



Newspaper of the Year

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# **New survey** to gauge site preference

### **By Adam Krebs** editor@

themonroetimes.com

MONROE — With time pressed to move forward with a voter-approved \$88 million referendum, the School District of Monroe Board of Education is in a tight spot. In just over two weeks, the board is supposed to pay off its Bond of Anticipation Note (June 14).

While the referendum, which would build a new high school, passed in Nov. 2022, litigation by a group of citizens and two failed land acquisitions don't have the district any closer in providing ample space for the 60-plus acre project. The current land the high school sits on is just 27 acres, with another 20 available in the surrounding district-owned lots.

At the May 22 school board meeting, more than two hours were dedicated to discussion of the conundrum and how to go about proceeding. The first prop-

erty put forth was located along 31st Avenue on the cities far east side, nicknamed the B&S property. That location failed its special meeting of the electors, with about 150 district voters in attendance.

Nearly three months later, a second location was presented to the public, the Donny property, located on County DR, less than a mile from the city proper and across the street from the industrial park. With the commotion of litigation ongoing, more than 1,500 voters showed up to the special electors meeting and overwhelmingly turned the property down, almost 2:1 against.

While the 70-acre B&S property is no longer under

See BOARD, Page A5

# No home for returning to

MHS foreign exchange student's family home bombed in Gaza air raid

> **By Adam Krebs** editor@themonroetimes.com

MONROE — Anastasia Yacoub never expected that when she left her home last August for a 10-month foreign exchange

stay in America, she would never get to sleep in her bed again.

But that's exactly what has happened. On May 8, the sophomore from Palestine was sitting down to watch a movie with her host family, Larry and Mary Kloepping of Juda. That's when



Anastasia Yacoub

she got a devastating phone call from her best friend from back home in Gaza City: Her home had been destroyed in an air raid by the Israeli Defense Federation (IDF). The devastation was collateral damage to a further objective: To take out three militants of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) movement that lived nearby.

"Out of nowhere, I received a phone call from my best friend who lives right in front of me," said Anastasia, who is here through the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study. "I answered thinking nothing of it, but then I heard the ambulance and though, 'Oh no. Wait - is it near us, near our apartment? Are my parents OK?"

Her friend was crying.

"She never cries, so when I saw her crying I thought they were dead. I asked her if the bombs hit our apartment, and she just stayed quiet and did not know what to day," Anastasia said. "That's when I broke down. I thought my family was dead - my little brother and my dad and my mom. I went outside and I cried."

However, her family survived. While Anastasia could not make immediate contact with any of her family members, her friend was able to.

"They don't know how they survived. Thankfully they were very lucky," Anastasia said.

They survived by taking refuge in Anastasia's bedroom. In any other room





The family home of Monroe sophomore foreign exchange student Anastasia Yacoub was recently destroyed in a bombing in Palestine by Israeli Defense Federation forces. Her mother, father and 5-year-old brother survived the strike, but are now homeless. A GoFundMe has been set up to support the family. Anastasia is scheduled to return to her home country in less than two weeks.

# Photo supplied

# **Project: Anastasia**

To donate, go to: https://tinyurl.com/5bmj97n2

It has come to our attention that our friend and classmate, Anastasia, has suf-

fered an unimaginable tragedy. Anastasia is here from Palestine through the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study. Recently, her apartment was bombed in the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel. Thankfully, her family is without physical injury, but their home and possessions have been destroyed. Anastasia is set to arrive home in less than a month but, as of right now, she will have nowhere to live. Though none of us know the feeling of being displaced by war, we are committed to helping Anastasia and her family make it through this devastating time in any way we can. Anastasia has made such a meaningful impact in our students' lives and any contributions are appreciated. If you are unable to assist financially at this time, please consider sharing the fundraiser.

would have been gone," Anastasia said. Her father received some minor inju-

ries from a window falling on him.

As she tried to gather more information and come to terms with what happened, she continued to attend school and play soccer. However, the end of the school and soccer season means something even tougher for her: It'll be time to go home.

