

Village Voice

of Spencer, WI



Contributed photos



Congratulations to the Spencer Area Chamber of Commerce **Citizen of the Year Mary Zahn** (on left) as **Leslie Czaikowski** accepts the award for **McNeely Insurance as Business of the Year** (on right).



The LUEPKE LOOK-OUT

It's Back!! Spencers' own Hunter Luepke embarks on his third year with the Dallas Cowboys so if you want to know more about our Native son just follow the Village Voice. I took some liberties and used dashes in place of traditional paragraphs to create more room for text. I can find no mention of Hunter not making the Cowboys' final roster as he looks to solidify his standing as #1 Fullback and increase his playing time through his versatility in more offensive sets and special teams. Hunter has played 34 of a possible 35 games for Dallas in two seasons proving once again that sometimes your best ability is availability. Good luck and stay healthy kid. We're all rooting for ya!

Cowboys' Hunter Luepke Bullish

On Run Game Potential in Oxnard By Adam Schultz

The Dallas Cowboys' [run game is perhaps one of the most intriguing battles](#) underway at training camp, and a week into practices in Oxnard, we are no closer to figuring out the pecking order. — — — That can both be a good and bad thing, but each player has had their moment in the sun, and we think that regardless of how the final depth chart lands, it won't be a bell cow situation for Brian Schottenheimer, it will be a handful of backs who will be used.

One such player who will have a role to play is Hunter Luepke, and he likes the current dynamic of the room. — — — "I think it's a very competitive running back room right now," [Luepke said](#). "With Miles [Sanders], Javonte [Williams], they've had a lot of reps in this league. Jaydon Blue is coming up. He's seeing stuff a little bit different than we might be, but he's also teaching us as well.

See **Hunter** on page 5
Dallas Cowboys RB Hunter Luepke goes through a drill during practice at the Ford Center at the Star Training Facility. | Chris Jones-Imag Images



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SAHS

SPENCER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The museum at 117 E. Clark Street will be open to the public on Monday, August 11 from 6:30-8pm or by appointment by calling 715-659-5577 or 715-659-5182. SAHS members will have desserts available with a donation to the museum at Music in the Park on Wednesday, August 27.



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Citizen's State Bank Lot- Hwy 13

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Thurs, Sept. 11, 2025 3:00 - 8:00 PM

Profits will go towards scholarships for Spencer High School students.
Thank you !
Spencer American Legion- Post 298

MarshfieldAreaSports.com

Spencer Library news....

September Events:

Common Scams & Frauds: September 4th from 12:00-1:00pm. Adults are invited for a presentation to learn about common scams & frauds to be aware of, and steps to take if you or someone you know falls victim to a scam or fraud. This will be presented by Jeff Kersten, an Outreach Specialist for the Bureau of Consumer Protection within the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Fiber Artists Meetup: September 5th from 1:00-3:00pm. Bring your current project—whether you knit, crochet, embroider, or do other fiber arts, all are welcome! Swap ideas, learn new skills, or simply enjoy some social time.

Cribbage at the Library: September 9th from 1:30-3:00pm. The library will provide the cards and boards but feel free to bring your own.

Book Club: On September 15th from 1:00-2:00pm the Spencer book club, "As the Page Turns," will be discussing *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith.

Family Story Time: September 16th from 10:30-11:00am children age 6 and younger, and their parents and caregivers, are invited to join us for family story time! We will share books with the group, sing a song or two and more during our time together.

Internet Basics: September 25th from 2:30-3:30pm. Are you interested in learning how to use the internet, but aren't sure where to begin? Come learn the basics from our Adult Services Librarian. Participants will have a hands-on opportunity to learn how to use web browsers and navigate a web page. This event is open to adults, and registration is required by visiting us in person or calling 715-659-3996, as space is limited. This session is appropriate for beginners only.

