

Independent Register

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SHOPPING NEWS

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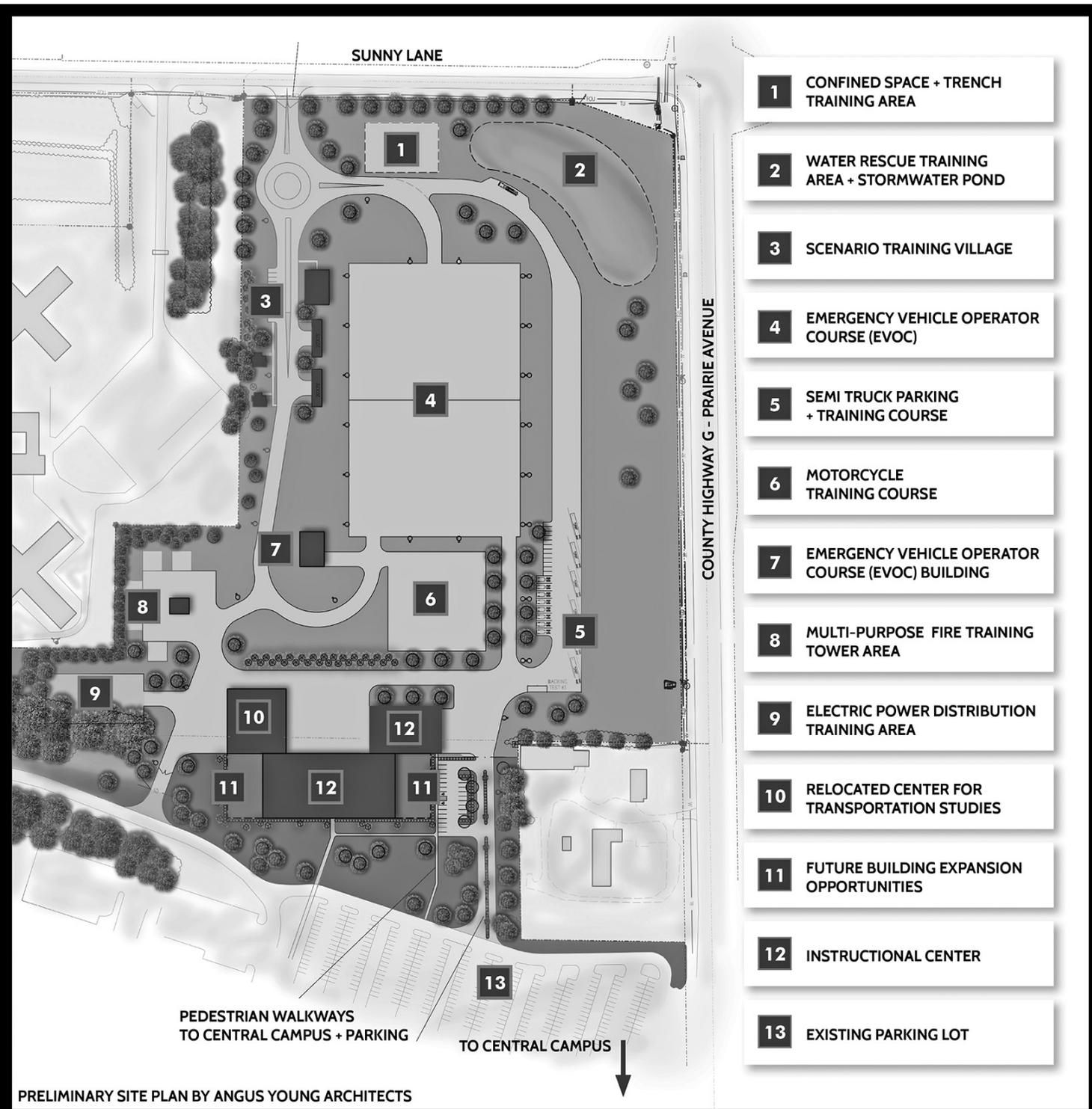
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Blackhawk Tech passes referendum for training center

Facility would serve students, area professionals



The Blackhawk Technical College District Board voted unanimously at its Aug. 19 meeting to place a referendum question on the Nov. 3 ballot. The college is requesting voter authority to borrow funds to build a comprehensive Public Safety and Transportation Training Center adjacent to the college's Central Campus in Janesville.