"The program, they have to send me back. But I told them, 'if you send me back, I don't know where to go.' My parents are really stressed right now. ... we have two weeks left," Anastasia said.

trying to help their friend out with more than just thoughts and prayers. The Equity 4 Everyone (E4E) group started a GoFundMe campaign, initially looking for \$2,000 to help Anastasia and her family — however that may be.

"The day after Anastasia posted about it, we had an E4E meeting at school during flex, said senior Taylor Jacobson. "We briefed everyone to make sure we were all on the same page. And we all agreed that there had to be something we

Not guilty plea for murder suspect; bond reduced

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

MONROE — A not guilty plea as been entered for an Illinois woman accused of killing her husband's grandmother in her rural Wisconsin home last Winter.



Circuit Judge Mario White

Shannon Bussan, of Elizabeth, Ill., is accused of first-degree intentional homicide in the Feb. 27 of death Lynne Montgomery, 83, Benton. She was reportedly an intermittent companion or caregiver to Montgomery and authorities - citing cell phone logs and other data contend she was in the area of the victim's home prior to her death.

In a hearing on Tuesday, May 23, Dane County

Bussan's attorney asked Duane Jorgenson.

Montgomery's death was initially thought to be of natural causes but after relatives found what they

See SUSPECT, Page A4

but Blanchardville Police

issued a short statement

"We did not catch him.

We identified him and are

referring the charges," said

Souri. "I am referring crim-

inal charges on Monday to

the Iowa County District

According to uncon-

office

for

officer-in-charge

# Search continues for suspect in motorcycle crash

from

Kaivon Souri.

Attorney's

review."

### **By Gary Mays**

gmays@ themonroetimes.com

MONROE — Authorities in Iowa County and the town of Blanchardville continued searching late Monday for a man who on the previous day led officers on a chase before apparently crashing his motorcycle and fleeing on foot.

Authorities declined to name the suspect involved

the case to

# **Bussan**

## \$100,000

her bond

in

from the initial \$1,000,000 bond set shortly after her arrest.

for a change of judges during an earlier hearing March 28 before Lafayette County Circuit Court Judge

thought were suspicious

# in the house, her father, mother and 5-year-old brother would have died.

"The whole ceiling fell on the living room. My room wasn't affected, thankfully, because there was one rocket that didn't go off. If it had, they literally

# Helping a friend

Thinking quickly, some in the student body got together almost immediately, could do to help. We brainstormed a couple options of how to do a fundraiser. We decided GoFundMe would probably be the most effective course of action with

See NO HOME, Page A6

# Johnson cousins open insurance agency

#### **By Adam Krebs** editor@

themonroetimes.com

DARLINGTON

Country Financial has found a new home in Darlington, and it's situated right in the heart of Main Street.

'It's a perfect spot right here on Main Street with a bunch of other businesses. Plenty of traffic and things to do," said Hunter Johnson, agent and manager of the local office.

The agency is located at 210 Main Street, right down by the river. In fact, Country Financial will hold an open house at 4 p.m. on June 8, the same night of Laps for Canoe Fest. Johnson said they will have vendors and serve food.

Johnson is a Darlington native, well known in the town for his time as running back during the four-year stretch the football team reached four straight state championship games (2013-16). He had two seasons of over 2,000 rushing yards and amassed nearly 5,600 rushing

yards and 98 TDs in three seasons on varsity. He was named the state's top running back and offensive player as a senior. He later went on to play three seasons with the Wisconsin Badgers.

Despite being separated by just an hour in the car, the atmosphere in Madison is almost a night-and-day difference to Darlington, which is what brought Johnson home after he finished college.

"I like being closer to family, and I just like the people of Darlington so much — and the people of southwestern Wisconsin," he said. "You get a chance to explore bigger cities and people with far different views than you have. It was a culture shock

Madison is much different from Darlington. But I like the familiarity, I like the people. I still like the people in



Times photo: Adam Krebs

Cousins and Darlington High School grads Trevor Johnson, left, and Hunter Johnson run the local Country Financial agency in downtown Darlington.

there is so much to do, but in the end it came down to family and the community we're in."

