

Village Voice

of Spencer, WI



From the Editor **Cowboys' Luepke trades jersey number to Von Miller for chicken ownership**

Todd Archer, Sept. 3, 2026
0:8:38 PM ET



The LUEPKE LOOK-OUT

FRISCO, Texas -- What do you get when a poultry science major from Texas A&M and someone with a finance degree from North Dakota State become teammates on the [Dallas Cowboys](#)? A number switch. -- -- Linebacker [Von Miller](#) obtained No. 40 from fullback [Hunter Luepke](#) after a brief and interesting negotiation following the future Hall of Fame pass rusher's arrival to the Cowboys. -- -- Luepke earned a small ownership stake in Greener Pastures Chicken, of which Miller is a co-owner, after passing on, among other things, "chicken for life." -- -- He is now wearing No. 30.

"I would have to say it's got to be the first in National Football League history that a jersey swap has been done with ownership of a chicken farm," Miller said. "He's learned from the best with the negotiators here with the Cowboys." -- -- Other notable co-owners of Greener Pastures Chicken? Current and former quarterbacks [Patrick Mahomes](#), Drew Brees and [Nick Foles](#). -- -- "It's the chicken of champions, so it was only right for Hunter to be a part of that too," Miller said. "He won three national championships in college. So it was a great fit for us. It was a great fit for him, and I'm happy that we were able to get it done."



Cowboys head coach Brian Schottenheimer said he would not get involved in the number switch after

See [Hunter](#) on page 8

Here's the eleventh installment of our **Ads of the Month** which feature Village Voice advertisers. This month's featured ads are: Our friends in the banking industry. Many thanks to Partners' Bank and Citizens State Bank of Loyal.



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at the TACKS

howtime! Our season is kicking off Saturday, October 3, at 7:30pm with the extremely well-loved Malpass Brothers. Christian and Taylor Malpass are famed for their authentic traditional country sound, look, and drawl. I initially heard about the duo from an agent about a year ago, and just on first listen, I knew there was great talent. I grew up a city slicker, so country music was not my cup of tea, but I have sincerely learned to love well-played music of any kind. The Malpass brothers are the kind of musicians that are just easy to admire. Taylor and Chris have the type of charisma on stage that would be entertaining even without the tunes; yet there will be many songs! The brothers will be joined by Jake Riggins on bass guitar, Jesse Personeni on steel guitar, and Landon Smith on drums.

A side note to all my valued patrons and friends. Do not get scammed! The LTCA only sells its tickets online through VBO tickets (this is directly connected to our website), and no other website! We do not have any overhead fees, extra charges, and none of our shows this year cost more for prime seating. We have seen a huge uptick in fraudulent ticket sites, and we are doing our best to avoid the negative impact on our patrons. We of course sell at the shows and over the phone or in our in-person box office hours, Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm at the High School door #22, 300 N School St. Spencer.

Michael Perry is coming back to the Tack as well! Michael has been here several times in the past and always provides a great show. Stories, songs, and great humor about life in rural Wisconsin are a large part of the menu. Michael's band, The Long Beds, is joining him and they have some amazing credentials behind them. Michael's most recent book, *Improbable Mentors and Happy Tangents*, will probably make its way into the conversation. A little tid-bit from Perry about the book is below:

One day I found myself adrift at sea. Literally. As in, it was my first ever saltwater fishing trip, we were twelve miles out, and the engine quit.

Fortunately, I had a terrific conversation partner beside me – my friend Andy. Over the next four hours, as the captain limped the boat home, Andy and I revisited the twists and turns of our careers. We realized: At every step along the way we met invaluable mentors...even though we didn't realize they were mentoring us at the time.

"You oughta put together a talk about it," said Andy.

And so, I did. And that keynote speech became this little book.

At this point, the children have enjoyed their first Arts Adventure show. Mister C (Kevin Cornell), a regional Emmy winning "science guy," brought his third show to Spencer, September 28. Kids from all over Central Wisconsin have enjoyed Mister C's antics for three years straight. Two years ago, they learned about air; last year the laws of motion; and this year, it is all about fun experiments, some of which can be tried at home. Thank you, Mister C for bringing quality and educational entertainment so consistently to the area.

Our November will kick off with Chicken Wire Empire, a Milwaukee bluegrass band. Don't be kept out by the name, no chicken wire will be present. Instead, im-peck-able live music will be on stage. Instead of staying cooped up, this November 12 at 7pm, come see this eggstraordinary show! Jordan Kroeger, Ernest Brusubardis IV, Jon Peik, Carter Shilts and Starr Moss will be strutting their feathers to some dance-worthy, upbeat tunes. Upright bass, fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, and killer harmonies!

