

Editors Corrections

In the Thursday, September 29th issue, the Monroe County Herald had an article heading on the front page stating that there had been firearms and drugs seized in Ontario. The article was from September of last year. The trial for the man arrested will start soon, but the actual incident took place a year ago. The Herald regrets this mistake.

Letters to the Editor

Acquiescence

Dear Editor:
 I am a former Marine and Viet Nam era veteran. I held a top-secret security clearance while in the Marines and worked in a secure facility that is now commonly referred to as a SCIF. With all the classified materials found at Mar a Lago, it is disturbing to me that Van Orden, who says he is a patriotic navy seal of 26 years, has not spoken out against this tremendous breach of national security. He should be livid about it. Instead, Van Orden chooses to treat it with acquiescence. It is obvious that Van Orden doesn't realize that it is documents like these that made his life as a Navy Seal a lot safer on whatever mission he may have been involved in. They may have even saved his or his fellow seal's life without him knowing so. It is obvious he has forgotten, or just doesn't care about the importance of protecting our nation's security. His utter lack of condemnation equates to his approval.
 Like the majority of Veterans, I served four years and then returned to civilian life, which allowed me to serve for 25 plus years as a Department of Army Civilian (DAC) as a logistician. Military personnel have a set of core values that they strive to meet. To borrow from the Army, they are LOYALTY to our country and constitution, DUTY, RESPECT, SELFLESS SERVICE, HONOR, INTEGRITY, and PERSONAL COURAGE. Van Orden's participation in the January 6th insurrection violated all of these standards. He participated in and willingly stood by and watched while his fellow insurrectionist stormed the capital, killed capitol police officers, maimed and wounded many more.
 Now he wants to represent us as a congressman in the house of representatives! REALLY! Do we want someone that stood by, while the police were being attacked and killed by the Jan 6 insurrectionist as our voice in congress!
 I ask you to remember and apply these core values and put our country and democracy first, as you head to the polls. Please join me, a former Marine, in casting your vote to elect Brad Pfaff for the 3rd congressional district.

Dennis Schaller
 Sparta

More questions than answers

Dear Editor:
 In the 9-22-22 edition of the Herald there were two articles about the Tomah School Board. In one we learned that the top-level administrators received a 4% raise, nearly \$7500 for the superintendent. This comes at a time when those who pay the bill face 8% inflation meaning what they buy is that much higher and their income is that much less. In the same article we learn that the Business Manager who just got the 4% raise is also having a consultant hired to do the job. The curriculum and instructional services position is also getting a paid consultant. Are they not equipped to do their job that they were hired for?
 In the next article we learn that the School Board is planning for another referendum. The \$1.5 million per year we have been paying is not even expired yet, but they are planning for another referendum that may run for five years. They also have an outside consulting firm to advise on referendums and promote the passage of one. How much does that firm cost?
 The same week these articles arrived so did the Quarterly Howl. A full color, glossy paper newsletter that is a fluff piece to promote the school district. I have asked a Board member about the cost of this publication but have not received a reply. What is the cost of production, printing, and mailing such a piece? Couldn't the same information be found on a website, for a lot less cost? Many questions but not many answers. Maybe a reporter can get some answers and let us all know.

Gary Klinker
 Camp Douglas

Who will help us most?

Dear Editor:
 Many of us say we are Christians. Are we really? Jesus wasn't a "Christian", He was a Jew. But He did show us humans ways of behaving toward each other that became the essence of what is now known as Christianity. Do we all behave as He did? If we aren't tolerant, forgiving and holy, are we truly Christians? Some other religions are truer to these values. Similarly, are all Republicans who are running in the upcoming election traditional, fiscally conservative Republicans? How often have these Legislators met to debate bills backed by our state Governor, or the President, both presently Democrats, only to have their Republican leaders gavel in and out without any discussion or action? Many of these bills were intended to provide funding for good, needed assistance for all people. However, most Republican representatives take no action unless they and their wealthy donors are the beneficiaries, and not the average citizens they were elected to represent.
 When voting, remember the Democrats who have tried, or who are promising, to help all citizens by funding our road repair, saving the environment and improving the economy. Do not support those who, while in office, have done nothing they have promised, but instead continue to obstruct, while blaming Democrats for their own inaction. Don't let Republican greed and intolerance kill our Democracy and cause the great American experiment to fail.

Kay Ziegahn
 Richland Center

Motorcyclist hits deer near Little Falls Airlifted to Gunderson

Shortly after 12:00 pm on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, the Monroe County 911 Communication Center received a 911 call about a motorcycle crash with injuries. The crash occurred on State Highway 71 near Backtrail Road in the Little Falls Township.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene where they found 71-year-old Robing Hanson, injured. The initial investigation revealed that the motorcycle was traveling on State Highway 71 when a deer crossed the road in front of the motorcycle. Hanson struck the deer causing the motorcycle to overturn.