When he brought his agency back home, he was going to need a good No. 2 person to help him out. It just so happened that his workplace No. 2 has been his No. 2 all along:

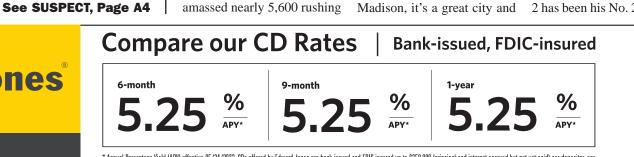
cousin Trevor Johnson.

"We grew up about a mile apart," Hunter said. They are just about six months different in age. "Ever since we could run we've been doing the same things together as we've grown. From going to

See FINANCIAL, Page A4



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Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Cody Page **Financial Advisor** 

1015 18th Ave Ste 111 Monroe, WI 53566 608-328-1040

#### Local/Classifieds а6

"He was telling me he wants to go to America where there is no bombings. That's a 5-year-old. He's traumatized. This is what every child goes through in Gaza and Palestine, and that is not normal. That is terrible that they are traumatized like this."

> Anastasia Yacoub, Monroe sophomore foreign exchange student from Palestine

# No home

# From Page A1

my generation. We raised a lot of money really quickly for her and it was super awesome to see."

The \$2,000 mark was met within 24 hours, and in just a week's time, more than \$5,000 had been donated. As of press time, more than 120 donations had come in.

"It was really amazing to see people pitch in to help a community member in need," Jacobson said.

Fundraiser admins are Jacobson and two MHS staff members: English teacher and E4E advisor Samantha Rudi and counselor Alicia Ziolkowski.

"I love Americans. I literally cried I was so happy. When I told my mom, they were all so thankful. We need the help because we don't have relatives around us to go live with," Anastasia said.

This is not Jacobson's first foray into helping others. She's been a planner and supporter of a number of events to help disparaged community members over the last couple of years and has been an advocate for her classmates through the E4E group in the school. She will attend Texas A&M International University and plans to become a civil rights lawyer. She was in the basketball program with Anastasia this past winter, said admitted she actually didn't know the sophomore all that well. Jacobson said finding out about Anastasia's hardship opened her own eyes in a hurry.

"I was honestly completely oblivious to the idea that she came from a war-torn country until the bombing. It's unfortunate that it took a tragedy like that for me to realize the gravity of the conflict, but now I'm invested and learning every day," Jacobson said. "She is a very sweet girl. And she is very grateful for all the support from the community. She is truly a wonderful person and I hope that the money will help her reestablish herself and her family in whatever capacity that may be."

spokesman died following an 87-day hunger strike in Israeli prison and PIJ militants retaliated, launching more than 100 rockets.

The next day, a ceasefire was called between the rivaling sides. Then, at 2 a.m. local time on May 9, Israel broke the ceasefire by launching an air raid with 40 aircraft. The death total is at 26 people, including the three targeted militants, their wives and several children. A Russian citizen, Dr. Jamal Khaswan working in Gaza City as a dentist, was also killed, along with his wife and 21-year-old son in the apartment above the Yacoub home. Two of his children, including a 10-yearold girl, survived.

"I never thought it would be us. Bombings always happen, but I was never scared thinking we would actually get bombed. But we did,' Anastasia said. "Especially on my exchange year. I just never expected to get a call and think that my parents died and that my apartment had been bombed."

The IDF claimed rebel militants responded with another 938 rockets launched into Israel. Two days later, the IDF killed two more targeted PIJ commanders.

Among those condemning the trading of rocket fire is the United Nations, which has called for moderation and a restart of peace talks. A new ceasefire took hold May 13.

Alexander Yacoub, Anastasia's brother, called her since and told her he wants to move to the U.S.

"He was telling me he wants to go to America where there is no bombings," she said. "That's a 5-year-old. He's traumatized. This is what every child goes through in Gaza and Palestine, and that is not normal. That is terrible that they are traumatized like this."

Where will the

Yacoub family go?

