

## **Cashton Lions Club & Cashton Knights of Columbus Bingo**

January 2, 2024 5:30 PM - January 2, 2024 8:00 PM

Cashton Community Hall

Doors Open at 5:30 – Bingo at 6:30

Food & Beverages Available

## **Ladles of Love**

January 4, 2024 5:00 PM - January 4, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Sparta FFA Card Party**

January 5, 2024 6:30 PM - January 5, 2024 8:30 PM

Euchre and 500. Cost is \$7 for food, cards, and a chance at door prizes.

Held at Sparta High School Library.

## **Justin Trails Makers Market**

January 6, 2024 10:00 AM - January 27, 2024 3:00 PM

Come for the makers, stay for the food!

Held every Saturday in January from 10AM-3PM at Justin Trails Resort – 7452 Kathryn Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656.

This market offers a great selection of locally made items that embrace the bounty of the Driftless Region. Each market will feature a variety of vendors selling hand/homemade goods including body care, consumables, indoor/outdoor decor, and pet treats and goods. Purchase fresh, unique goods and products directly from the people who grow and make them!

CONSUMABLES INCLUDE: cookies, cakes, muffins and breads, fresh baked granola, jellies, jams, honey products and plant-based wellness products.

BODY CARE INCLUDES: alpaca wool socks and mittens, hot/cold packs, sinus bombs, natural soaps, lip balms, and lotions.

HOME DECOR/GOODS INCLUDE: paintings, signs wood crafts, dryer balls, flowers, and house plants.

PET TREATS INCLUDE: all-natural dog treats.

Questions? Contact Dawn Justin.

Email: dawn@justintrails.com

Phone: (608) 397-9708

## Ladles of Love

January 11, 2024 5:00 PM - January 11, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## Kickapoo Valley Reserve Winter Festival

January 13, 2024 10:00 AM - January 13, 2024 4:00 PM

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center – S3661 State Road 131, La Farge, WI 54639.

### Scheduled Activities

**6am – 10am** – Bundle up Breakfast – Riversend Bar Ontario

**9 am** – Resolution Run 5k Run on Harris Rd

**10am** – Fattening Up the Kickapoo Fat Tire Bike Ride

Guided Ice Hike meet fireside

**10:30am** – Fireside Talk – Raptors-Live Birds

Bucket Raffle Opens inside the VC

Snow Snake Competition

**11am** – Ho-Chunk Programming in the Ciiporoke

Children’s Winter Crafts

Sled Dog Fun Run

**11am – 12:30pm** – Chili & Bread Contest & Tasting

**11 am – 2pm** – Hiking with Llamas

La Farge Fire Department Demo

**11am – 1pm** – Face Painting – La Farge Art Students

**11:30am** – Fireside Talk & Hike-Beavers with Al Cornell

### **HIGH NOON SMOOSH RACES**

**12:30-1pm** – Fireside Children’s Stories

**12pm – 2pm** – Penguin Races on the Deck

**1pm – 2pm** – Fireside Talk – Raptors – Live Birds

**1pm** – Mutt Fun Run (bring your child and dog)

Ho-Chunk Programming in the Ciiporoke

**2pm** – Fireside Talk – Llamas & Leave No Trace

Guided Hike – The Dam Tower

**2:45pm** – Mystery Box Bucket Raffle Drawing

**2:50pm** – Bucket Raffle Drawing

**3:30pm** – Fireside talk – Celebrating the Night Sky

### **All Day Activities 10am – 4pm**

Self Guided Hike & Seed Scatter

Sledding (*bring your own helmet & sled*)

Snowtrekker Encampment Tour (*Willow Camp*)

Driftless Curiosities

Snow Sculpture Demo

Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides

Meet the Sled Dogs

Frozen Turkey Bowling

Winter Hot Tent Camping Demo

Touch of the Wild Conservation Trailer

Self-Guided Ice Hike

Old Time Ice Skating (*skates available*)

Winter Sports Demos (*Fat Tire Bikes, Kick Sleds, Cross Country Skis, Snowshoes*)

Natural Play Areas Tiny Town & Big Back Yard

Winter Yard Games (*Dig It! Kids dig for prizes!, Arctic Checkers, Yardzee, Giant Jenga, Tree Stump Tic-Tac-*

*Toe, Balance Boards, Snowball Golf, Broom Ball)*

Concessions by Friends of the KVR

Coffee and Hot Cocoa

Smores Station

Children's Winter Crafts

Children's Adventures (**Fun for all ages**) (*Snow Mountain w/ safe snow slide, Winter Sound Hunt, Snowman Treasure Trail, Nature Discovery Markers, Fairy House Finds, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Candy Cane Tree Hunt*)

Vernon County Energy District

Soulful Saunas

Pop Up Photo Shoots

Warming Fires

Heated Restrooms

### **Evening Activities at Wildcat Mountain State Park**

**5pm-8pm** – Candlelight Snowshoe/Hike/Ski

Winter Stargazing

*Admission is free and open to the public.*

*Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*

*Friendly dogs on leash welcome. No dogs allowed in buildings.*

*Activities subject to change due to conditions and availability.*

## **Operation Plastic Matting**

January 13, 2024 12:00 PM - January 13, 2024 1:00 PM

The Friends of Snowflake Ski Jumping, Inc. are fundraising to put plastic on four of the junior hills, so that the club can train and compete year-round, or young athletes can progress in the sport, and to promote tourism to the area.