Now, we may have counted our chickens before they hatched on the next one... Unfortunately, The Raptor Education Programs have all been cancelled.



LuCille Tack
Center
for the
ARTS

What's Rockin' in Rocketville

By Jason Gorst
Superintendent/School District of Spencer

I can't believe we are already one month into the

school year. We held our Annual Meeting on September 16 at 6:30 in the Distance Learning Center. This meeting must be held once a year, and one of the primary focal points of the meeting is the budget. This is the fifth year of our recurring referendum. There will be an increase of \$150,000 to the revenue limit authority. This is less than the \$225,000 increase last year. Last year, the total levy went up 7.01%. This year, we are anticipating it to go up by 7.37%. Our mill rate will likely be somewhere around \$8.69, which is up a bit from the \$8.49 last year. We are getting our final numbers in October and will certify the budget at the October 28th school board meeting. These numbers will be finalized at that time.

Speaking of school board meetings, I want to let everyone know that the October meeting will be on October 28th, which is the 4th Wednesday of the month and NOT October 21st. This is to give us time to work with the final release of numbers from the state on October 15th.

On Wednesday, September 9th, we had to evacuate the school out of an abundance of caution. The smell of gas was detected and spread throughout the building. Without knowing what the source of the smell was, the decision was made to move students and staff to the football bleachers. The Spencer Fire Department, WE Energies, and the Spencer Police Department all coordinated to investigate and were able to clear the building. The leak originated from a stove in the kitchen. Remedies to the problem have been made.

The School District of Spencer has been awarded the Rural Health Transformation grant for up to \$41,000.00 per year for 5 years. This grant is intended to expand opportunities for all students and meet the continuous needs in health science and human services pathways. The goals within this grant include, but are not limited to, maintaining and expanding related courses, adding CPR certifications to high school Health classes, creating two or more partnerships with local businesses/organizations in health science and human services, and removing barriers to other industry-recognized credentials. Thank you to Mrs. Brostowitz for writing the grant along with CESA 10!

We will be transitioning to a different financial software called Skyward. The District currently uses Linq, which is software produced by Alio. With over 90% of schools using Skyward, we have decided to join them in the process. We are planning for a January 2028 go-live date. This will not impact Infinite Campus as our student information system.

We have been selected for an administrative review this year for our food service program (similar to an audit). We are looking forward to learning more about the process, as it has been a long time for us. There are also some potential changes coming from the feds regarding the new dietary guidelines and how that will impact schools. We are in year two of a three-year initiative to improve the overall quality and quantity of food we serve.

We were awarded an E-Rate rebate, which will reimburse approximately 70% of a technology-related project that we submitted. This year we will be upgrading our Wifi throughout the building, which comes at a cost of about \$100,000. Of this, about \$70,000 will be reimbursed through this program.

Last year we partnered with Children's Wisconsin to provide a space for them to have a clinical therapist work in our building. We will be continuing this program again. By offering a space for students to receive mental health help, we feel that can ease the burden of scheduling and transportation for some families.



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Unity American Legion Pancake Breakfast
Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Toast, Applesauce, Coffee and Milk
8am-12pm
Adults: \$11, Under 12: \$6, Preschool:

Free.

These are the dates for the first Sunday of each month: October 4, 2026, November 1, 2026, December 6, 2026, January 3, 2027, February 7, 2027, March 7, 2027.



Rockin' from page 3

We are now in our second year of using Parent Square which is an app that allows students and parents to communicate in a two way fashion with various school employees. We were ahead of the curve with this, as several pieces of legislation, including ACT 57 and ACT 89, now require it. Overall, we have been able to enhance communication with our stakeholders over the last year.

More from the office of the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

We are writing to share an important update regarding a financial fraud incident involving the School District of Spencer. Earlier this summer, the district learned that a \$200,000 check issued to Nexus as payment for our windows project had been stolen from the mail. The information from that check was apparently used to create a counterfeit check payable to another company, which was then deposited into a Minnesota bank account associated with a company in California.

Upon learning of the incident, we immediately contacted the Spencer Police Department, our bank, our insurance agent, and our insurance company. We also retained legal counsel to assist the district as we worked to recover the funds and support the investigation. Because we did not want to interfere with that process, we waited to provide an update to our entire community until the matter had been resolved. We have learned that this scam, known as "check washing," is becoming more and more prevalent.

