke said playing at the professional level is a whole new ballgame.

"It's way different," he said. "The speed of the game, the physicality. Just playing against the best athletes in the world. You really can't compare. If you're half a second slow they're going to beat you."

See Jersey p. 4