**-Donations of any amount are welcome.**

**-All donations are tax deductible, Snowflake Ski Jumping, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.**

**-If you donate by January 13, 2024, you will be entered for a chance to win a VIP 2024 Snowflake Ski Jump Tournament Package! This includes Airbnb for 2 nights, 4 event buttons, and a reserved tailgating space.**

**-The winner will be announced January 13, 2024**

**[CLICK HERE to donate now!](#) More information? Call Kathy at (608) 632-4709.**

*Snowflake Ski Jumping, Inc. is also having a Membership Drive! Become a lifetime member (\$150) and get a Snowflake hat! [Click here to become a member](#), then select Lifetime Membership.*

## **Cashton Lions Club & Cashton Knights of Columbus Bingo**

January 16, 2024 5:30 PM - January 16, 2024 8:00 PM

Cashton Community Hall

Doors Open at 5:30 – Bingo at 6:30

Food & Beverages Available

## **Ladles of Love**

January 18, 2024 5:00 PM - January 18, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Cashton FFA Local Vendors Market**

January 20, 2024 8:00 AM - January 20, 2024 1:00 PM

Held in the Cashton High School gym.

Stop and shop at the local vendors market to support small local businesses and entrepreneurs. Products sold range from meats and baked goods to clothing and accessories. Vendors include (but are not limited to) 1924 Custom Soapery, Schmitz Fits LLC, and Driftless Woods & Metal Creations LLC. More information, including a complete list of vendors, can be found on the [Cashton FFA Facebook page](#).

## **Justin Trails Makers Market**

January 20, 2024 10:00 AM - January 27, 2024 3:00 PM

Come for the makers, stay for the food!

Held every Saturday in January from 10AM-3PM at Justin Trails Resort – 7452 Kathryn

Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656.

This market offers a great selection of locally made items that embrace the bounty of the Driftless Region. Each market will feature a variety of vendors selling hand/homemade goods including body care, consumables, indoor/outdoor decor, and pet treats and goods. Purchase fresh, unique goods and products directly from the people who grow and make them!

CONSUMABLES INCLUDE: cookies, cakes, muffins and breads, fresh baked granola, jellies, jams, honey products and plant-based wellness products.

BODY CARE INCLUDES: alpaca wool socks and mittens, hot/cold packs, sinus bombs, natural soaps, lip balms, and lotions.

HOME DECOR/GOODS INCLUDE: paintings, signs wood crafts, dryer balls, flowers, and house plants.

PET TREATS INCLUDE: all-natural dog treats.

Questions? Contact Dawn Justin.

Email: dawn@justintrails.com

Phone: (608) 397-9708

## **Ladles of Love**

January 25, 2024 5:00 PM - January 25, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Justin Trails Makers Market**

January 27, 2024 10:00 AM - January 27, 2024 3:00 PM

Come for the makers, stay for the food!

Held every Saturday in January from 10AM-3PM at Justin Trails Resort – 7452 Kathryn Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656.

This market offers a great selection of locally made items that embrace the bounty of the Driftless Region. Each market will feature a variety of vendors selling hand/homemade goods including body care, consumables, indoor/outdoor decor, and pet treats and goods. Purchase fresh, unique goods and products directly from the people who grow and make them!

CONSUMABLES INCLUDE: cookies, cakes, muffins and breads, fresh baked granola, jellies, jams, honey products and plant-based wellness products.

BODY CARE INCLUDES: alpaca wool socks and mittens, hot/cold packs, sinus bombs, natural soaps, lip balms, and lotions.

HOME DECOR/GOODS INCLUDE: paintings, signs wood crafts, dryer balls, flowers, and house plants.

PET TREATS INCLUDE: all-natural dog treats.

Questions? Contact Dawn Justin.

Email: dawn@justintrails.com

Phone: (608) 397-9708

## **Winter Wagon Wonderland Family Fun Day Fundraiser**

January 27, 2024 3:00 PM - January 27, 2024 6:00 PM

Held at Havenwood Event Center, Sparta, WI.

Bring the whole family for a day of fun while supporting a local childcare expansion!

Join Learning Wagon Preschool & Childcare LLC for food, fun, and prizes from local businesses. The first 30 people will get a free gift bag.

Raffle begins @ 5PM.

Brutus the Mini Pig will be there from 4PM-5PM.

Kids Craft Table, Bouncy House, & so much more!

More info can be found on the [Learning Wagon Preschool website](#).

## **2024 Monroe County Land Stewardship Awards Banquet**

January 27, 2024 5:00 PM - January 27, 2024 8:00 PM

Help celebrate the Monroe County Land Stewardship Awards and youth poster contest winners at the Sparta American Legion.

Conservation Farmer: *Jackie & Harvey Menn*

Conservationist: *Joey Esterline & Scott Giraud*

Tree Farmer of the Year: *Kim & Barbara Zuhlke*

Youth Poster Contest winners to be determined.

Tickets now available (\$15/each) at the Monroe County Land Conservation Department – 820 Industrial Drive, Suite 3, Sparta, WI 54656.

For additional information contact Tracy at 608-269-8973

Email: [tracy.antonneau@co.monroe.wi.us](mailto:tracy.antonneau@co.monroe.wi.us)

website: [Monroe County Land Conservation Department | Monroe County, WI](#)

## **Sharing Space With Deke**

January 27, 2024 5:30 PM - January 27, 2024 6:30 PM

Hosted by the Deke Slayton Memorial Space & Bicycle Museum.

Featuring a live virtual conversation with astronaut Vance Brand! You can attend either at the museum or on Zoom. [Tickets are \\$10 and can be purchased online.](#)

For Zoom: ticket sales end January 27 at 3PM CT and the link will be emailed one hour before event.



Vance Brand was hired by Deke Slayton in 1966. Brand's first space flight was as Command Module Pilot on the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project mission in 1975 along with crewmates Deke Slayton and Tom Stafford. Brand went on to be Commander of three space shuttle flights in 1982, 1984, and 1990. Brand left the astronaut office in 1992, but continued to work for NASA until his retirement in 2008.

More information can be found on the [Deke Slayton Memorial Space & Bicycle Museum Facebook page](#).