We are pleased to report that the district has successfully recovered the full \$200,000 involved in the

incident, and we have taken additional steps to further strengthen the security of our financial processes. Our insurance company covered \$10,000 of the loss, while our bank covered the remaining \$190,000. The district is responsible for some legal expenses associated with the matter, however.

The incident also provided an opportunity to carefully review our financial safeguards. Before this occurred, the district already had a number of procedures in place, including monthly account reconciliations, separation of financial duties, monthly voucher and treasurer's report reviews, independent auditing through Wipfli, review of bills before payment, use of purchase orders when available, a 15-point security check stock, and limited use of district credit cards.

Since the incident, we have added several additional safeguards, including:

- Increasing the use of electronic ACH payments
- Reviewing processed checks daily
- Eliminating windowed envelopes for larger checks
- Adding forgery and alteration coverage to our insurance policy
- Preparing to implement a payee positive pay system, which will compare checks presented for payment with information provided by the district.

We are extremely grateful to the Spencer Police Department, Weiss Law Offices, and Partner's Bank for their assistance and collaboration throughout this process. Although this was a concerning situation, we are pleased that the district's funds were recovered and believe the additional safeguards we have put in place will further protect district resources moving forward.

We also recognize that similar financial fraud schemes can affect businesses and organizations throughout our community.

We would be happy to share what we learned from this experience with local organizations that may find the information helpful.

Thank you for your attention to this important update.

Sincerely, Jason Gorst, District Administrator



Polka Service

October 4, 10am
St. John's Lutheran Church
210167 Highway 13, Spencer

www.stjohnsspencer.com
715-659-5158

MISSION Spotlight Friday

**Learn More About Mission
Work in Estonia
Presented by
Pastor Siimon Haamer**

October 16 at 6:30pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
210167 State Highway 13, Spencer

Pastor Siimon Haamer will share his mission work and raise awareness about the need to reintroduce education and the Gospel to Estonia. He operates the Home of Hope which serves as a prominent Christian outreach center, theological school, and a hub for several ministries aimed at educating a new generation of Estonian Christian leaders and pastoral care counselors.

www.stjohnsspencer.com 715-659-5158
 sjloffice13@gmail.com



Trunk or Treat
at Trinity

Trinity Lutheran Church, 109 W. Clark in Spencer, is presenting

their 12th Annual "Trunk or Treat" on Saturday, October 31 from 5 to 7 PM. Come to Trinity for games, prizes and candy, with themes appropriate for small children.

The festivities will be held indoors in the Sunday School area.



Trunk or Treat
At St. John's Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY October 25
2 to 4pm
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OCTOBER MENU

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SKG News—September has been a busy month here at Spencer Kids Group, and in the midst of all of that, you may have noticed a new face around! My name is Ashlyn Guldán, and September was my very first month on the job. It has been a whirlwind few weeks, and I am enjoying every minute while learning so much every single day.—We recently wrapped up two wonderful events, and I want to extend a huge thank you to our amazing community. First, we had a fantastic turnout for our annual mum sale. Thank you to everyone who ordered and picked up their beautiful mums on time!—The 4th annual Klubs 4 Kids golf outing on Saturday, September 12th was also a big success! We had 25 teams competing and the weather turned out to be great, too. Special thanks to our sponsors, everyone who came out to play, and those who donated raffle baskets. Your support means the world to us! Please mark your calendars early, as next year's tournament date is already set for Saturday, September 11, 2027.—Looking forward, I am so excited to see what October brings as I continue to learn more about my role and dive into these fun, upcoming events with all of you. Thank you again for the warm welcome, and I look forward to meeting many more of you soon!—**Upcoming Events at SKG:— Fall Bingo - Sunday, October 4th— Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 31st— Bingo - Sunday, November 8th— Shop Local Vendor Event - Saturday, November 28th—**—Thank you, Ashlyn Guldán, SKG Youth Center Program Director

FALL BINGO SUNDAY October 4th Noon-4pm

Spencer Kids Group 117 E. Clark Str. Spencer, WI
Join us for an afternoon of laughter, prizes, and cozy, fall treats. Grab your friends, bring your lucky charm and get ready to yell BINGO for a cause in support of Spencer Kids Group!

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Email office@spencerkidsgroup Call 715-659-4969

Text 715-721-5346 Message our Facebook page.

Trunk Or Treat

Saturday, October 31st 4-7pm At Spencer Kids Group
117 E. Clark Str. Spencer, WI 54479

Pick your best costume and head to SKG!
Costume judging will take place at 6:30pm.

