

Jefferson County Daily Union

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CARLY DAVIS/ADAMS PUBLISHING GROUP

(from left to right) Ben, Hunter, and Luke cruise through “House of the Rising Sun” by The Animals.

Take Back the Sun glows bright, rocks out

Three of the bandmates hail from Jefferson

CARLY DAVIS
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It’s clear that the members of Take Back the Sun, a rock group who came together in a mythical dark and derelict room at Knapton Musik Knotes in Janesville, are still honing their artistic personas — though their musical abilities are mature beyond their years. On stage, the five

15-year-olds wore matching black t-shirts during a relentlessly sunny day at the edge of Lake Koshkonong. The breeze whistled through the long grass behind the stage at the Highwood Club House in Edgerton. As I walked up, the group made light stage banter while guitarist and lead vocalist Ivan dodged a wasp that had been badgering the group through their second set of the day.

But understanding that the show must go on, and in the spirit of Dave Grohl playing an entire show with a broken leg and dislocated ankle in 2019, the band launched right into their next track, a rendition of ZZ Top’s 1983 hit “Sharp Dressed Man.” Their sound is heavy on the guitar, but with the brightness you’d expect from a younger band.

For singing through several wasp stings, Ivan does a killer job. He’s making headway at honing that steely-eyed, stern vocalist vibe. In the back, keyboardist Eli plays pensively while drummer Luke holds down the fort with emphatic playing. To Ivan’s left, Hunter, the other guitarist, watches his

More **BAND** | **A2**

OPINION

Scott Peterson:
Our puppy is on its way
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SPORTS

Plenty of scuffling between Patriots, Packers at joint practice
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TODAY’S WEATHER

HIGH LOW
77 | **55**

Partly sunny
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Hoard Historical Museum to host Butterfly Program

STAFF REPORT

FORT ATKINSON — The Hoard Historical Museum will be hosting a program on the lives of monarch butterflies on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 2:00 p.m. Karen Albrecht, or “The Butterfly Lady,” will present a program on monarch butterflies and their lives in conjunction with an exhibit titled “Habitat”, which invites visitors to explore the uniqueness and importance of the natural environment. “We are very excited to host this exhibit because it allows us to explore other parts of our world than what we normally share as part of our museum’s

exhibits,” said Merrilee Lee, director of the Hoard Historical Museum, in a press release. “For example, because this exhibit explores the importance of species such as monarch butterflies, we are hosting this program so we can learn more about the lives of monarchs. And who better to explore those with than ‘The Butterfly Lady’ herself, Karen Albrecht!” Albrecht will be sharing information about the migration patterns and life cycles of monarch butterflies. She will also explain how to raise



CONTRIBUTED BY HOARD HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Hoard Historical Museum’s native rain garden with butterflies installed in it as part of their Smithsonian exhibit. The butterflies were painted by Karen Gomez, local artist and museum volunteer and Cheryl Rezbek, very talented museum staff member.

More **HOARD** | **A5**

Band/

from A1
bandmate like a hawk, following the chord changes and leaning into a mic for background vocals from time to time.

Behind Hunter, Ben is the archetypal bassist: long-haired, quiet and swaying while he lays down the foundation for each song. Under his black Take Back the Sun t-shirt, he's wearing a black Rush t-shirt.

"I originally wanted to play the upright bass in school. But they weren't offering it to our age group, so I picked up the electric bass," he said. His influences range from acid rock groups like The 13th Floor Elevators to classic and progressive rock.

"I listen to stuff that's good," Ivan said succinctly.

Hunter nodded. "Same."

When it came to developing Take Back the Sun's sound, the band reached for some of their favorite groups: Nine Inch Nails, ZZ Top, Pink Floyd and Tool, among others.

At the same time, they have to think about what their audience wants to hear.

Coming back from a break where the five of them sat down with me, the band takes the stage to perform a cover of Rascal Flatts' "Life is a Highway."

"This one's for all you cinema fans," Ivan joked. Clearly, these kids grew up watching "Cars," since the soundtrack wormed its way into the brains of every Pixar-watching kid in the 2000s and 2010s.

It's the most hard-rocking rendition of that song I've ever heard, but maintains the energy and nostalgia of the earliest covers I heard of "Life is a Highway," sung by my older



CARLY DAVIS/ADAMS PUBLISHING GROUP

Eli (left) and Ivan (right) didn't let the sun stop them from wearing their long hair down during the breezy performance.

brother in the back of the family minivan.