## **Ladles of Love**

February 1, 2024 5:00 PM - February 1, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Guided Tree Identification Walk (Rescheduled from January 12)**

February 2, 2024 1:00 PM - February 2, 2024 2:30 PM

Get outside and learn something new while the leaves are down! Join forester Bruce Henry at the Goose

Island Interpretive Trail on a guided tree identification walk.

Winter is the best time of year for observing tree structures and offers a unique glimpse into the inner workings of the Refuge's forested areas. As an experienced forester, Bruce will be leading a walk focused on the identification of trees using bark characteristics during winter conditions. All ages and experience levels are welcome!

Participants are encouraged to dress accordingly for the weather. The terrain will be an unpaved trail traversing approximately 1 mile. The Goose Island Interpretive Trail is located as you enter Goose Island, take the first left off County Hwy GI.

Please contact the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge at (608) 779-2398 for questions.

## **Lutefisk Dinner**

February 3, 2024 11:00 AM - February 3, 2024 4:00 PM

In memory of Pastor Gary Daines, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Westby will be having an Old-Fashioned Lutefisk Dinner on February 3rd from 11-4 or until gone. Lutefisk, meatballs and all the trimmings will be served family style dine-in or carryout. Adults \$20, ages 7-12 \$8, under 6 free.

## **Sparta Community Blood Drive**

February 6, 2024 10:00 AM - February 6, 2024 4:30 PM

Held at Barney Community Center – 1000 E. Montgomery St., Sparta, WI.

Schedule a donation by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org).

Give blood in February and receive a \$20 Amazon gift card by e-mail. Details can be found by [clicking here](#).

## **Winter Stories**

February 6, 2024 7:00 PM - February 6, 2024 9:00 PM

Held at the Vernon County Museum & History Center, located on the corner of S. Main & E. South Sts., Viroqua.

Come enjoy an evening of listening to stories about winter written by local authors. Hot coffee and tasty treats will be served. (And, Vernon County Historical Society members will discuss and vote on the 2024 budget.)

Program is free. Everyone is welcome.

More information can be found on the [Vernon County Historical Society's Facebook page](#).

## **Ladles of Love**

February 8, 2024 5:00 PM - February 8, 2024 7:00 PM  
This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Sparta FFA Card Party**

February 9, 2024 6:30 PM - February 9, 2024 8:30 PM

Euchre and 500. Cost is \$7 for food, cards, and a chance at door prizes.

Held at Sparta High School Library.

## **Pancake Breakfast**

February 10, 2024 8:00 AM - February 10, 2024 12:00 PM

Tomah Boy Scout Troop 72 is hosting a pancake breakfast. Held at American Legion Hall – 800 Wisconsin St., Tomah, WI.

All you can eat pancakes, eggs and sausage with beverage for \$10.

Silent auction baskets & a free gift for children.

## **Ridgeway Community School's "500" Card Party 2024 Tournament**

February 11, 2024 1:00 PM - February 25, 2024 1:00 PM

Held Sundays at Ridgeway Community Schools (35564 County Rd. 12, Ridgeway, MN):

February 11 at 1PM

February 18 at 1PM

February 25 at 1PM

Suggested Donation: \$5.

Daily prizes for Men and Women's High as well as prizes for 2nd High and 3rd High.

Tournament Grand Prizes for highest three-week scores.

No partner necessary to participate. Come as many days as you are able.

All participants will be eligible for numerous door prizes.

For more information, call the school at (507) 454-9566 or (507) 896-4112.

## **Ladles of Love**

February 15, 2024 5:00 PM - February 15, 2024 7:00 PM  
This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Norwalk Lions Annual Fish Fry**

February 16, 2024 5:00 PM - February 16, 2024 8:00 PM

Norwalk Lions Annual Fish Fry held at Norwalk Village Hall. Proceeds go to Lions Camp Rosholt for kids.

## **SATAG Presents: Sex Please We're Sixty: An American Farce**

February 16, 2024 7:30 PM - February 25, 2024 2:00 PM

Performances held at the Sparta Eagles Club.

### **SHOWTIMES:**

Fri. 2/16 – 7:30PM

Sat. 2/17 – 7:30PM

Sun. 2/18 – 2PM

Fri 2/23 – 7:30PM

Sat. 2/24 – 7:30PM

Sun. 2/25 – 2PM

Tickets available at the door. \$13/regular admission; \$10 Eagles Members, Military, & Seniors; \$8 Students; \$5 SATAG members.

## **3rd Annual Bob Burke Memorial Chili Cook-Off**

February 17, 2024 10:00 AM - February 17, 2024 7:00 PM

Held at Cataract Sportsmen's Club – 5984 Cannon Rd., Cataract, WI.

No fee to enter

Contestants Register between 10AM-11AM. – *Please bring chili hot & ready to eat w/ ladle.*

Winners determined by "People's Choice" Voting. – *Trophy & Bragging Rights for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Chili & Salsa*

HOMEMADE SALSA CONTEST – *Register 10AM-11AM – Please bring bag of chips w/ salsa.*

### **OTHER EVENTS:**

Bingo 11AM-1PM

Freeze-Out Horseshoe Tournament – *Registration 10AM – Shoes at 11AM – Random Draw Partners – Contact Tim Barnum for info (715) 896-3744.*

Chuck-A-Luck

Euchre Tournament 2PM

Bonfire

Bake Sale

Raffles – *Meat Raffles – 50/50 – Wingspan – Pull Tabs – Tip Boards*

Gun Raffles

Freewill donation to enjoy chili & salsa & vote. Additional food & beverages available for purchase.

Proceeds to benefit continued Mill Pond Projects – *Handicap Fishing Access – Dock Improvements*

Check out the [Cataract Sportsmen's Club Facebook page](#) or visit [their website](#) for more details.