# Celebrating 125 years

Cele	brating 125	years
PUBLIC NOTICES	53566.	requirement   appear be
Debtors	3. All interested persons waived	board of and pr
Creditors NOTICE TO	notice. 4. The deadline	appearing the board:
CREDITORS (INFORMAL	for filing a claim against the	1. *
ADMINISTRA- TION) CASE NO: 23-PR-41	decedent's estate is August 10, 2023.	person allowed to
STATE OF	5. A claim may be	before the of review,
WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT,	filed at the Green County Justice Center, 2841 6th	to the be telephone, contest the
GREEN COUNTY.	Street, Monroe, Wisconsin,	of any ass
OF THE ESTATE OF: SHIRLEY M.	Probate Court.	property person has
JAGGI	Jennifer Prien Probate Registrar	a rea written reo certified m
Date of Death: March 19, 2023	May 9, 2023 Attorney	assessor onto prop
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:	John C. Sauer Kittelsen, Barry,	conduct ar view of
1. An application	Wellington & Thompson S.C.	property assessed.
for informal administration was	916 17th Ave. Box 710 Monroe, WI 53566	2. A first meetir
filed. 2. The decedent,	608-325-2191 Bar Number	board of re before the
with date of birth August 7, 1928	1122523	final adjoin no perso
and date of death March 19, 2023,	(May 13, 20, 27, 2023)	is sched
was domiciled in Green County,	WNAXLP Miscellaneous	board of may con provide inf
State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N3960	NOTICE	to a memb board ab
Brittany Lane, Brodhead, WI	THAT THE ASSESSMENT ROLL IS	person's of except at a
53520.	OPEN FOR EXAMINATION	of the boar book sha no less tha
3. All interested persons waived notice.	AND OPEN BOOK	prior to th of review.
4. The deadline for filing a claim	State of Wisconsin,	3. T of review
against the decedent's estate	City of Monroe, County of Green	hear an o to the
is August 31, 2023.	Pursuant to s. 70.45 Wis. Stats.	or valua property at least 4
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Justice	The assessment roll for the year	before the
Center, 2841 6th Street, Monroe,	2023 assessment will be open for examination at City	first so meeting, objector
Wisconsin, Room Probate Office	Hall located at 1110 18th Ave, starting	to the clerk writte notice of a
Jennifer Prien Probate Registrar	on the 24th day of August, 2023,	to file an c except th
May 23, 2023	at 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM, then any day following from	a showing cause a
Atty. Lance A. McNaughton	7:00 AM – 3:30 PM Monday through	submission written c the boar
Duxstad, Bestul & McNaughton S.C. 1112 17th Ave.	Friday.	waive
P.O. Box 737 Monroe, WI 53566	Additionally, the assessor shall be	the first of the
Bar Number 1032036	available on the 24th day of August, 2024, by phone	first so meeting, board ma
(May 27, June 3,	and email from 9:00 AM to 1:00	that req up to the
10, 2023) WNAXLP	PM and thereafter by appointment.	the 5th da session or
NOTICE TO CREDITORS (INFORMAL	Instructional material will be	end of the of the sess session is
ADMINISTRA- TION)	provided at the open book to	5 days w
CASE NO. 23-PR-37	persons who wish to object to	circums for failure
STATE OF WISCONSIN,	valuations under s. 70.47, Wis. Stats.	the 48-hour requirement failure to
CIRCUIT COURT, GREEN COUNTY	NOTICE OF BOARD OF	before the
IN THE MATTER	R E V I E W MEETING	the first of the so
OF THE ESTATE OF <b>KENNETH H.</b>	State of Wisconsin, City of Monroe,	meeting. 4.
JUDD Deceased	County of Green	Objections the amo valuation
PLEASE TAKE	Notice is hereby given that the	property s be made i
NOTICE:	Board of Review for the City of	and filed clerk of th
1. An application for informal administration was	Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin, shall meet on the	of review the first of the
filed.	5th day of June, 2023, at 5:45 PM	first so meeting,
2. The decedent, with date of birth	to adjourn until September 27,	that, upon of extra
May 28, 1944, and date of death April 14, 2023 was	2023 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM for the 2-hour hearing	circumstar board ma that req
April 14, 2023, was domiciled in Green County, State of	meeting, at City Hall located at	up to the the 5th da
Wisconsin, with a mailing address	1110 18th Ave.	session o the end of
of W6090 County Rd P, Monroe, WI	Please be advised of the following	day of the if the se