Sunflower Craft: September 26th from 11:00am-12:00pm. Join us for a sunflower craft session that's fun for all ages! Using colorful paper, fluffy pom-poms, and your imagination, you'll create your very own bright and cheerful paper sunflower to take home.



Closings: The Spencer library will be closed on September 1st.

Spencer Library Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 1-7pm. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-4pm. Saturday from 10-2pm.

Ashley Heiden Spencer Branch Coordinator Marathon County Public Library - Spencer Branch | 105 S. Park St., WI 54479 Ashley.Heiden@marathoncounty.gov | 715-659-3996 (direct) / 715-659-3996 (general) www.mcpl.us / info@mcpl.us | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Sencer Kids Group: A Fresh Start for Fall.**

August was a month of refresh and renewal at Spencer Kids Group. We took two weeks off to give our building some much needed attention—a deep clean throughout the center and even a refreshed gym floor. While it was important work, I have to admit: getting so used to spending every day with our kids and then not seeing them for two weeks was strange. This building felt quiet and honestly, a little boring.

So, when we re-opened on August 18th, I was so excited to have kids back. In just one day we managed to fit in gardening, kickball, baseball, basketball, baking a cake and even organizing out toys.

At SKG, I believe kids should get to be kids and live life as fun as possible. But I also remind them daily to be respectful, to include others and to use their manners. Simple words like "please" and "thank you" and offering help may seem small but they make a big difference.

With school just around the corner, we've also been easing our way back in academics in fun ways. For example, while baking, I doubled the recipe and had the kids do all the math for me, and they nailed it! It might seem like a little thing but these moments help our kids grow, build confidence and prepare for success in life.

We're now ready and excited for the new school year. We're welcoming new families and all our kids back into our mission of providing a nurturing environment for them to grow. One part of that mission is our **SHIP program (Spencer Homework Improvement Program)**, which begins the second week of October. I (Diana) will personally run SHIP this year and since I know my kids well, I'm confident in where and how I can help them succeed.

For families interested in enrolling their child(ren) at SKG, please reach out to me at office@spencerkidsgroup.org.

Now, I do need to share something important: **SKG is in urgent need of new board members.** Our board must have a certain number of voting members to hold meetings and even if two people can't make it we have to cancel. That makes it very hard to move forward and plan for the future. If you love what SKG does for kids and our community, please consider joining our board! You don't need any special experience, just a heart for kids and a willingness to help. Your voice matters and your presence could be the difference between SKG continuing to grow or struggling to keep things running.

If you're slightly interested please reach out to me or Lindsey Hinrichsen!

Up-coming SKG Events: September 6th—Klubs 4 Kids Golf Outing. October 5th—Fall Bingo

We're so grateful for our community and all you do to support us. Here's to a fresh start and a wonderful school year ahead!

Thank you, Diana Ventsel, SKG Youth Center Program Director

A little about me - I was born and raised in Ukraine.

As a child, I was fascinated by different cultures and languages.

I dreamed of one day opening a language school for children—especially those who might not have the opportunity to take private classes.

That dream led me to pursue a degree in Business Management, thinking it would help me turn my dream into reality.

Who would've thought that one day I'd move to the United States?

But here I am, and I can say without hesitation that it's one of the best things that's ever happened to me.

Finally squeezed this in. Diana's doing a great job up there. Thanks young lady...the editor

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Hunter from page 1

We're all just playing off each other, asking each other questions. This is Miles' first time with the fullback, so we've been kind of just playing off each other with how I block things and how he wants me to block them or how I see them. It's just been pretty fun." — — — There is no doubt that Sanders and Williams are the top two, but Blue has been rewarded with first-team reps, and he's splashed with his speed and vision being key in making plays. — — — Then we have Luepke, who Schottenheimer is over the moon with, as he is playing in a host of positions in camp, which even includes tight end. So, Hunter might have a spot in the offense already sealed; it's just a matter of where he lines up.