Questions? Contact Jared Smith at (608) 487-7400.

## **FFA Auction Community Fun Night**

February 17, 2024 7:00 PM - February 17, 2024 9:00 PM

Sponsored by Sparta FFA Alumni.

*Bid High, Bid Often.*

Held at the Leon Community Center.

Dues and meal \$25/person.

Everyone is invited to attend. Proceeds raised from the auction will benefit students of the Sparta Agricultural and Scholarship Programs.

Social starts at 7PM, dinner served at 8PM. Short meeting followed by auction of donated items.

Questions? Call Corey at 608-632-3074.

## **Royall FFA Pancake Breakfast/Food Drive/Euchre Party**

February 18, 2024 8:00 AM - February 18, 2024 3:00 PM

The Royall FFA will be hosting a **Pancake Appreciation Breakfast from 8AM-12PM** at the Royall High School Cafeteria. Since this is an "APPRECIATION BREAKFAST," the FFA will be accepting free will donations OR **two** nonperishable food items (per person) for the food pantry. The menu includes all-you-can eat pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice, and milk. Bring the whole family and support your local FFA Chapter!

Also, join the Royall FFA for the **2nd Annual Old Fashioned Euchre Party the same day at 1PM** in the Royall High School Cafeteria. Come for an afternoon of card playing and socializing. Prizes will be given. There is no cost to play.

## **Ridgeway Community School's "500" Card Party 2024 Tournament**

February 18, 2024 1:00 PM - February 25, 2024 1:00 PM

Held Sundays at Ridgeway Community Schools (35564 County Rd. 12, Ridgeway, MN):

February 18 at 1PM

February 25 at 1PM

Suggested Donation: \$5.

Daily prizes for Men and Women's High as well as prizes for 2nd High and 3rd High.  
Tournament Grand Prizes for highest three-week scores.

No partner necessary to participate. Come as many days as you are able.

All participants will be eligible for numerous door prizes.

For more information, call the school at (507) 454-9566 or (507) 896-4112.

## **Pancake Supper**

February 20, 2024 4:30 PM - February 20, 2024 7:00 PM

Tomah FFA All You Can Eat Pancake Supper held at Tomah High School.

Menu Includes: Pancakes, Sausage, Cottage Cheese, Applesauce, Fruit, Cheese Tray, Milk, Juice, and Coffee.

Cost: \$5 for supper.

*FFA officers and members will be serving the pancakes that are made by the Tomah Lions Clubs.*

The Euchre party will be at 6PM in the THS Math Lab.

## **Monroe County Job Fair**

February 21, 2024 2:00 PM - February 21, 2024 4:30 PM

Held at the Monroe County Assembly Room (Use human services entrance on Oak St.) in Sparta.

Employers from multiple industries will participate.

Free and open to the public.

Hosted by Monroe County Child Support Agency. Call (608) 269-8014 for more information.

Employers wishing to take part in the job fair can contact:

Wendy Swenson: (608) 269-8014, email [Wendy.Swenson@co.monroe.wi.us](mailto:Wendy.Swenson@co.monroe.wi.us)  
or Nicole Jacobs: (608) 269-8980, email [Nicole.Jacobs@co.monroe.wi.us](mailto:Nicole.Jacobs@co.monroe.wi.us)

## **Ladles of Love**

February 22, 2024 5:00 PM - February 22, 2024 7:00 PM  
This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

[Add to my calendar](#)

## **SATAG Presents: Sex Please We're Sixty: An American Farce**

February 23, 2024 7:30 PM - February 25, 2024 2:00 PM

Performances held at the Sparta Eagles Club.

### **SHOWTIMES:**

Fri. 2/16 – 7:30PM

Sat. 2/17 – 7:30PM

Sun. 2/18 – 2PM

Fri 2/23 – 7:30PM

Sat. 2/24 – 7:30PM

Sun. 2/25 – 2PM

Tickets available at the door. \$13/regular admission; \$10 Eagles Members, Military, & Seniors; \$8 Students; \$5 SATAG members.

## **Allison Clark Cancer Benefit**

February 25, 2024 11:00 AM - February 25, 2024 5:00 PM

Held at Rockton Bar.

Raffle tickets \$5/each for:



Half Hog (from Holmen Meats)/Quilt

Live Auction – Silent Auction – Chinese Raffle

Food & Games for the kids.

Allison was diagnosed with stage 1 invasive breast cancer. If you would like to make a monetary donation, there is an account set up titled Allison Clark Benefit at Westby Coop Credit Union. Donations can be made at any of their branches. If you'd like to make a donation or have any questions, please reach out to Ann Wood at 608-632-1167.

## **Ridgeway Community School's "500" Card Party 2024 Tournament**

February 25, 2024 1:00 PM - February 25, 2024 1:00 PM

Held Sundays at Ridgeway Community Schools (35564 County Rd. 12, Ridgeway, MN):

~~February 11 at 1PM~~

~~February 18 at 1PM~~

February 25 at 1PM

Suggested Donation: \$5.

Daily prizes for Men and Women's High as well as prizes for 2nd High and 3rd High.

Tournament Grand Prizes for highest three-week scores.

No partner necessary to participate. Come as many days as you are able.

All participants will be eligible for numerous door prizes.

For more information, call the school at (507) 454-9566 or (507) 896-4112.

## **Tomah ASD Facility Informational Sessions**

February 27, 2024 6:30 PM - February 27, 2024 8:00 PM

The Tomah Area School District is in the process of reviewing their facility needs and planning for the future. They will be holding several informational meetings to inform the

community and to receive feedback that will help shape the direction. Community members are encouraged to attend.

### **WHEN & WHERE**

**February 27 – 6:30PM** – Middle School Cafeteria

**March 5 – 12PM** – Robert Kupper Learning Center Cafeteria

**March 5 – 6:30PM** – High School Cafeteria

Please note that a community survey will be conducted in the spring.