less than 5 days. nts to persons efore the The board mav require objections review rocedural to the amount valuation nts if or of before property to be submitted on forms approved by the Department Ν 0 will be of Revenue, and this o appear the board shall e board require that any to testify forms include oard by stated valuations of the property in or to question. Persons e amount who own land and sessment improvements personal Stats. if the to that land s refused object to may 7 asonable the aggregate valuation quest by of upon land nail of the that and improvements to enter to perty to that land, but no person who owns n exterior land improvements such being to that land and improvements to that land may After the object only to the ng of the valuation of that land or only to eview and the valuation of e board's ournment, improvements to that land. No on who luled to person may efore the be allowed in action review any or proceedings ntact or formation to question per of the the amount or valuation bout the of property unless the objection, written objection a session has been filed and ard. Open 8. that person in good all occur person an 7 days faith presented the he board evidence to the board in support of the objections he board and made full disclosure before may not objection the board, under oath, of all of amount that ation of person's unless, property liable to 48 hours assessment in the district and e board's cheduled the value of that the property. The provides requirement that objections be in board's writing may be en or oral waived by express an intent action of the board. objection, at upon When g of good 5. and the appearing for on of a before the board of а objection, of review. the rd shall objecting person that shall specify which writing nt during in the and person's estimate 2 hours а board's of the value of the cheduled land and of the and the improvements ay waive that are the the uirement subject of person's objection end of ay of the and specify the up to the information that bv: final day the person used to arrive at that sion if the less than estimate. ith proof aordinary 6. Ν 0 WNÁXLP may person tances appear before the **Regular Meeting** to meet board of review, of the Board of ur notice testify to the board nt and by telephone, or appear object to a valuation e board that valuation during 2 hours was made by the assessor or the cheduled 1. objector using the to Deprez, income method of valuation, to unless of the person supplies President ount or the assessor with the of shall first all the information about in writing income with the and expenses, as Board he board specified in the Present within assessor's manual 2 hours under s. 73.03 (2a), Wis. Stats.. board's Eckdhal. that the assessor cheduled requests. The Citv except Keehn, Monroe has evidence of McGuire, aordinary an ordinance for the confidentiality nces, the information of ay waive Absent about income and uirement Vosberg end of expenses that is ay of the provided to the assessor or up to under f the final this paragraph Jackson, that e session provides exceptions ession is for Ron Olson, Todd

### The Monroe Times Saturday, May 27, 2023

information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or the duties of their officer or by order of a court.\* information is provided under paragraph, unless a court determined that it was inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under s. 19.35 (1), Wis. T h e board shall hear oath. telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the board a letter from a physician, surgeon, osteopath confirms illness or disability. No other persons may testify telephone unless the Board, in its discretion, has determined to grant a property owner's or their representative's request to testify under oath by telephone or written statement. Ν mav appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the board, or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under s. 70.47 (3) (a), Wis. Stats., that person provides to the clerk of the board of review notice as to whether the person will ask the removal member of the board of review, and, if so, member, provides reasonable estimate of the length of time the hearing will take. Notice is hereby given this 27th day of May, 2023 Brittney Rindy, City Clerk (May 27, 2023)

Paradis. usina Amv Timmerman, and Jenna Trame Approve Agenda -Motion to approve the The agenda by Terri that Montgomery and seconded by Nikki Austin – Approved Recognitions Monroe Excellence Education Grant Recipients Consent Items Approve Minutes B. Approval of Support Staff by Resignation C. Approval of Support Staff Retirement Approval of D. Professional or Hiring Staff that Approval/ E. their Acceptance Community of Donations – Motion by by Mike Froseth and seconded by

In

Α.