The run game is still a little bit of an unknown, but with each player making noise, those roster cuts are going to be a tough gig, and someone who has had a good camp, might see the harsh side of the NFL business.

Cowboys' Hunter Luepke Content with 'Fun' Training Camp

By Adam Schultz



Hunter and new head coach Brian Schottenheimer

Dallas Cowboys fullback Hunter Luepke has been making waves in Oxnard with head coach Brian Schottenheimer going out of his way to praise No. 40. — — — With Hunter used largely as a fullback last year, now, under Schottenheimer, he is being lined up everywhere. — — — From fullback to [running back](#), tight end, and everything in between, Schotty is putting a lot on Hunter's plate, and through the first week of camp, he's feasting as he looks to get on the field any way he can in Year 3.

But how does he think his camp has gone so far?

"Pretty well," [Luepke said](#). "Getting moved all over the offense, which is pretty fun. So, I just got to stay on top of the installs and, ask as many questions as possible. They always say no questions are dumb questions." — — — Given how Schottenheimer will want to run the ball, Luepke as a runner, but also a blocker and potential tight end, the possibilities are endless, and it is clear Schotty loves him some Hunter in his offense. — — — So, it is all about stacking good days of production in Oxnard, which, by all reports, Luepke is doing, and everyone is taking notice. Exactly what his main role will be is unknown, but a jack of all trades type of role might be the best way to describe what Luepke will be doing for the Cowboys

in 2025. — — — Schottenheimer wants his team to be versatile, and you won't find a more versatile player than Hunter, and he's determined to do whatever he can to make the team and get on the field. — — — Even if that means playing other offensive positions.



Dallas Cowboys running back Hunter Luepke during training camp at the River Ridge Fields. | Kirby Lee-Imagn Images© Kirby Lee-Imagn Images

Cowboys Scouting Report on 'Incredible Hunter Luepke In Oxnard

By Adam Schultz

The Dallas Cowboys' run game has seen many eyes be drawn to it, with Miles Sanders, [Javonte Williams](#), and Jaydon Blue the names people are watching. — — — But don't forget about Dallas' ultimate gadget weapon in fullback Hunter Luepke. — — — We have seen Hunter's versatility be on show since entering the league, as a fullback, running back, as a receiver out of the backfield, and now under head coach Brian Schottenheimer, as a tight end in their 11 personnel packages.

A typical jack of all trades for Hunter, and during training camp, Schottenheimer has routinely brought up Luepke and what he does for the team. He wears so many hats for the offense, and don't think Schotty doesn't know how valuable that is. — — — "Start with the instincts," Schottenheimer said. "Start with the physicality, pad level versatility is incredible. Here's a guy that again idolized Mike Alstott growing up. That's why he wears number 40, but boy, he's very different than Mike. Mike was a great player certainly, but the things that we can do with Hunter, starting because of the versatility, the physicality, so smart, football instincts are off the charts. — — — "I think a guy a little bit with a chip on his shoulder. He won't say much. He's pretty quiet, but he's got something to prove." — — — Given the state of the Dallas offense, we think there is definitely a role for Hunter to play in 2025. Exactly what that is, we aren't sure, but as a runner, receiver, tight end, and nearly anything else you can think of, Luepke is making everyone stand up and take notice.

Having been used sparingly in his first two seasons under Mike McCarthy,

the 2025 season might just be Hunter's breakout year in the NFL. — — — Because the one thing Schottenheimer likes is some Hunter Luepke in his offense.

UDFA ready to carry Dallas Cowboys offense on his back

By Randy Gurzi

The [Dallas Cowboys](#) ground game has gotten a lot of attention this offseason. Following their struggles to run the ball in 2024, Dallas signed [Javonte Williams](#) and [Miles Sanders](#) in free agency. They also added two rookies in the 2025 [NFL draft](#), taking [Jaydon Blue](#) from Texas in the fifth round and [Phil Mafah](#) from Clemson in the seventh.