## **Ladles of Love**

February 29, 2024 5:00 PM - February 29, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Arts – Craft Show & Country Gift Show**

March 2, 2024 8:30 AM - March 2, 2024 3:30 PM

Monroe County Historical Society's 95th Arts – Crafts Show & Country Gift Show held at Sparta Senior High School (506 N. Black River St., Sparta).

200+ Booths

Free Admission

Parking (Handicapped Parking Near Building – Bring Your Card)

Food

## **Mississippi Valley Archeology Center Artifact Show**

March 2, 2024 10:00 AM - March 2, 2024 5:00 PM

Come to Valley View Mall in La Crosse and see artifacts representing the area's long history during the annual UW-La Crosse Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center Artifact Show.

Local collectors will display their personal collections, and MVAC staff will bring artifacts

recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions. Bring in your own artifacts to help with their identification. Call MVAC at 608.785.8454 or email Jean Dowiasch, MVAC, at [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) if you would like to display your artifacts.

The Artifact Show is free and open to the public.

## **Chaseburg Scavenger Hunt**

March 2, 2024 11:00 AM - March 2, 2024 2:00 PM

Use your detective skills at the **Scavenger Hunt** in Chaseburg.

Sign up at the Chaseburg Village Hall, 400 Depot Street, Chaseburg, WI. Registration is \$20 per person.

Rules & clues will be handed out at registration. You can walk or use UTV's to help in your search. Everything will be in the Chaseburg village limits. There will be payouts for the top 3 winners. The event will include live music from Saner & Gibbons, plus hot dogs, brats, & soups, with a bake sale and silent auction. Come for the food, stay for the music. Enjoy being a sleuth for the day. This fun event is brought to you by "A Place for Angels". For more information, contact Linda DeGarmo at 608-769-1919 or Rick Williams at 608-632-2984.

## **Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Centennial Celebration**

March 2, 2024 12:00 PM - March 2, 2024 4:00 PM

Join the refuge in celebrating their centennial and honor the legacy of conservationist and author Aldo Leopold, whose work will be celebrated in a series of FREE events in the La Crosse area.

### **LA CROSSE DISTRICT VISITOR CENTER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

12PM – Presentation: "Fins, Feathers, and Firebrands: 100 Years of Conservation on the Upper Mississippi River Refuge"

1PM – Presentation: "Prairie Gardening 101: How to Add Beauty to Your Yard or Public Space" by Dr. Melinda Knutson

2PM – Guided winter plant walk

12PM-4PM – Native plant giveaway and native seed planting

*The Visitor Center doors will open at 11:45 a.m.*

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

3/2/24 – 9:30AM-11AM – Nature Saturday program ft. family activities, crafts, scavenger hunts, and live animals. Held at Myric Park in La Crosse.

3/5/24 – 7PM – Virtual Presentation by author and entomologist Doug Tallamy on [Viterbo University's Facebook page](#).

These La Crosse community events are planned each year by representatives of local environmental and conservation organizations.

## **Bangor Lions Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

March 3, 2024 7:00 AM - March 3, 2024 12:00 PM

The all-you-can-eat breakfast will be held at the Bangor Elementary School.

Menu consists of pancakes, sausages, apple sauce, coffee, milk, and orange juice.

### **TICKETS**

\$7 in advance (ask your local Lion member)

\$7.50 at the door

\$3 Children ages 6-12

FREE for children ages 5 and under

## **Tomah ASD Facility Informational Sessions**

March 5, 2024 12:00 PM - March 5, 2024 8:00 PM

The Tomah Area School District is in the process of reviewing their facility needs and planning for the future. They are holding informational meetings to inform the community and to receive feedback that will help shape the direction. Community members are encouraged to attend.

### **WHEN & WHERE**

**March 5 – 12PM** – Robert Kupper Learning Center Cafeteria

**March 5 – 6:30PM** – High School Cafeteria

Please note that a community survey will be conducted in the spring.

## **The Vernon County Historical Society presents: Tailspin Talk**

March 5, 2024 7:00 PM - March 5, 2024 9:00 PM

Held at Vernon County Museum & History Center on the corner of S. Main & E. South Sts., Viroqua.

Program is free. Everyone is welcome.

*In November 1943, wounded American tail gunner Gene Moran of Soldiers Grove plunged four miles to the ground in Nazi Germany while inside the severed tail of his Flying Fortress bomber – and survived!*

*In the next 17 months, Gene would endure some of the worst episodes of the American prisoner of war experience in occupied Europe. The recently published book Tailspin chronicles Gene's unbelievable World War II survival saga, and shows an elderly man finally coming to terms with the cruelties of a war that would haunt his entire life.*

*Author John Armbruster earned degrees in journalism and education, and has taught history and government courses to middle and high school students. Join us as we hear this incredible tale of loss and recovery.*

SPONSORED BY VERNON MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE

## **Ladles of Love**

March 7, 2024 5:00 PM - March 7, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Sparta FFA Card Party**

March 8, 2024 6:30 PM - March 8, 2024 8:30 PM

Euchre and 500. Cost is \$7 for food, cards, and a chance at door prizes.

Held at Sparta High School Library.

## **Chili Feed Fundraiser**

March 10, 2024 11:00 AM - March 10, 2024 4:00 PM

Held at Leon Community Center – 20638 Jameson Road, Leon, WI.

### **Raffle Drawing at 4PM.**

Tickets \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or at: Foss Fine Meats, Hagen's Sales & Service, or Leon County Tavern.

