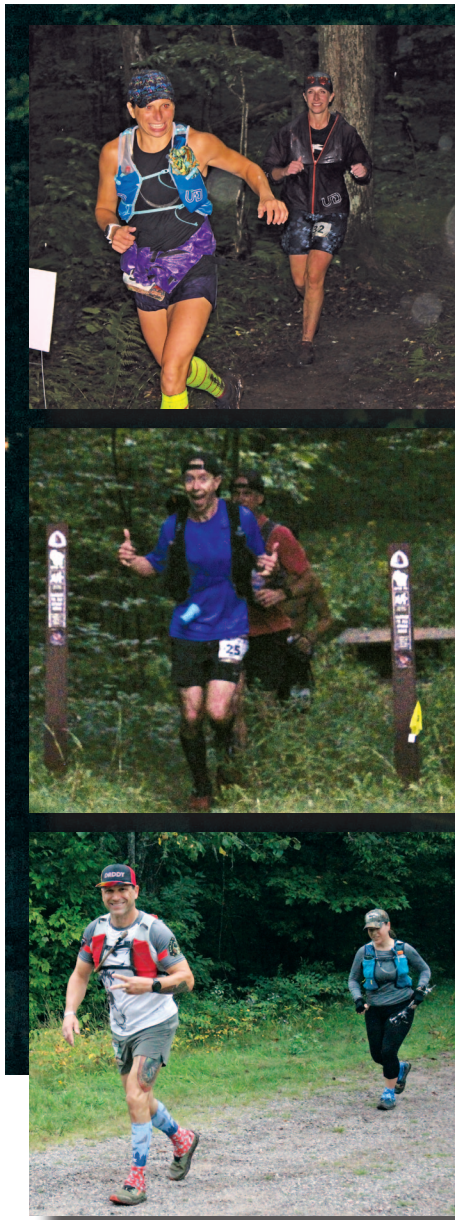


\$1.50



Farmer's Market Finds  
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BRIAN WILSON/THE STAR NEWS

Runners pause to take in dawn over the Mondeaux Flowage on Aug. 27 prior to the start of the Midwest States 100 trail run. The race was put on by Ornergy Mule Racing and was capped this year at 75 runners. Organizers hope to grow the race in future years.

# 100 miles, one stride at a time

Inaugural Midwest States 100 trail race held on Ice Age National Trail

BY BRIAN WILSON  
 NEWS EDITOR

Every journey has to begin somewhere. For the 75 runners gathered in the pre-dawn darkness on a rise overlooking

the Mondeaux Flowage on Saturday morning their journey was about to begin. The runners were competing in the Midwest States 100 Trail Race. The race took place on the Ice Age Trail with the option of runners competing in a 100 km event or the 100 mile event. The race started and finished near the Mondeaux Lodge on the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest. According to race director Michele Hartwig of Crystal Lake, Ill.-based Or-

nergy Mule Racing, the journeys of the runners taking part in the race started long before they gathered with their gear and drop bags near the start line. For some, the race was just another in a series of physical challenges pushing themselves and proving to themselves that they can do it. Others who are hooked on the runners high "graduated" from running dozens of marathons until they grew bored with "only" doing 26 miles at a time and who wanted more.

See **MIDWEST** on page 8

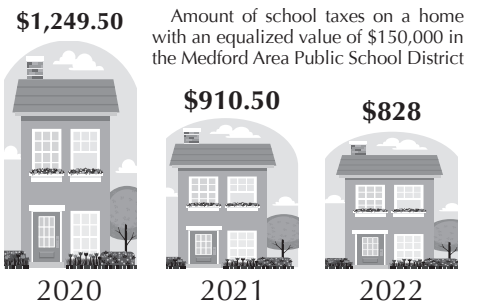
# Look out below

Medford school tax rate projected to drop by close to 10% this year

BY BRIAN WILSON  
 NEWS EDITOR

Rising equalized values is leading to drops in the tax rate for Medford Area Public Schools property owners. At Monday night's school district annual meeting, the finance director Audra Brooks presented a budget calling for \$34.3 million in spending with a local tax levy of \$6,050,390. The levy is up \$143,688 from last year, a 2.43% increase in actual levy dollars. However, thanks to a projected 12% increase in the equalized value for the district the tax rate is expected to drop from the current \$6.07 per \$1,000 of equalized value to a projected \$5.52 per \$1,000 of equalized value. What this will mean is that the owner of a \$150,000 home in the district paid about \$911 in the school portion of their property taxes last year and will pay \$828 in school taxes this year. This works out to be a 9.06% drop and is on top of the 25.4% drop that occurred in last year's tax levy, that drop had been driven by the district paying off previous debt. "We are the lowest in the area," Brooks said, noting that Medford's tax rate is well below that of surrounding districts as well as the state average of \$8.67 per \$1,000 of equalized value.

See **SCHOOL TAX** on page 4



Page 2: Huey's youth get visit from Taylor Electric Cooperative

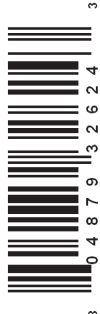


SPORTS: Hawks grounded in home opener



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