Ivan lays down a Morrisey-esque vocal, putting an Anglo spin on the vowels of the chorus lyrics, "If you're goin' my way/ Well, I wanna drive it all night long."

They're working on their own music, too, and all of them write a little bit. Ivan recently penned a track grieving the death of Bucket, one of his pet goats.

The track, with the tongue-in-cheek title "Kick the Bucket," is meant to be more of an esoteric jam than a slow ballad.

Their tight-knit sound and easy rapport comes from years of knowing each other and playing together. The first iteration of the band goes back to 2019, when it was just Ivan, Luke and Hunter performing under the name "Distorted" as a rag-tag band of 11-year-old rockers.

Four years later, the group has taken on a more developed sound with skillful playing. Three of them hail from Jefferson, with one from Janesville and one from Edgerton. They've easily got the chops to cover these songs, but they still have the slight stiffness of most fledgling musicians.

It's not a deterrent, but it makes me wonder what would happen if the boys played more loosely, jammed a little more and pushed the constraints of the songs they cover until their sound is more frenetic, fluid and comfortable.

As they leap into a cover of "Crazy Train," I find myself nodding along to the strength and rhythm of their version, but wondering what it would sound like if they experimented with going off the rails a little.

But that's the benefit of great younger groups. They're competent and

skilled with endless room to grow and develop as they negotiate where they want to go.

"We're just a small

band. We're teenagers, so we don't have to worry too much," Hunter said.

"The main thing is right now to have fun," Ivan

said. "We want to learn the music that we love to play and play songs that we love to play and try to make them our own."

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON JEFFERSON, WISCONSIN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 10, 2023

The Board of Education of the School District of Jefferson met on Monday, July 10, 2023, in the library at Jefferson High School. President Wenkman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with all Board members present.

REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Oath of Office Verification: Superintendent Urness confirmed that Robin Salopek was appointed to the Area 3 seat on the Board of Education on June 26, 2023 and has completed her Oath of Office.

Update Appointments for 2023-24: President Wenkman updated the following appointments due to Board and staff member vacancies: • WASB Alternate Delegate- Lisa Fox • Sponsorship Advisory Committee Board Representatives- Seth Ebel and Matt Peltier • Jefferson Public Library Board Representative- Rebecca Condon, East Elementary Paraprofessional

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes for the June 26 2023 Board meeting and June 28th Board Workshop as presented was made by Mr. Ebel; seconded by Mrs. McWilliam. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda items were presented for Board approval: Employment: • Toby Krause, High School Tech Ed Teacher • Amy Lewison, High School EL Teacher

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mrs. Fox; seconded by Mr. Condon. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS: Superintendent's Report: Dr. Urness gave an update on the JEA Negotiations happening August 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., as well as an update on the East roofing options that will be presented at the Board meeting on July 24th.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Report on and Adoption of Academic Standards for the 2023-24 School Year per Section 118.30(1g)(a)1, Wisc. Stats. (Action Item): The Board was presented with the proposed 2023-24 academic standards for approval

A motion to approve the 2023-24 Academic Standards as presented was made by Mr. Ebel; seconded by Mrs. McWilliam. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS TOPICS:

Update to the 2023-24 Supplemental Compensation Handbook (Action Item): The Board was presented with an update to the Weight Room Coordinator position in the Supplemental Compensation Handbook for approval.

A motion to approve the updated 2023-24 Supplemental Compensation Handbook as presented was made by Mr. Condon; seconded by Mrs. Fox. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Authorizing the American Deposit Management Co. as a Designated Depository for District Funds. (Action Item): The Board was asked for approval of an authorization resolution.

A motion to update the resolution authorizing the American Deposit Management Co. as a designated depository for District funds as presented was made by Mr. Ebel; seconded by Mrs. Fox.

POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOPICS:

2023-2024 Strategic Plan Milestones (Action Item): Superintendent Urness reviewed the proposed 2023-2024 Strategic Plan Milestones with the Board for approval.

A motion to approve the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan Milestones as presented was made by Mrs. McWilliam; seconded by Mr. Condon. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Upcoming Policy Review: Superintendent Urness reviewed the policy review process noting the Board will be reviewing the 6000 (Finance) section at the July 24th meeting and highlighting the addition of a potential policy on purchase cards.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPIC(S): None

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Announcements: None

Superintendent Announcements: Dr. Urness announced that Summer School is in session 2

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Condon; seconded by Mr. Ebel. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. ADJOURNMENT: 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Schmitt, Acting Board Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED:

Terri Wenkman, President
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON
Date 7/24/23

WNAXLP

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