### **Tons of prizes including:**

Henry Big Boy Brass .45 Colt Large Loop

\$500 Cash

TORO Self-Propelled Lawn Mower

\$200 Cash

Stihl Chain Saw M170

3 – \$150 Meat Gift Certificates

Stihl Gas Trimmer (FS38)

Battery Trimmer (FSA45)

2 – \$50 Beef Bundles

Prizes donated by: Leon Valley Riders Snowmobile Club, Leon LiveWires 4-H, Leon Gatorfest, Foss Fine Meats, and Leon Garden Club.

## **Wisconsin Hunter Course**

March 11, 2024 7:00 PM - March 11, 2024 9:00 PM

A Wisconsin Hunter Course will be held at Sparta High School starting on Monday, March 11th. The two-week course will be held from 7PM to 9PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday for the initial two weeks, with a field test to take place on Saturday, March 23, at the Sparta Rod & Gun Club starting at 7:45AM.

The cost of the class is \$10. All students will need a WDNR customer number when they register. Call the DNR at (888) 936-7463 to get a customer number.

Registration is required. Interested participants can register or get more information by calling Maurice Amundson at (608) 487-4534.

## Monroe County 2024 Compass Now Report Community Meetings

March 12, 2024 5:00 PM - March 13, 2024 11:30 AM

Monroe County residents are invited to attend a collaborative meeting where data from the 2024 Compass Now Report, created from local data and resident survey responses, will be presented and top needs of the community will be discussed. The outcomes of this discussion

will help direct efforts toward improving the health and well-being of our community.

**An in-person meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12th from 5:00pm-6:30pm** at Sparrows Nest at the Abbey (17304 Havenwood Rd., Sparta, WI 54656). You can [RSVP here](#).

**A virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13th from 10:00am-11:30am.** [RSVP here](#) for the virtual meeting.

Follow the Monroe County Health Department [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) page for more.

## Ladles of Love

March 14, 2024 5:00 PM - March 14, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## Women Build

March 14, 2024 9:00 AM - March 16, 2024 5:00 PM

Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse invites women throughout the Coulee Region to volunteer for Women Build, a three-day opportunity to help build homes for a local family. This year, Women Build will take place on March 14, 15, and 16 at construction sites in both Tomah and La Crosse.

A global Habitat for Humanity tradition since 1991, Women Build offers hands-on skill-

building opportunities for women, who not only are underrepresented in the construction industry, but also face unique barriers when trying to access safe, affordable housing. Habitat La Crosse believes in the power of collaboration and community. Over the course of the event, Women Build volunteers will play an important role in the lives of soon-to-be homeowners.

Volunteers may sign up for a full or half day. We encourage volunteers to create a team of friends or family and volunteer together. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. All are welcome to participate in this day of service, learning, and team building. To learn more about Women Build and sign up to volunteer, [click here](#).

## **Leon Livewires 4-H Spring Bake Sale**

March 16, 2024 8:00 AM - March 16, 2024 12:00 PM

Held at the Leon Town Hall, 8108 Jackrabbit Ave, Sparta.

Half of the proceeds will be donated to Sparta Area Cancer Support and half will be used by the 4-H club to benefit the community.

Call Bobbi Paulson at (608) 487-2710 with questions or to donate.

## **Tomah FFA Alumni 2024 Blue Jacket Event**

March 16, 2024 4:00 PM - March 16, 2024 9:00 PM

Held at Knights of Columbus Hall – 202 E. Juneau Street, Tomah.

*Join the Tomah FFA for a night of fun to promote agriculture, local businesses, and FFA members.*

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

4PM – Euchre

7PM – Social

8PM – Dinner

Speakers and raffle to follow.

### **Third Annual Dessert Auction**



**Speakers** – Tomah Middle & High School FFA Members

**Cost** – FREE – No RSVP needed

**Raffle** – Anyone can donate an item for the raffle. Please bring any raffle items to the event by 6:30PM. All proceeds go to support FFA youth.

**Please direct any questions to:**

Ethan Rapp: (608) 377-1143

*EthanZRapp@gmail.com*

Lorna Rosenow: (608) 372-6584

*rosecow@hotmail.com*

Joan Kortbein: (608) 387-9500

*joankortbein@gmail.com*

## **St. Patrick's Day Dinner**

March 17, 2024 10:30 AM - March 17, 2024 2:00 PM

Held at St. Patrick's Church Hall – 118 South K Street, Sparta.

Serving from 10:30AM until 2PM.

Dine-in for fellowship or carry-outs available.

Meal Includes: Beef tips, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, coleslaw, dinner roll, beverage and slice of pie for a good will offering to support St. Patrick's Catholic School.

50/50 Raffle at 1PM

Raffle tickets available now from the school office or school families.

Only 100 tickets available

Prize: Win half the Cash!

Open to the public.

## **57th Annual Shelby Fire Department Chicken-Q**

March 17, 2024 10:30 AM - March 17, 2024 5:30 PM

Held at the Shelby Fire Department – 2801 Ward Avenue, La Crosse, WI.

Drive-Thru or Sit-Down Dinners Available.

Serving from 10:30AM – 5:30PM or until Sold Out.

Cost: \$12 for ½ Chicken Dinner including Beans, Coleslaw, Bun and Chicken.

All money raised goes toward the Shelby Fire Department for equipment and costs associated within the department.

## **Sole Burner Chicken Que and Bake Sale**

March 17, 2024 11:00 AM - March 17, 2024 2:00 PM

The American Cancer Society Sole Burner of Chaseburg invites you to our upcoming Chicken Que and Bake Sale, featuring “Best Ever Chicken.”

The Drive Through/Eat In event will be held at the Chaseburg Village Hall, 400 Depot Street in Chaseburg, WI., beginning at 11 AM and continuing until all chicken is gone. Homemade pastries and baked goods will also be available. All are welcome to join ACS for a delicious chicken dinner.