Teresa Keehn Approved Public Comment 0 d 8. Business 9. N e w Business: Α. Approval of Board of Education

0

Resolution Motion by Eric Eckdhal and seconded by Nikki Austin – Approved B. Approval of Open Enrollment "In" Students for the 2023-2024 School Year Motion by Mike Froseth and seconded by Jim Curran -Approved - C Approval of Open Enrollment "Out" Students for the 2023-2024 School Year – Motion by Eric Eckdhal and seconded by Nikki Austin - Approved D. Informational Professional Staff Transfer Informational E. – 4K Update – F. Curriculum Update G. Informational MHS Recognition - U. S. News & World Report

10. Informational Items Α. Boardsmanship/ Administration – B. Board of Education Correspondence - C. Committee Reports D. Agenda Items for Future Discussion E. Liaison Reports Five 11.

for

Closed

in

by

Session

seconded

Rudi said they are keeping the fundraiser open even after Anastasia is set to head "home".

"Anastasia's need is substantial, and we want to continue to help," Rudi said.

# Living in a war zone

Palestine has been a civilization for thousands of years. It is the birthplace of both Judaism and Christianity, and has been controlled by major kingdoms and empires throughout the centuries. From Ancient Egypt, Ancient Israel and Judah, the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, the Roman Empire, several Muslim Caliphates, crusaders and the Ottoman Empire, then to the United Kingdom between World War I and World War II.

When the British ended its colonial rule in 1948, both Islamic Palestinians and Jewish Israelis wanted to control the region. The clashes have been regular since. Eventually in 1967, Israel succeeded and took over rule, displacing about 700,000 Palestinians in the process. That hasn't stopped the two feuding sides from trading since, however. blows Palestine currently has control of the Gaza Strip along the Mediterranean Sea, which includes Gaza City, and the interior West Bank.

In 1968, Anastasia's grandparents had to emigrate away from their home "when the Israelis came," she said.

Today, 138 of the 193 countries in the United Nations recognizes Palestine as its own country, though not the United States.

The recent strikes came about a week after a PIJ

We can't live in our house right now because it's literally destroyed," she said. "My neighbors unfortunately died. Innocent people died. A lot of them. And it went on for a couple of days, and we were afraid it would go on for 51 days like the last war in 2021. Those people, their houses haven't been rebuilt. A lot of people are on the streets right now."

Where the Yacoub's home will be is still up in the air.

"We don't know yet. We're trying to figure out somewhere to stay. Right now they are at a friend's house,' Anastasia said.

No one knows quite for sure how the money will be used: It could go toward a new apartment, traveling to a new area of Palestine, or possibly emigrating out of the area entirely. After the recent air strikes, Israeli authorities suspended the entry and departure of people and commodities from Gaza through two crossing points until further notice, according to international news organization Al Jazeera.

"Since her family is without a safe place to live right now, the funds will be used to help them establish a new sense of home somewhere safe. They might also use it for other basic necessities that they are struggling to cover at this time," Jacobson said.

Anastasia admitted to never giving much thought to what her future studies may hold. However, she's now interested in running an organization to assist Palestinian children that have faced continual hardship.

"I am interested in many things, but one thing that hasn't changed is interest in an organization about Palestine. A lot of kids have no future in Palestine, and I just want to help the people in my country," she said.

Education of the Minutes School District of Press Monroe was held 12. on May 8 2023. Session Motion by Terri Call Montgomery and Order: Rich Board seconded by Jim Curran - 8/YES-0/ Education NO-1/Absent called meeting 13. to Reconvene order at 7:02 P.M. Open Roll Call: Motion Members Nikki Austin and Nikki Austin, Jim Curran, Rich Deprez, Eric seconded by Terri Montgomery Approved Mike 14. Froseth Jr., Teresa Referendum Dylan Update and Terri Montgomery 15. BOE Members Adjournment - At 9:19 P.M. motion by Phil Terri Montgomerv and Administration Present: Rodney by Eric Eckdhal Approved Figueroa, Jeriamy Sarah Judd, Joe Monroe,

(May 27, 2023) WNAXLP

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.