The college established a research and planning committee of Blackhawk staff, stakeholders, and community partners in 2019 to evaluate campus needs and make recommendations about facility improvements to the college. The committee found that the college's current public safety and transportation training facilities are inadequate, limit training opportunities and create unsafe conditions. They recommended the college explore solutions to these high-priority facility needs.

Working with Angus Young Architects, College leaders developed plans for a Public Safety and Transportation Center. The proposed facility will include a high-speed emergency vehicle operator course, fire training tower, water rescue area, semi-truck training course, scenario training village and other specialized training facilities. A full site plan and more information about the proposed facility are available by going online to Blackhawk.edu/PSTC.

If approved by voters, the new facility would serve students in fire, emergency medical services/emergency medical technician, auto and diesel technician, law enforcement, truck driver training, motorcycle safety and other programs.

In addition to serving BTC students, the proposed training center would also offer regional fire, EMT and police agencies local and accessible facilities for ongoing training and skills development.

"The proposed Public Safety & Transportation Center will provide the community with a multi-purpose, local and dedicated training center where public safety and transportation students and professionals can train on specialized equipment, including a road course, in a safe environment," Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College president, said in a news release.

The total construction cost of the proposed project will not exceed \$32 million. Approval of the Public Safety & Transportation Center will increase the debt service portion of the college's tax rate by a maximum of \$3 per \$100,000 of property value over the current rate. This mill rate tax increase will last approximately two years before it begins to decline to current levels.

For more information, call 608-757-7777.

This site plan shows the features of the proposed Blackhawk Technical College Public Safety and Transportation Training Center. A funding referendum for the proposed Janesville center will be on the November ballot.

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Obituary

DOROTHY JANE SHIMKO

Dorothy Jane (Marker) Shimko, age 94, returned to the heart of God on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020. She was born Sept. 12, 1925, in Farmington, Pennsylvania, to Jesse Marker and Martha (Kunkle) Marker. Early on, Dorothy said she wouldn't marry a farmer or a pastor because they worked long hours. Then, on July 18, 1944, she married Amos Shimko in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Born and raised on a farm, Amos later answered God's call to the ministry



logical Seminary.

Dorothy and Amos enjoyed a loving relationship with each oth-

er, a precious walk with God, and were dedicated partners in Christian ministry. Sharing her faith and witness in both personal interaction and service, Dorothy was a lifelong member of The (United) Methodist Church. She was active in Christian education classes, United Methodist Women, adult choirs and directing children's choirs in congregations they served in Mount Morris/Taylorstown/Bald Hill, Pennsylvania; Briggsville/Moundville/Endeavor, Wisconsin; Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin;

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sin; west side Madison, Wisconsin; Brodhead, Wisconsin; Spooner/Lakeview, Wisconsin; and Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. A licensed practical nurse, Dorothy also served the needs of others in a hospital and nursing homes.

Dorothy loved children. When her own children were grown, she provided day care for many years for a child of working parents.

Dorothy gardened all her life, especially organic gardening, freezing and canning thousands of quarts of home-grown food for the family. From the time she was a young homemaker, her home often smelled of freshly baked bread, cake, pie, cookies, and homemade soup and noodles.

In 1988 Dorothy and Amos retired to Brodhead. After Amos passed away in 2014, Dorothy found another calling in music ministry at Woods Crossing Woods Point. Playing the piano by ear, she delighted the residents in regularly scheduled "sing-alongs." Residents looked forward to these music sessions where they could request their favorite songs.

Dorothy is survived by five children: Deanna (Charles), Dale, Darl

(Jacque), Dawn and Devin (Carrie) and six grandchildren: Deborah, Gretchen, Heather, Lexi, Darien and Bryce; and nine great-grandchildren as well as four brothers, James, Albert, George and Earl; and two sisters, Arlene and Wanetta. Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents; her loving husband, Amos; her sister, Alice; infant sisters, Aleta and Thelma; and brothers, Glendall, Wilmer and John.

The family wishes to thank the staffs of UW Health Carbone Cancer Center, Madison; Woods Crossing Woods Point, Brodhead; and Agrace Hospice & Palliative Care, Janesville, for their care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) or Building Cambodia Inc.

