Page A-05 October 21, 2026.qxp_Layout 1 10/20/26 2:15 PM Page 1

Foundational thoughts...

By Jason R. Murray, Executive Director
Golden Belt Community Foundation

A Spooktacular Time to Make an Impact

Golden Belt Community Foundation has some spooktacular news that could be a special treat for our communities! Our Board of Directors recently approved an Impact Investing Policy, creating a new way for charitable dollars to make a difference throughout our service area.

Impact investing allows GBCF to supplement our traditional grantmaking with investments that can generate both a community benefit and a financial return. These investments may include opportunities with nonprofits and for-profit businesses, including gap financing that can help worthwhile projects move forward when traditional financing alone may not be enough.

Here is where the real treat comes in.

Through the generosity of local donors, charitable dollars can be placed into an impact investing fund and potentially used again and again. Rather than making a single grant and watching those dollars disappear, an investment can be repaid and then reinvested into another community opportunity.

In other words, your generous spirit never has to vanish!

The financial return may be lower than what someone would expect from a traditional investment, but the real return is measured by what happens in our communities: businesses growing, jobs being created, housing being developed, services expanding, and new opportunities becoming possible. One gift today could create ripples that benefit our communities for generations.

October is also a good reminder that year-end giving season is right around the corner. Giving Tuesday begins November 1, making now a great time to visit with your tax or financial advisor about charitable giving and year-end tax planning.

Depending on your individual circumstances, charitable giving may provide tax benefits for individuals and businesses. Those who are required to take distributions from certain retirement accounts may also have charitable giving options worth discussing with their advisors.

Another opportunity available through GBCF involves scholarships. Golden Belt Community Foundation is a registered Scholarship Granting Organization, allowing qualifying contributions to eligible scholarship programs to potentially receive a 75% Kansas state income tax credit, subject to state requirements and limitations.

That means your generosity can do more than support a student. It may also provide a significant state tax benefit while helping create educational opportunities for young people.

There may be a few ghosts and goblins wandering around this October, but there is nothing scary about planning ahead and making your charitable dollars work harder for the communities you care about.

Want to learn more about impact investing, Giving Tuesday, scholarship tax credits, or other charitable giving opportunities? Give Golden Belt Community Foundation a call at 620-792-3000. We would be happy to visit with you about the possibilities.

As always, donors should consult their tax, legal, or financial advisors regarding their individual circumstances and eligibility for specific tax benefits.

-Liebenthal City Council Minutes-

The Governing Body of the City of Liebenthal met in public hearing in the City Building Monday Sept 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. Presiding was Mayor Darrell Warner, council members present were Barb Matal, Renee Legleiter, William Stark, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, Clerk Beverly Stark, Water/Wastewater/Maintenance Operator Kelly Koerner. No residents were in attendance.

The mayor opened the Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and also the Budget Hearing at 6 p.m. As no residents were in attendance the Council waited for 15 minutes for late comers. The council voted to levy a property tax exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) and ratify Resolution 2026.-001. The roll call vote was as follows: councilmembers Barbara Matal, Renee Legleiter, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, William Stark, Darrell Warner voted "yes" for a total of 5 votes for exceeding the RNR and accepting the budget, Kathy Herrman was absent, there were no dissenting votes. The hearing was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m. the regular meeting commenced. Minutes from the previous meeting held August 10, 2026 were read. Bill Stark moved to approve the minutes as read, Renee Legleiter seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Citizen's Comments: There were no citizen's comments.

Clerk's Announcements: The Cereal Malt Beverage paperwork was completed for Liebenthal's Fall Fest (Sept. 19, 2026), Mayor Darrell Warner signed the license certificate. Renee Legleiter offered to deliver the CMB certificate to the Fall Fest committee. Beverly will complete the state required paperwork this week and send it to the KDOR Alcoholic Beverage Control Office. The Zoom license is due for renewal and will cost $170.00. The council decided to cancel this subscription citing increased cost (previously it was free), and zoom calls unnecessary for city business. The City-Wide Cleanup ends 9-14-26, Bev contacted Mike Staab to remove the trailers Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. United Ag has changed ownership and is now Post Rock, and has offered a contract for propane. Bev will check with other companies to see if the city can find an inexpensive alternate. Bill Stark moved to contract for propane with the cheapest provider, Renee Legleiter seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed. The clerk has obtained a credit card for city use. The clerk reminded Kelly Koerner that hydrant flushing is scheduled for September.