While all the attention seems to be focused on their new additions, the coaching staff has been spending time working with [one of the returning backs, Hunter Luepke](#). According to The Athletic's Jon Machota, coaching staff has been thoroughly impressed with Luepke, and they're using him at multiple positions. His role has become so versatile that Luepke claims [he plays "everything" on offense](#), while adding that he will do whatever is asked of him. "Any way I can be on the field, I'm going to try to do it. Whatever they ask me to do, I'm going to do it. ... Coach is trying to be as multiple as possible out there, so I just think me being able to play multiple positions and being able to shift and move around and see different IDs, or go in on pass pro for running backs, run routes with tight ends, the more you can do, the better for this offense. And I think I can do that." — Luepke, via Machota

Undrafted out of North Dakota State in 2023, Luepke has been used sparingly on offense through two seasons. He has just 57 yards and one touchdown on 18 attempts and 129 yards receiving on 15 receptions. — — — Despite the small sample size, his versatility stands out every offseason. That said, it appears new [head coach Brian Schottenheimer](#) might be willing to put more on his plate in 2025.

Dallas Cowboys running back Hunter Luepke makes a catch during training camp at the River Ridge Playing Fields. | Jason Parkhurst-Imagn Images© Jason Parkhurst-Imagn Images



at the TACK

Welcome to September. The school year has commenced, the Packers are starting their season, yet there is another exciting occasion still to come. The LuCille Tack Center's season opener! Get your tickets now for the Everly Set. Sean Altman and Jack Skuller join us again, this time with the music of Don & Phil Everly. You will absolutely love their tight harmonies, guitar skills and vibrant personalities. Songs like 'All I have to do is dream,' 'wake up little Suzie,' 'Bird-dog,' 'Cathy's Clown,' and many, many more will be performed. The concert is Saturday, October 4 at 7:30pm. Tickets are only \$35 and we will open the hall at 7pm. See you there!



Sean Altman & Jake Skuller
Everly Set

The next show is another one that can't be missed! Commotion - a tribute to the music of Creedence Clearwater Revival will be in town Saturday, October 25 at 7:30pm. The vocals, the guitar work, the whole band sounds incredible! Come to this show and you will be transported back to the days when 'Fortunate Son,' 'Have you ever seen the rain,' and 'Heard it through the grape vine,' were released! So many great

tunes and great performers. Come see Steve McLain sing like Fogarty and hear the world class guitarist Jimmy Ryan and the rest of the band in the wonderful tribute to CCR.

The next group in town hails from a little further down the road: Sweden! Gunhild Carling and company will be coming to the LTCA. This is a unique treat but I promise you will be asking for more. Gunhild is a master jazz/swing musician playing a dozen or more instruments all very well and in the jazz and swing style. Her wonderful voice and songwriting talents only add to the performance. Come see Gunhild dance, sing, and play trombone, trumpets (several at a time), bagpipe, penny-whistle and who knows what else! Gunhild will be here for a night of excitement Thursday, November 13 at 7:00pm.



Gunhild Carling

Closing our November shows is Mutts Gone Nutts! This time the dogs are here in the fall. Sunday, November 16 at 2pm this laugh out loud family event will be at the Tack. These canine talents will show off their tricks and keep you howling for more.

See TACK on page 7



Mutts Gone Nutts



LuCille Tack
Center
for the
ARTS

What's Rockin' in Rocketville

By Jason Gorst
Superintendent/School District of Spencer

Welcome some new staff

members to this district to start the year. When new teachers are brought into the district, we have them participate in a mentoring program. Last year, we revamped our mentoring program. Instead of assigning one-to-one mentors, we have selected a mentor team that will serve as a panel that will help orient and coach the new teachers. We welcome the following new staff to the district. • Hayden Bauman, PE/Health Teacher • Morgan Lass, 4K Teacher • Colten Schillinger, 5th Grade Teacher • Leah Trierweiler, Speech Pathologist • Amy Wirtz, Special Ed Paraprofessional • Megan Haselow, 4K Paraprofessional • Jody Karaba, Cook • Sarah Moga, Cook • Rodney Kolecheck, Maintenance • Kari Lyon, Custodian • Nancy Walk, Custodian • Sacia Kelly, Administrative Assistant • Erin Shaffo, 3rd Grade Long-Term Guest Teacher.