Private graveside services will be held at a later date in Farmington, Pennsylvania.

Condolences for the family may be sent to Deanna Shimko, 5341 Northwest Hwy, Waterford, WI 53185, or online at www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com.

The DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead is assisting the family.



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Green County Board update

By Erica Roth
CONTRIBUTOR

The next meeting of the Green County Board is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, at 7 p.m. The board meets in the County Board Room on the second floor of the historic Courthouse on the square in Monroe.

There is an option to attend by phone or virtually and the information needed to do that is available on the meeting agenda. The agenda will be posted on the Green County website about one week before the meeting at www.co.green.wi.gov.

The Green County website also includes upcoming committee meetings and their agendas. Some committees are offering virtual attendance options, which will be listed on the agenda if available. As we are entering the budget season the committees will be discussing the departments' 2021 budgets in preparation of submitting them to the board for proposal.

As we enter this budget season, we are expecting 2021 to be a tough budget year and the 2022 budget year to be even harder. Budget season is never easy, as there are more things the state has put on the counties to fund, but without the resources to fund them. With the uncertainties and impacts of this global pandemic, the entire budget is even more uncertain.

We have an open budget process in Green County. First, the departments work on their proposed 2021 budgets and have them approved by their oversight committee. This usually happens at the committee meetings.

The Finance Committee holds budget hearings with each department and then puts together a proposed 2021 budget to be presented to the entire board for review. The board reviews it and then adopts it, to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021. All meetings are open to the public and are listed on the Green County website. The budget hearings occur over several days in mid-September.

An overview of the budget process time line is as follows: Sept.

9, budgets are due from the departments; Sept. 15 through Sept. 29, budget hearings are held; Oct. 13, Finance Committee meets and finalizes the proposed budget for the board to review; Oct. 20, the full board receives the budget for review at the County Board meeting; Nov. 10, the board discusses and votes on the proposed 2021 budget for adoption. All of this can be found on the Green County website.

As we move from the end of summer into fall, following our seasonal routines — harvesting crops, going back to school, looking forward to cooler weather and changing leaves — we are reminded that this

year has been anything but routine, and what the future holds is even more uncertain than usual. Perhaps appreciating the routines we have, even as we have to adapt them, will provide the stability and normalcy we crave.

Take care of each other, watch out for one another, and stay healthy. One thing that will not change is our innate humanity and concern for our neighbors.

Erica Roth represents Green County Board District 24 (town of Albany and a corner of the town of Brooklyn) and can be reached at 608-371-9074 or eroth@greencountywi.org.

Village urges patience on ATV/UTV change

Although Albany Village Board members voted Aug. 10 to pursue the process to open up streets within the village to all-terrain vehicles and utility terrain vehicles, they are urging restraint for residents.

According to a post on the village website, it is still illegal to operate ATVs and UTVs on streets within

the village.

"There is a process that needs to be taken prior to the implementation of this; at this time, if you are found to be operating your ATV/UTV on village streets, you will receive a citation," the notice reads. "Please be patient and let the village take the necessary steps to make this legal."

Options available for paying water/sewer bill

Albany village officials are reminding residents that because of COVID-19 precautions, in-person payments of water/sewer bills are not being accepted at Village Hall.

Alternate payment options are:

- Dropping off your payment in the drop box in front of Village Hall, 206 N. Water St.

- Mailing your payment to Village Hall, 206 N. Water St., Albany, WI 53502

- Paying online at GovPayNow.com (use PLC#7752)

- Dropping off your payment at Town Bank, 102 W. Main St., Albany

For more information, call 608-862-3240.

Drop-off option noted for absentee ballots

By Ami Eckard-Lee
CONTRIBUTOR

Did you know you can drop off your absentee ballot and skip the mail?

If you have health concerns about voting in person at a polling place, but are worried that a mail-in ballot will get delayed, you can make a request now for a ballot to be mailed to you, and then drop off the completed ballot yourself. Here's how:

If you are a registered voter:

Go online to myvote.wi.gov and select "Vote Absentee" from the options. You will then fill out your information, following the simple instructions on the website, and a ballot will be mailed to you. Once it arrives, you can fill it out and drop it off in person.