Proceeds go to the 19th annual American Cancer Society Sole Burner of Chaseburg event occurring on Saturday, September 21, 2024. To join a team or donate go to [acsmove.org/Chaseburg](https://acsmove.org/Chaseburg)

## **Keith Cormican – Dive Instructor, Search & Recovery Expert @ Sparta Barney Center**

March 18, 2024 1:00 PM - March 18, 2024 3:00 PM

Held at Sparta Barney Center – 1000 E Montgomery St, Sparta, WI 54656.

All Welcome. No Charge.

Keith will be talking about his trip to Nepal to find three young teenagers that drown while on a school trip to a Gokyo Lake, a glacial lake up about 16,000 feet of elevation near Mt. Everest. He will also explain Bruce's Legacy.

Keith was certified in 1990 and opened up the Wazee Sports Center LLC in 1996 to serve the many divers that would be coming to the old iron mine, called Wazee Lake. This was also the year that he assisted with forming the Sheriff's Dept. dive team, the Jackson County Dive Unit. Over the past 29 years he has been involved with many recoveries. Among his numerous personal certifications, Keith offers PADI, SDI, TDI, and ERDI courses. He has worked his way to become an Instructor Trainer through TDI Advanced Tri Mix, SDI Instructors and ERDI Instructors. 2013 marks another milestone for Keith, working to form a nonprofit organization called Bruce's Legacy with a mission to provide assistance to families and Public Safety Departments to locate drowned victims, public safety education for the public, and scuba experiences for the disabled. "It's been a long-time goal to have an official organization that can assist in search and recovery operations and give families closure, so they can move forward after a tragic drowning accident." 2018 Keith set forth with Search and Recovery Consulting LLC. To date, he has located 45 family members he has located with sonar and has been asked by many departments how he has been so successful.

## Ladles of Love

March 21, 2024 5:00 PM - March 21, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## Monroe County Economic Development & Tourism Conference

March 21, 2024 8:30 AM - March 22, 2024 11:15 AM

Held at Cranberry Country Lodge – 319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI.

Free Parking. **Registration deadline has been extended through March 18, 2024.** SPONSORSHIP | REGISTRATION | BOOTH INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

## AGENDA AT A GLANCE

### **Thursday, March 21, 2024**

8:30AM-NOON – Registration

9AM-11:30AM – New Business Bootcamp

11:30AM-12:30PM – Lunch Buffet

12PM – Welcome & Introductions

12:15PM-12:45PM – Uniquely Wisconsin – Monroe County Premier

1PM-1:45PM – Opening Keynote Speaker WCA President & CEO Mark O’Connell

2PM-2:30PM – Start Up Spotlight – Local Business Success Story

2:45PM-3:30PM – Workforce Trends, Matt Kures, MS

3:30PM-4:15PM – The Fourth Wave of Economic Development, Steve Deller

4:30PM-9PM – Hors D’Oeuvres Cash Bar & Music Entertainment

### **Friday, March 22, 2024**

7AM-8AM – Continental Breakfast

8AM – Welcome

8:15AM-9AM – Dale Knapp, Forward Analytics

9:15AM-10AM – Panel Discussion on Barriers in the Workplace

– Moderator: *Chris Hardie, 7 Rivers Alliance*

– Panelists: *Audra Wieser Larson, Director of Operations, The Parenting Place, & Hetti Brown, Executive Director, Couleecap*

10AM-10:30AM – Start Up Spotlight – Local Business Success Story

10:30AM-11:15AM – Closing Keynote Speaker Secretary & CEO of WEDC Missy Hughes

## **48th Annual Custom Auto Show**

March 22, 2024 5:00 PM - March 24, 2024 4:00 PM

Held at La Crosse Center South Hall. Presented by [God’s Country Racing Association](#).

## DATES/TIMES

Friday, March 22nd – 5pm – 9pm

Saturday, March 23rd – 11am – 9pm

Sunday, March 24th 10 am – 4pm

## ADMISSION

Daily Admission: \$14

Weekend Pass: \$25

Free Face painting for the Kids by Tappy's Face Painting

**Questions?** Please contact Bri Beining:

Email: [bbeining@lacrossecenter.com](mailto:bbeining@lacrossecenter.com)

Phone: (608) 789-8219

**God's Country Racing Assn Mission Statement:**

*Founded in 1970 GCRA has made a firm, family-oriented commitment to the La Crosse community. The members of GCRA are dedicated to the benefit of others, and devote our time and resources in hopes of creating a better community. The love of performance vehicles has united our membership and we wish to share our enjoyment with others through our presentation of the Custom Auto Show.*

*GCRA is a non-profit organization with a significant portion of its profits distributed to charitable organizations.*

## **Spring Craft/Vendor Show**

March 23, 2024 9:00 AM - March 23, 2024 3:00 PM

Sparta American Legion Ladies Auxiliary~

In the Beautiful Legion Hall

HWY 21- Sparta

**Food and baked goods will be available from the Ladies Auxiliary:**

*Jewelry, Scentsy, Norwex, Gnomes, Hand Crotched Items, Beautiful Center Pieces, Sewn Items, Skin Care, Message Therapy, Journaling- So many items! Something for everyone!*

## **Justin Trails Makers Market & Food**

March 23, 2024 10:00 AM - March 30, 2024 3:00 PM

Held at Justin Trails Resort (7452 Kathryn Avenue, Sparta, WI) every Saturday in March from 10AM-3PM.

Yummy baked goodies, homemade bread, handmade lotions & soaps, all natural dog treats, and much more!

Contact Dawn: [dawn@justintrails.com](mailto:dawn@justintrails.com) | (608) 397-9708.

## **Women Veterans Town Hall and Luncheon**

March 27, 2024 12:00 PM - March 27, 2024 1:00 PM

Held at Veterans Hall, Building 455 at Tomah VA Medical Center.