Old Business: The mayor reminded the council to be vigilant of any residents that are alone or vulnerable to prevent another loss of life. Renee Legleiter reminded the council that Golden Belt Telephone will be providing a connection with the city wi-fi network for Fall Fest and will need access to the city office.

New Business: The city received the paperwork for the KDHE loan agreement for reverse osmosis unit replacement and water meter replacement. The clerk had read the contract, forwarded it to the city's lawyer for perusal, and explained it to the council, providing the council a chance to study the document. After some discussion, Bill Stark moved to accept the loan agreement upon the lawyer's consent, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner seconded, the motion passed unanimously. The clerk explained that going forward we need to decide if we want to use Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. as the engineering firm for this project, or another firm, reminding the council that Jacobs completed the preliminary engineering report that obtained the grant/loan so will be positioned to continue with the project with no disruption. Bill Stark moved to approve Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. as the engineers for this project, Barb Matal seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion carried.

Darrell Warner asked to attend the KS League of Municipalities annual meeting Oct. 8-10. Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to send Darrell Warner to the annual meeting, Barb Matal seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed. Darrell Warner will make the arrangements for the meeting and hotel.

City Utilities and Maintenance Updates: Kelly has everything mown for Fall Fest. The tractor is leaking hydraulic fluid and brake fluid. Kelly will try to correct this. Chlorine residuals are within acceptable levels, well 5 is not working. Kelly had discussed this with his water supervisor Kurt Bookout and thinks it may be a foot valve. Kelly wants to call Karst Water Well before winter to see if we can get repairs done. Darrell Warner suggested Kelly call them and get a quote for this repair.

Calendar / City Events: Fall Fest is September 19 – 20.

Approval and Payment of Bills: Darrell Warner noted that the repairs done by Hickman Environmental to the sewer pump did not reflect the maintenance agreement we have with Hickman's. He will call them and discuss this to lower the bill we received. Renee Legleiter moved to pay the bills as presented with the exception of Hickman Environmental, Bill Stark seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The next meeting is October 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Stark seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

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Lady Leopards move on to regionals

The La Crosse High School volleyball team played three games last week at St. John. They defeated Kinsley 25-20, 25-15, and Chase 25-0, 25-4. The Lady Leopards lost to St. John 19-25, 21-25. Their record is 14-20 for the season.

La Crosse competed in the 1ADI Regional Region 3 at Montezuma on Tuesday, October 20. The #9 ranked La Crosse played #1 ranked South Gray, and #8 ranked Spearville. Results were not available at press time.

La Crosse cross country competes in CPL

The La Crosse cross-country team competed in the Central Prairie League meet on Thursday, October 15, at Ness City.

Tucker Thompson finished in 6th place (CPL) with a new personal record of 23:10. He will be competing in regionals on Saturday, October 24 in Tribune.

Kade Larson finished in 3rd place (CPL) with a new personal record of 14:33). Mollie Georg finished in 12th place (CPL) with a time of 19:03.

Dylan Schlegel finished in 17th place (CPL) with a new personal record of 16:32.

Leopards play last home game of season

The La Crosse High School football team played host to the Victoria Knights in the last home game of the regular season. The Leopards lost the game 0-48, in a game that ended at the end of the first half due to the 45-point mercy rule. The Leopards are 1-6 for the season.

Jace Baalmann completed 4 out of 9 passes for 75 yards and 1 interception. Eli Morgan was receiver of 1 pass for 41 yards, Zach Holopirek 2 passes for 23 yards, and Hunter Hobbs 1 pass for 11 yards.

Marcus Thielenhaus led La Crosse in rushing with 13 carries for 35 yards, followed by Baalmann 10 carries for 13 yards and Hobbs 7 carries for 9 yards.

Brantley Spreier had 3 tackles, 2 assists, 1 fumble recovery; Thielenhaus and Holopirek 3 tackles, 2 assists each; Scott Arnold 4 tackles; Hobbs and Kolton Appel 3 tackles, 1 assist each; Rylin Holm 3 tackles; Jordan Drew 2 tackles; and Morgan 1 tackle, 1 assist.

The Leopards will travel to Stafford on Friday, October 23, for the last football game of the regular season. A bracket game, not yet announced, will be scheduled for Thursday, October 29.