Brodhead-area voters drop off at Brodhead City Hall. In other areas, contact your municipal clerk to find out where to bring your ballot.

If you are not a registered voter:

Go online to myvote.wi.gov and select "Register To Vote." Follow the online instructions. After you have registered, you can request an absentee ballot on the same website.

Some frequently asked questions:

Q: Who can request an absentee ballot?

A: Any registered voter. No excuses needed; any registered voter has the right to vote absentee.

Q: When can I request my absentee (mailed) ballot?

A: Any time. The ballots will be mailed out 47 days before the national election, but you can request an absentee ballot any time in advance.

Q: I don't live in the Brodhead area. Where should I drop off my ballot?

A: Contact your municipal clerk, who is in charge of absentee ballots, and they will let you know where you can drop off a ballot. Registered voters can locate their municipal clerk by going online to myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk

Q: When is too late to request an absentee ballot?

A: You have until 5 p.m. on the Thursday before Election Day to request an absentee ballot for an election.

Q: I don't have a computer, or I don't use the internet. How can I request a ballot and find this information?

A: You can call the Wisconsin Elections Commission for help and information at 608-266-8005.

More information also can be found by going online to myvote.wi.gov.

Albany Police report

Aug. 15

- Cited for failure to notify police of accident was Chad R. Heins, 40, of Albany.

- Arrested for operating while under the influence (first), operating with a prohibited alcohol concentration, and operating left of center was Chelsea R. Neuenschwander, 27, of Madison.

- Arrested for battery to a police officer, resisting arrest, and obstructing an officer was Christian D. Jackson, 41, of Madison.

Aug. 16

- Cited for underage drinking and possession of alcohol was Justin T. Cusack, 19, of Jefferson.

- Cited for operating while suspended was Johnathan R. Hargan, 23, of Rockford, Illinois.

Bowling league invites young members

Brodhead Youth Bowling will hold its league signup from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Albany Lanes.

Two leagues are offered — Early Rollers for ages 4 and 5, and Saturday Morning Juniors for ages 6 up to those individuals who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to Aug. 1 of the current bowling season.

This league offers coaching instruction for all skill levels. New bowlers are welcome.

For more information, contact one of the coaches: Matt Sauer at 608-843-0941 or Amy Watson at 608-558-7520. People can also learn more about the league by going online to facebook.com/brodheadyouthbowling or finding the group on Twitter @brodheadbowling.

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Albany Comet News

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

-Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup for high-risk patrons, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 28

-Albertson Memorial Library full circulation and limited computer service, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29

-Albertson Memorial Library closed

SUNDAY, AUG. 20

No events scheduled

MONDAY, AUG. 3

Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

*Albany School District first day of school (virtual for seventh through 12th grades)

-Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup for high-risk patrons, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

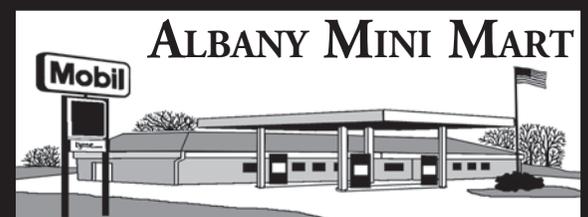
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

-Albertson Memorial Library full circulation and limited computer service, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

* Denotes Albany School program. For more information, please call 608-862-3225.

- Denotes a community event.

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Cost-sharing help available for organic producers

USDA's Farm Service Agency announced that organic producers and handlers can apply for federal funds to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program.

Applications for eligible certification expenses paid between Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 30, 2020, are due Oct. 31, 2020.

"For producers producing food with organic certification, this program helps cover a portion of those certification costs," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "Contact your local FSA county office to learn more about this program and other valuable USDA resources, like farm loans and conservation assistance, that can help you succeed."

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited

certifying agent. Eligible expenses for cost-share reimbursement include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Certified producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope.

To learn more about the cost share program, go online to fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/ocsp/index.

In your local area, contact the Farm Service Agency at the USDA Service Center in Monroe at 608-325-4195, extension 2, or in Janesville at 608-754-6617, extension 2.

All USDA Service Center locations are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only.

To learn more about organic agriculture, go online to usda.gov/organic.