In late August, we had our staff in for a four-day in-service. We do this annually to prepare for the upcoming school year. Hats off to the district leadership team for their efforts. It was great to see everyone back in action!

We had a lot of facility work taking place over the summer. We have redone the vast majority of our main hallway floors with an epoxy finish. They look great! The elementary hallways have been repainted. The plan is to paint the other hallways next summer or possibly over extended breaks during the school year. The MS/HS office has been remodeled, and the entryway has been modified to provide a more secure entry process. The retaining wall north of the LTCA was redone. Thanks to a generous donation by Spencer Youth Recreation, we were able to revamp the courtyard that sits in the middle of the elementary school. This will now serve as an outdoor learning space primarily used for students with special needs, but will also be available at times for use by all students. The exterior of the dome was pressure-washed and slated to be repainted. There was an issue with the drip edge that led to water running down the walls and damaging the paint. A long-term solution has been put into place. We also completed the standard roof repairs. Every year, we repair several sections of the roof with the hope of avoiding a major project down the road. Derek Evenson, our Facilities Manager, has done a wonderful job of leading these projects!

Again this year, we planned to have August 27th and 28th serve as our first days of school. We get additional aid from the state on this. While we cannot hold students accountable for truancy regarding attendance on these days, we sure do want to see the students in the building. We are able to get pictures taken and get through a lot of logistics to get the year off to a good start. Many area schools are doing more than two days. We will revisit the topic later on when we are planning next year's calendar.

We are in the process of preparing the annual budget. The annual meeting will be held on September 17th at 6:30 PM in the Distance Learning Center. We invite the community to come in for this meeting. We will be presenting the preliminary budget. The previously passed recurring referendum will add \$225,000 to the budget. We will also be presenting an update on our strategic planning process. We will discuss our goals around College, Career, & Life Readiness, Health & Wellness, Facility Management & Financial Sustainability, Staff Retention, Recruitment & Development, and Community Engagement & Family Relationships.

See Rockin' on page 7



TACK from page 6 Tickets for this event are \$30 for adults and only \$20 for kids! Please bring your family and friends. It is going to be a Paw-some show. So excited to kick off our 29th season with you all. Thank you for your support! We are in the midst of our Community Giving Circles fund raiser right now. Please consider giving this year as we are a 501c3 non profit who is always in need of your help. Thank you again and see you at the Tack!
- Daniel Worsham



The Spencer Women's Club is inviting ladies of all ages who are passionate about service and community building to join our organization. Now is the time to add your unique talents to our group, and make a difference in Spencer.

*Our activities currently include: Selling concessions at

Music In the Park, serving refreshments for intermissions at the LTCA, selling wreaths to the community and running the Miss Spencerama program.

*Currently donations have gone to &/or will go to: Spencer Public School, Spencer Food Pantry, Community Band Shelter, Lucille Tack Center, Spencer Fire and Police Depts., Community members in need.

We meet at 6:30 on the first Thursday of the month in the Community Hall. Our upcoming meeting will be Sept. 10 due to Labor Day. Please consider joining us! To contact a member call Emily @ 715 207 5039.

SPENCERAMA RAFFLE WINNERS

The American Legion Post 298 would like to thank all participants this year. The winners were: Clayton Johns-\$350. Stacey Petkousek-\$175. Wheels Excavating -\$175. Barb Flinn-Daniels -\$87.50. Roger Ellison \$87.50.