Trunk or treat, cookies, costume judging & much more.
Come if you dare!



Spencer Library news....



October Events:

Play & Learn: Fall Harvest: October 2nd from 10:30-11:30am. Young children and their caregivers are invited for a story, music, crafts, and more—led by Children's Wisconsin! Join us for a special fall harvest-themed play & learn as we make a fun craft using apples.

Recipe Swap: October 2nd from 1:00-2:00pm. Bring in a copy of a favorite recipe and then grab a new recipe or two from a fellow participant.

Fiber Artists Meetup: October 2nd from 1:00-3:00pm. Whether you knit, crochet, or embroider, all are welcome! Bring your current project to work on, and meet with others to swap ideas, learn new skills, or simply enjoy some social time.

Lunar Calendars: October 5th from 5:30-6:30pm. Participants ages 6-18 are invited to create their own lunar calendars to track the moon phases! Using cardstock, colored pencils, tape, and making a few easy measurements, we'll create a spinning lunar calendar.

Birthday Constellations: October 8th from 10:00-11:00am. Children are invited to discover their birthday-month constellation and recreate it using glitter, glue, markers, and black construction paper.

Cribbage: October 13th from 1:30-3:00pm. New players are always welcome.

Star Chart Experiment: October 14th from 5:30-6:30pm. Teens are invited to create a star chart using littleBits®. Work with one another to create a star chart while learning about circuitry and electronics in a fun and imaginative way.

Pocket Solar System: October 15th 1:00-2:00pm. Have you ever wondered how far away Jupiter is? Or Saturn? Come find out with us! Children are invited to create a drawing to scale that will show the distance of the planets to the Sun and be able to fold up and fit inside your pocket.

DIY Command Module & Parachute: October 19th – October 24th. Stop in the week of October 19-24 to create a command module and parachute craft to take home with you. Drop in during open hours and we'll have step-by-step instructions and all the materials ready to go.

Book Club: On October 19th from 1:00-2:00pm the Spencer book club, "As the Page Turns," will be discussing The Christmas Wedding Guest by Susan Mallery.

Family Story Time: October 20th from 10:30-11:00am. Children age 5 and younger, along with their caregivers, are invited to join us for a delightful mix of stories, songs, and activities that foster early literacy, creativity, and a love of reading.

Orbiting Satellites: October 27th from 10:00-11:00am. Children are welcome to learn about orbiting and will be able to create their own orbiting satellite using provided materials.

Eclipse Chalk Art: October 30th from 10:00-11:00am. Learn how to draw the perfect eclipse with ease using chalk and black cardstock. All materials will be provided.

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 Str. Spencer WI 54479 ashleyheiden@marathoncountylibrary.org / 715-659-3996 (direct) / 715-659-3996 (general) www.mcpl.us / info@mcpl.us / Facebook / Twitter

Village Voice of Spencer

Spencer Churches



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7pm Wed. Bible Study

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Sunday Worship 10:30am

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306 S. LaSalle Str.
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8&10am Sunday Mass

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Our next meeting is October 5 at 6pm Nutz Deep.

SPENCER

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SPENCER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Spencer Area Historical Museum will be open to the public Monday, October 12 and Wednesday, October 28 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. During the winter months call 715-573-0150 or 715-659-5182 to set up an appointment.

SPENCER AREA FIREFIGHTERS FALL FEST RAFFLE SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT SPENCER, WI PULLED PORK DINNER: MEAL 4-7pm. DANCE 7-11 pm

Many prizes! Drawing at 10pm. Need not be present to win!

Tickets are 1 for \$10 and 3 for \$20. Only 3000 tickets sold.

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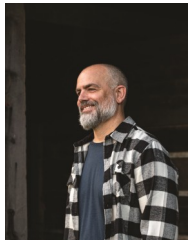
Note: For updated information on school events and activities see the web site at www.spencer.k12.wi.us

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Woman's Club 6:30pm Village Hall	2	3
4 Packers @ Bucs noon on FOX	5	6 Legion 7pm Village Hall	7	8 Lions 6:30pm Nutz. 4H 7pm Village Hall	9	10
11 Packers vs. Bears 3:25 on FOX	12 Village Board Meeting 6:30pm Village Hall. <i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18 Packers vs. Cowboys 7:25 on NBC	19	20	21	22	23	24 Firefighters meal and dance 4-11pm
25 Packers @ Lions 3:25 on FOX	26	27 St. Johns COME meal Dine In 5-6pm	28 School Board Meeting 6:30 pm in the Distance Learning Center	29 Packers vs. Panthers 7:15 Prime Video	30	31

TACK from page 3 The November 20th show as well as the Arts Adventure shows. This is due to lack of staffing at the Antigo group, R.E.G.I. This was a major blow for us. Two years in a row our plans have been thwarted, I guess it just goes to show us what many have said throughout all of time. "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, and leave us nought but grief and pain, for promised joy." - Robert Burns. That aside, Daniel is hard at work replacing the show with something comparable. No firm decision has been made when this article was written, but if all goes well you will probably have seen the new show advertised before this Village Voice! The show must go on.