LaCrosse Unified School District No. 395
-- WEEKLY ACTIVITY CALENDAR --

OCTOBER 25-31, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	HS Scholars Bowl at Ness City 1st MS BB Practice	Parent/ Teacher Conferences 4-7 p.m.	Parent/ Teacher Conferences 4-7 p.m. FFA Horse Eval. at GCCC 9 a.m.	HS FB Bracket Game TBA	NO SCHOOL HS State VB Tourn.	HS State VB Tourn. HS State CC Tourn.

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LA CROSSE HIGH SCHOOL
LA CROSSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
2026
FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

(ALL DATES/TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
Game Time 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 29	**Pre-Season Jamboree 10 a.m.**	**@ La Crosse**
Friday, Sep. 4	Kinsley	@ Kinsley
Friday, Sep. 11	Ness City	@ Ness City
Friday, Sep. 18	**St John HOMECOMING**	**@ La Crosse**
Friday, Sep. 25	**Ellis RELAY FOR LIFE**	**@ La Crosse**
Friday, Oct. 2	**Sylvan - Lucas**	**@ La Crosse**
Friday, Oct. 9	Little River	@ Little River
Friday, Oct. 16	**Victoria PARENTS NIGHT**	**@ La Crosse**
Friday, Oct. 23	Stafford	@ Stafford
Thursday, Oct. 29	Bracket Game	TBA
Friday, Nov. 6	Regional	TBA
Friday, Nov. 13	Sectional	TBA
Friday, Nov. 20	Sub-state	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 28	State	TBA

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Aug. 25	Jamboree	@ Kinsley	4:00 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 28	**Victoria, Trego**	**@ La Crosse**	**4:00 p.m.**
Tuesday, Sep. 1	Chase, Golden Belt Home School	@ Chase	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sep. 3	Macksville, Otis-Bison	@ Macksville	4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sep. 8	Western Plains, Dighton	@ Ransom	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sep. 12	**La Crosse/Otis Tournament**	**@ LHS/OBHS**	**9:00 a.m.**
Tuesday, Sep. 15	HCHS,Spearville, Satanta	@ Spearville	4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sep. 22	Macksville, Otis-Bison	@ Otis	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sep. 26	Kiowa County VAR/Jv	@ Greensburg	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Sep. 29	**Ness, Ellinwood PARENTS NIGHT**	**@ La Crosse**	**4:00 p.m.**
Tuesday, Oct. 6	Central Plains, Victoria	@ Claflin	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 10	CPL Tournament hosted by Ness City	@ Hoisington	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 13	St.John, Chase, Kinsley	@ St. John	4:00 p.m.
Tues. Oct. 20	Regional	TBA	TBA
Saturday, Oct. 24	Sub-State	TBA	TBA
Friday, October 30	State	TBA	TBA
Saturday, Oct 31	State	TBA	TBA

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sep. 3	Ellis	@Ellis	10:00 a.m.
Saturday, Sep. 12	Pratt Skyline	@ Pratt	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Sep. 17	Hays	@ Ener-sysHays	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Sep. 24	Larned	@ Larned	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 1	Ness City	@ Ness City	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 8	Sterling	@ Sterling	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 15	CPL	@ Ness City	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24	Regional		
Saturday, Oct. 31	State		

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sep. 3	**Central Plains**	**@ La Crosse**	**6:30 p.m.**
Thursday, Sep. 10	St. John	@ St. John	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sep. 17	**Ellinwood**	**@ La Crosse**	**6:30 p.m.**
Thursday, Sep. 24	Macksville	@ Macksville	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 1	Victoria	@ Victoria	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 8	Ness City	@ Ness City	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 15	**Kinsley PARENTS NIGHT**	**@ La Crosse**	**6:30 p.m.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Sep. 1	Western Plains Dual	@ Bazine	5:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sep. 3	**Central Plains & Chase**	**@ La Crosse**	**4:00 p.m.**
Thursday, Sep. 10	St. John	@ St. John	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Sep. 14	Victoria & Ellis	@ Victoria	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sep. 17	**Ellinwood**	**@ La Crosse**	**4:30 p.m.**
Thursday, Sep. 24	Macksville	@ Macksville	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 1	Victoria	@ Victoria	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 3	JV CPL Tournnament (West)	@ Kinsley	9:00 a.m.
Monday, Oct. 5	Otis & Macksville	@ Otis	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 8	Ness City	@ Ness City	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 15	**Kinsley PARENTS NIGHT**	**@ La Crosse**	**4:30 p.m.**
Saturday, Oct. 17	Var. CPL Tournament	@ Victoria	9:00 a.m.

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