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Rockin' from page 6

I am beyond excited to see the students back in the building to start the year! We have a great group of kids, engaged families, and a community that is supportive of its school. I appreciate all of the time and effort that goes into preparing for a school year, from our custodial and maintenance staff to our transportation and food services to our teachers and all staff in the building. I am grateful and excited for a great school year!



The Brighton Recneps 4H club was well represented at the 2025 WI Valley Fair in Wausau this past August. From art projects, flowers, baking, photos, woodworking, metal arts, and animals (Dairy, Beef, Swine and Rabbits).

Our Theme this year was developed and created by the kids. "Brighton Recneps One Team, One Dream 4-H Strong". This theme is represented on all of our Animal Boards and in the Booth to represent our club. — — — See us coming up at the Sept 7th Spencer FFA Fall Harvest Breakfast as we will be representing the petting zoo from 8-11. — — — If anyone is interested in joining our 4H Club - please see us on Facebook "Brighton Recneps 4-H Club or contact Val Bauer 715-613-5758 valerie10bauer@hotmail.com or Jackie Soback 715 -659-5186 jc12201@hotmail.com.

Our next meeting and for open enrollment is Sept 14th at the Brighton Town Hall @ 5:30pm

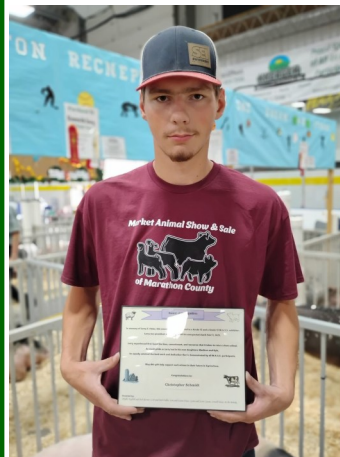


Club Picture representing our Club Herdsmanship Awards:

Back Row: Brooklyn V, Cooper Rueth, Jakob Soback, Chris Schmidt, Weston Bauer

Middle Row: Dakota Bauer, Dani Soback (holding River Stepan), Morgan Schmidt, Reed Stepan, Trey Schmidt, Archer Rueth

Front Row: Garret Bauer, Brantly Stepan, Harleigh Stepan, Hadley Rueth



Chris Schmidt - Outstanding Award of Recognition "... Hard work and dedication that is demonstrated by all M.A.S.S. participants."

** Thank you Chris for all your years in our 4H club and your swine experience. As you graduate out of 4H, we wish you well.



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10am Sunday Worship
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Steve Pilz, Editor

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Note: For updated information on school events and activities see the web site at www.spencer.k12.wi.us

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For all Church times, see page 8	1  labor day	2 Legion 7pm Village Hall. XC Invite @ 9 mile Co. Park 4:30pm. VB Pittsville 7:15pm	3	4 Woman's Club 6:30pm Village Hall. VB @ Almond/ Bancroft 5pm	5 FB @ Stratford 7pm	6 XC Invite @ Colby 10:30am.
7	8 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm Village Hall. SAHS museum open 6:30-8pm	9 XC Invite @ Wildwood Park 5pm.	10	11 Lions 6:30pm Nutz. 4H 7pm Village Hall VB @ Edgar 7pm	12 FB @ W/F 7pm	13
14	15	16 XC Invite @ Levis-Trow Rec. Area 4:30pm.	17 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ Middle School Conference Room #20	18	19 FB Witt/Bern 7pm	20 XC@ Wausau East Noon
21	22	23 St. Johns COME meal Dine In 5-6pm. XC Invite Frey Field 4:30pm. VB Loyal 7:15pm	24 SAHS museum open 6:30-8pm	25 VB@ Greenwood 7:15pm.	26 XC Invite @ RIVERS Edge 7pm.FB @Amherst 7pm.	27 VB Invite @ Abby 9am.
28	29	30 VB @ Neillsville 7:15				