Daniel and Theresa Schauer attended the MAX conference as well at the end of September and a glorious amount of artists, agents and other presenting professionals were talked to, observed and admired. We're going to be in for a great 2027/2028 season next year at the Tack!--Daniel Worsham



Michael Perry

Hunter from page 1 Miller signed. — — — Since the NFL allowed single-digit numbers to be worn by everyone other than offensive or defensive linemen, Schottenheimer said things have become trickier. He also relayed a story from last year about a player who thought his jersey number was going to be taken from him after a veteran's arrival. — — — In Schottenheimer's coaching past, he has seen players trade numbers for cars and Rolex watches. — — — "If a guy wants a jersey bad enough and he's been around the league a while, he usually has enough capital, cash to get things done," Schottenheimer said. "And I think these guys found a way to get this thing resolved."

Surely, there's a moral to this story. "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." Probably not. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Nah. Why did the chicken cross the 50 yard line? Not quite. "What came first the chicken or the jersey? Perhaps. "Don't run around like a Cowboy with your head cut off." Pretty close. Clearly, the moral of this story is don't mess with a dude from Spencer, especially one with a degree in finance and one who could kick your a__ , if need be. As always: [Go Hunter!](#)

Go Hunter!

Spencer High School Volleyball Team
Pink Night

Fundraiser benefitting Cattails Place Marshfield

Oc-
house vs. Owen- Withee.
tribute to loved ones affect-
ing a volleyball for the hon-
opportunities with pro-



tober 6 at Spencer Dome Field-JV at 5:30 and Varsity at 7. Pay ed by breast cancer by purchas- or wall, plus other donation ceeds to Cattails Place.

Join our Facebook Event!

Highlights at the games include "Ace" gift Card Pull (many gift cards to be won), 50/50 Raffle, Interactive games and fun for all ages.

Together we can make a difference!

WEAR PINK, PLAY HARD, FIGHT TOGETHER

The Spencer Area Historical Society is planning a new event for Spencer: a guided walking tour of 2 blocks of Clark Street, and 1 block of LaSalle Street as we share the history of each location.

Please gather in the hall next to the museum—117 E. Clark Str.

Small group tours begin at 11am on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

The Marathon County Historical Society will also share some displays in the hall. The museum will be open.

We hoped you can attend!

HISTORY *Walk*

Discover the Past.
Celebrate Our Heritage.

Wednesday, October 14
Starting at 11 AM
Meet in the Spencer Kids Group Hall

Step Back in Time:
*Discover Spencer's Historic
Store Buildings*

Have you ever wondered what stories are hidden behind the old storefronts and historic buildings in Spencer? Join us for a special opportunity to step to step back in time and explore the history of Spencer, Wisconsin.

Come visit some of our community's older store buildings, learn about the businesses and people who once filled these spaces, discover how they helped shape Spencer into the community we know today.

Whether you have lived here for generations or are new to the area, there's something special about seeing our local history up close and hearing the stories that might otherwise be forgotten.

*Bring your curiosity, invite a friend,
and come discover
the history of Spencer!*

SPENCER
WISCONSIN

SPENCER HARDWARE CO.

OUTDOOR

MOVIE NIGHT

COME EARLY, BRING YOUR CHAIRS
OR BLANKET AND GET COMFY.

POPCORN, NACHOS, & HOT COCOA
ARE AVAILABLE. DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED.

**OCT 9
7 PM**

**FREE FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY**

SPENCER COMMUNITY STAGE

**FAMILY FRIENDLY
MOVIE TITLE WILL
BE KEPT SECRET.**

MOVIE NIGHT IS BROUGHT TO
YOU COURTESY OF THE
VILLAGE OF SPENCER STAFF.

You are invited to the

SCS SPENCER

Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting

Join us as we celebrate this new S.C. Swiderski apartment community on

October 8th, 2026

From 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

at 410 W. Willow Drive, Spencer, WI 54479

Kindly RSVP
before 9/24/26