Sparta Area Ambulance Service requested GundersonAir to the scene due to significant injuries sustained by Hanson in the crash. Sparta Area Fire District assisted in setting up a landing zone on Candle Road and State Highway 71. The westbound



Contributed photo.

lane of State Highway 71 was closed for approximately 1-hour due to the crash. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office was assisted on the scene by the Monroe County 911 Communications Center, Sparta Area Ambulance Service, Cataract First Responders, Sparta Area Fire District, GundersonAir, and Arnolds Towing. This incident remains under investigation by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. No further details at this time.

Kiwanis celebrates new and exiting board members

Retiring Kiwanis President, Deb Smith, received a standing ovation from the Sparta Kiwanis Club members at a dinner event, held at Spring Bank, on Tuesday evening, September 27. Smith's tenure was marked by the return of in-person Club meetings and by the extensive preparations for the Club's delayed 100th Anniversary Gala, scheduled for Friday, October 24th.

Smith commended retiring Kiwanis Board members Mark Sherin, Tom Eddy and John Winkelmann, for their service. Also recognized was Steve Bennett, for his exemplary performance as Club Secretary. A gift was presented to past President, Bill Nussdorfer. Special guest Bill Abbott, Wisconsin/Upper Michigan District Kiwanis Governor, installed newly selected Sparta Kiwanis Club Board Directors: Bill Herrman, Steve Bennett and Ben Grams; the Club Secretary, Michelle Rademan; Club Treasurer Amy Nichols and the President/elect Joan Huber.

The newly elected Sparta Kiwanis Club President, Suzanne Hoffman, was installed by Abbott. In accepting the gavel, Hoffman said, "I'm excited and also a little



Bill Abbott, Wisconsin/Upper Michigan District Kiwanis Governor, and Suzanne Hoffman, 2022-2023 President of Sparta Kiwanis Club.

nervous," but, quoting Abbott, said, "The face of Kiwanis is community. We come to serve; we stay because we have fun." Abbott and his wife Lynn live in Dodgeville, WI—"between Dubuque, Iowa and Madison. We're in this together," said Lynn. "I'm his personal secretary, keeping up with emails and scheduling, and meeting members of the many

clubs in his jurisdiction." It is not unusual, she said, to have partners as ex officio Kiwanis members, helping with programs and fundraisers. The Sparta Kiwanis Club is part of Kiwanis International, a service club, focused on improving the lives of young people. For more information, contact Membership Chair Doug Dengel, 608-633-6092.

Grateful for everything, but especially Wisconsin

Hello awesome humans of Monroe County and beyond. On this date, ten years ago, I was in Moscow, Russia. I remember being a bit on edge, as the US has a bit of history with that region. After a hammer-smash visa stamping, I walked out of the airport, having no idea where to go. I needed to find the subway, but it was nowhere to be found, so I just hopped on a bus and let the universe just take me. For me, it was the beginning of a nine-month journey, through nine countries, where I followed the same blueprint: just have faith, things will work out.

I was a stranger in a strange land, yet my curiosity to explore overrode any fear-based reasoning my brain could conjure up. I walked in Red Square, took a tour of Saint Basil's Cathedral, took a boat ride down the Moscow River, had a crazy-vodka-infused karaoke night (with new comrades), downed a double espresso at a Russian



Benny Mailman
 Senior Reporter

Starbucks (complete with Tom Waits music playing) and then jumped on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, heading East, across the Russian expanse.

Trust me when I tell you that my wife and I being here in Sparta is not dissimilar from that moment, other than I feel completely safe here and I can actually speak to people (being quite proficient in the native tongue). I find life to be completely faith-based; like a trusting of the journey. The fact that I am writing this column for the Monroe County Herald is an absolute testament to this belief. I find it bazaar at times. More than anything, in this life, I am grateful. Just to be

alive, to experience the thrills of life, as well as navigate the stressors and negativity that roll through our lives, from time to time. I love the people of Monroe County and Wisconsin in general. We work hard, we play hard. If someone needs a hand, we are there 100 fold. This driftless area, I feel, is a unique and powerful place on the planet. I have friends and family that have gone to war, then came back and worked with organizations that help others in need. It is quite amazing, and I am grateful and honored to be amongst you all. My curiosity now serves me well in my interviews and having my wife with me means the absolute world to me. Indeed, we are Wisconsin. We are hard workers, we are dedicated to humanitarian causes, we say hello and mean it, we shake hands, we hug... we are genuine. Have a great weekend, and oh yeah, stay awesome Monroe County.

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Prices Effective Fri., Oct. 7, THRU Thur., Oct. 13, 2022

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