Meet with the NEW gynecologist and learn services offered, also learn about thrive. There will be a time for questions and answers. Open to all Veterans.

Lunch provided by the American Legion Auxiliary.

RSVP by March 20, 2024 with Sarah Rezin by email or by phone at sarah.rezin@va.gov, 1 (800) 872-8662, Ext. 66375

## **Ladles of Love**

March 28, 2024 5:00 PM - March 28, 2024 7:00 PM

This event recurs weekly

A community meal held each Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm. The meals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 North Water Street, Sparta, WI.

All are welcome!

More information can be found on the [Ladles of Love Facebook page](#).

## **Reading/Workshop by Poet Elizabeth Hoover**

March 29, 2024 7:00 PM - March 30, 2024 12:00 PM

The Driftless Writing Center (DWC) will host an in-person reading by poet Elizabeth Hoover on Friday, March 29, at 7PM at Metaphysical Graffiti Bookstore (119 W. Court Street) in Viroqua. The reading will be followed by a community open mic. Anyone wishing to read during the open mic portion should register in advance by sending an email to driftlesswritingcenter@gmail.com with the subject line "Open Mic"—and bring a maximum of five minutes of writing to share.

Hoover will also lead an in-person workshop the following day, Saturday, March 30—titled "Mining the Local: Archival Poetics"—from 10AM-NOON at the Vernon County Historical Society Museum (410 S. Center Avenue) in Viroqua.

Hoover will lead attendees in writing poetry in concert with archival research, which is

research that involves handling primary source materials like letters, diaries, photographs, and recordings, among others. Workshop attendees will have access to the museum's collections for inspiration, and will also be reading and discussing the work of poets who engage in archival research.

This limited attendance workshop is open to writers of all levels. The DWC offers sliding scale tuition (\$20-\$50); scholarships are also available. The registration form for the workshop can be found on the [Driftless Writing Center's website](#). You can also email the DWC for more information at [driftlesswritingcenter@gmail.com](mailto:driftlesswritingcenter@gmail.com) or call 608-492-1669.

Elizabeth Hoover is the author of *the archive is all in present tense*, winner of the 2021 Barrow Street Book Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Crab Orchard Review*, and *Tupelo Quarterly*, among others and Hoover reviews books, interviews authors, and writes about art and pop culture for such publications as *The Art Newspaper*, and *The Washington Post*. She is an Assistant Professor of English at Webster University in St. Louis, where she teaches such classes as Archival Poetics and LGBTQ+ Literature.

The Driftless Writing Center is a nonprofit organization that connects writers, readers, and audiences through workshops, discussions, and public performances. It celebrates the unique culture of the Driftless region and seeks to enhance the creative expression of the people who live here.

## **Justin Trails Makers Market & Food**

March 30, 2024 10:00 AM - March 30, 2024 3:00 PM

Held at Justin Trails Resort (7452 Kathryn Avenue, Sparta, WI) every Saturday in March from 10AM-3PM.

Yummy baked goodies, homemade bread, handmade lotions & soaps, all natural dog treats, and much more!

Contact Dawn: [dawn@justintrails.com](mailto:dawn@justintrails.com) | (608) 397-9708.

## **Altra's 52nd Annual Easter Egg Toss**

March 30, 2024 10:00 AM - March 30, 2024 12:00 PM

Held at the Onalaska Omni Center, located at 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI, 54650.

Grounds will open at 10:00am with face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny, the Rotary Lights Kiddie Express (weather dependent), and food trucks from Apothik Eatery, Betty's Tacos and Affogato Lane Coffee.

The chocolate eggs will be released at 11:00am for the first age group. Door prizes will be handed out after each age group collects their chocolate eggs. You do not need to be a member to win the door prizes, so be sure to pick up your door prize ticket before the lines close at 11:00!

Members of Altra Federal Credit Union will be eligible for the grand prize bikes in each age group!

Age Groups:

0-2

3-4

5-7

8-10

This is a rain or shine event, so follow [Altra's Facebook page](#) for the most up to date information. In the event of weather, the Easter Egg Toss will be moved inside the Omni Center.

## **3rd Annual Doggie Easter Egg Hunt**

March 31, 2024 1:00 PM - March 31, 2024 3:00 PM

Held at Justin Trails Resort – 7452 Kathryn Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656.

Held in partnership with Kicking Bear Ministry and benefitting Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter. The event is free of charge and open to the public.

Please bring Meow Mix meow mix soft cups for kitties, Pedigree US Pedigree canned dog food, Tidy Cat Purina Tidy Cats clumping litter, and Purina kitten kibble in teal bag for Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter.



At this family and kid-friendly event, dogs on leash hunt for Easter Eggs. Doggie bunny ears and costumes are encouraged. There will also be doggie swag, so please register so we can get a count. See below for details.

**RULES:**

All dogs must be on 10 ft. or shorter lead and accompanied by a handler. Dogs must touch each egg with their nose or paw before the handler can pick it up and claim the egg. Bags to carry eggs donated by Scott Davis State Farm Insurance Agency will be provided. When the time is up, open all your eggs. When you find a sticker inside an egg, you may choose a prize for your pup. Petco in Onalaska, a proud sponsor of community events, donated the prizes.

As they arrive, dogs will have an opportunity to take a walk on the trails. Afterward is check in. There will be vendors such as Jewls by Bubbles selling dog-related jewelry and other dog-related items. We will have practice eggs so dogs can get used to the smell of the kibble inside the eggs. Pastor Kevin Bonnar will give a Blessing of the Hunt and Salvation Message. **The hunt starts at 2:00.** The event is open to dogs with current vaccinations, on leashes that are dog social.

[Click here](#) to register. This is a fun spectator event if you do not have a dog. For questions, please contact Dawn Justin [dawn@justintrails.com](mailto:dawn@justintrails.com) or 608-397-9708.