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The new playground has been installed at Baker's Field in Wonevot. A dedication and celebration will be held July 22. Photo taken by Rhonda Hess, HSE Reporter.

Time to play

Celebration and playground dedication is July 22

By Rhonda Hess
Sentry-Enterprise Reporter

The playground is complete and it's time to celebrate.

Baker's Field, on the edge of downtown Wonevot, now has several pieces of playground equipment, including slides, swings and more.

Julie Ott was involved with the playground from the beginning and, there was a bit of a delay, due to wet grounds, but just one piece of equipment was installed after the majority of the playground was put together.

"We had to wait a little bit for the tire swing and that got installed a couple weeks ago," she said.

Ott said the base was decided upon, due to budget factors.

"We decided pea gravel was the way to go," she said.

Josh Roehling donated some of the work to fill in the pea gravel.

The playground took a couple of years to come together.

"Between the (Wonevot) Lions and the (Wonevot) Legion, we started the fundraiser back in 2021 for the playground equipment," Ott said. "We were able to achieve that goal with some wonderful donations, actually Christmas of 2021, and then we kept going through 22 and 23. So we ordered the equipment, got it, and we set up this spring."

Two park benches, honoring top donors, the Hartje Foundation and the Brunner Foundation, are also being installed.

In addition to those foundations, the Lions and Legion, other contributors

'PLAY'

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The Gonzalez Cerdas, along with their staff, City Administrator Josh Finch, and Hillsboro Mayor Greg Kubarski, cut the ceremonial ribbon during the opening ceremony for La Marimba. With the ribbon cut, La Marimba was declared officially open to the public. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

La Marimba opens with cultural celebration

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

On Friday, July 7, the Hillsboro area community turned out to celebrate the opening of a new restaurant: La Marimba.

The restaurant, owned and operated by Kevin and Yariba Gonzalez Cerda, offers traditional Nicaraguan cuisine and is the first of its kind in Wisconsin. Opening the restaurant has been a dream of the Gonzalez Cerdas since before arriving in Hillsboro last summer.

Last summer, the family brought The Power Station to the Hillsboro community, setting up shop in the former Holvy's Café. The Power Station is focused on health drinks and meal replacement shakes, and is part of the growing trend of 'nutrition clubs' popping up throughout the country.

The plan had always been to eventually open up La Marimba, the only question was the timeline. Fortunately for the Gonzalez Cerdas, the local community's support for

The Power Station enabled them to take the plunge by the end of 2022. After meetings with Josh Finch, city administrator for Hillsboro, the family secured a \$66,000 loan from the city to bring their dream to life.

Over the past six to seven months, the Gonzalez Cerdas have been hard at work getting everything ready. They relocated The Power Station down the street to the former Hand and Home back in May, in preparation for the opening of La Marimba. The past couple of months have been focused on getting the former café back to its former restaurant glory.

Last Friday, all of their hard work paid off as La Marimba was ready to open. In celebration of the event, the Gonzalez Cerdas hosted a cultural demonstration featuring traditional dances from Nicaragua, performed by friends and family. Musical accompaniment was provided by Yader Martinez, a marimba player who traveled all the way from Nicaragua to perform.



Yader Martinez made his way up from Nicaragua to perform live music for La Marimba's opening weekend, including providing musical accompaniment for several traditional Nicaraguan dances as part of last Friday's opening ceremony. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

First up was the Gueguense, also known as the Macho Raton. This dance was a form of protest against Spanish colonial rule, and has become a popular satirical dramatic

performance for Nicaragua, performed on a yearly basis during the feast day of San

'LA MARIMBA'

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Three arrests made in connection to Hillsboro break-ins

By NICOLETTE NAUMAN
Sentry-Enterprise Editor

On Friday, June 30, the Vernon County Sheriff's Office received a call at approximately 8:30P.M. reporting a break-in occurring at a residential property along County Highway F, just north of the City of Hillsboro.

A deputy with the Vernon County Sheriff's Office was near the reported site and responded immediately. Among the items allegedly stolen from the property were multiple Milwaukee-brand tools, eight firearms, and several thousand rounds of ammunition. Additional items, some with sentimental value to the victim, were also reported missing.

The responding deputy went on to conduct a vehicle stop near Mount Tabor on a vehicle of interest identified based on preliminary reports. The vehicle's operator was cooperative with the deputy, and consented to a search of the vehicle. None of the reportedly stolen items were located in the vehicle, and the driver was later eliminated as a potential suspect, according to Vernon County Sheriff Roy Torgerson.

At approximately 9:00P.M. on Friday, June 30, the deputy returned to the scene. A criminal investigator was dispatched to the property due to the "complexity of the incident." According to Sheriff Torgerson, the residential property was undergoing

interior renovations and was temporarily vacant as a result. However, the property owner had been keeping an eye on the home.

Investigation determined that the suspect had forced entry into the home through a window. According to the victim, the house was last confirmed secure at 3:00P.M. that same day, putting the time of the break-in between 3:00P.M. and 8:30P.M.

While conducting their investigation, officers secured the home and installed surveillance cameras around the property.

The following day, Saturday, July 1, the victim reported a second break-in around 6:45P.M. This time, forced entry was obtained

via a door. More items were reported missing, and the installed cameras were able to catch images of the suspect and a suspect vehicle.

Sheriff Torgerson disseminated the images to local media outlets as well as on social media in an effort to solicit information from the public regarding the suspects. A tip was received on Monday, July 3, at roughly 10:00A.M. regarding the suspect vehicle caught in the images.

The tip led investigators to the City of Tomah, stating that the vehicle in the photos looked similar to one that was for sale at a Tomah property. The vehicle was located along

'ARRESTS'

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Vernon County Sheriff Roy Torgerson (right) held a press conference outside of the Hillsboro Police Department on Thursday, July 6, regarding a series of burglaries involving a rural Hillsboro property. Hillsboro Chief of Police Pat Clark (left) was present to offer additional information. Pictured, Sheriff Torgerson and Chief Clark hold up photos of the three suspects arrested in connection to the burglary. The three men—Blaze Wesley Rouse, Joseph Daniel Trumble, and Dustin Allen Lee Sprague—were arrested following a lead regarding a suspect vehicle identified in Tomah. Photo taken by Nicolette Nauman, HSE Editor.

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