New Glarus Brewing official joins state tourism council

Gov. Tony Evers recently announced three new appointments to the Wisconsin Governor's Council on Tourism, including one local businesswoman.

New appointee Deborah Carey is the founder and president of New Glarus Brewing Co.

According to a news release, "A recognized entrepreneurial spirit, Carey raised the capital for the start-up as a gift to her husband, establishing her as the first woman to found and operate a brewery in the United States.

"Since then, she has combined business management, marketing expertise and brewing professionalism to develop a world-class operation."

Notably, Carey was honored by former President Barack Obama as a Champion of Change for her extraordinary contributions in her community and beyond.

The other appointees are Missy Tracy, municipal relations coordinator at Ho-Chunk Gaming Madison and a tribal member of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and Luke Zahm, host of "Wisconsin Foodie," on Wisconsin Public Television and owner/head chef of Driftless Café in Viroqua.

The Governor's Council on Tourism advises the secretary of the Department of Tourism on matters relating to marketing promotion and serves as a sounding board to the agency as it enacts its strategic plan to advance tourism.

The three new members will begin serving immediately. The council is comprised of 14 gubernatorial appointees and seven ex-officio members.



- A ALWAYS** use the sidewalk when walking to and from school.
- B BE** aware of the street traffic around you. Avoid wearing headphones while walking
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- F FACE** forward and remain seated throughout the entire bus ride.
- G GET** to your bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- H HOLD** onto the handrail when you are entering and exiting the bus.
- I IF** you miss the bus, call a parent or guardian to drive you to school. NEVER ask a stranger!
- J JAYWALKING** is dangerous. Cross the street at crosswalks
- K KEEP** a safe distance between you and the bus while waiting for it to stop.
- L LOOSE** drawstrings and objects should be secured, so they don't get caught on the door of the bus
- M MAKE** sure to keep your hands to yourself at all times while riding on the bus.
- N NEVER** throw things on the bus or out the bus window and always keep your hands and arms inside

- O OBEY** your bus driver's rules and regulations, so he or she can get you to school safely.
- P PRACTICE** good behavior on and off the bus. Don't get talked into breaking the rules!
- Q QUICKLY** go to your seat when you enter the bus, and keep your feet and belongings out of the aisle.
- R REMEMBER** to look to the right before you step off the bus.
- S STAY** on the sidewalk, at least 10 feet from the road while waiting for the bus.
- T TALK** quietly on the bus, so you don't distract or annoy the driver
- U USE** emergency exits only in emergencies and make sure not to block them
- V VACANT** lots and buildings should be avoided on your walk to the bus stop.
- W WAIT** for a signal from the bus driver before you cross the street.
- X X MARKS** railroad tracks. Be silent when a bus comes to a railroad crossing, so the driver can hear if a train is coming.
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SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

One for the books

Luke recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at Brodhead Memorial Public Library. The program centers on reading books to newborns, infants and toddlers. The goal is to read 1,000 books before a child starts kindergarten. The program helps children be ready to read and be ready to learn. For more information about 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, go online to brodheadlibrary.org or call 608-897-4070.

Toolkit offers resources for coping with COVID-19

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities' (BPDD) Living Well Grant is making available statewide a COVID-19 Resource Toolkit designed to provide people with disabilities easy access to resources and plain language guides on how they can stay healthy, safe and socially connected during the pandemic.

The toolkit was developed in part through collaboration with Wisconsin Managed Care Organizations that provide long-term care supports to people with disabilities living in the community. It includes three documents to ensure the protection of the rights of

people with disabilities in their homes, places of employment, and communities during the pandemic.

"Social isolation is one of the biggest predictors of abuse and neglect in people with disabilities," said BPDD Living Well project manager Sally Flaschberger. "The goal of this toolkit is to get the right information in the hands of people with disabilities and their supporters who are feeling isolated by the pandemic. The resources in the toolkit are designed to maintain health, safety and social connections, including who they can turn to for help."

The Wisconsin COVID-19 toolkit

has also been shared nationally by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Community Living as part of outreach to ensure the well-being of people with disabilities around the country during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 toolkit is appropriate for use by individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, schools, non-profits, and other groups that support people with disabilities. It is free and available to download in PDF versions from the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities website: wi-bpdd.org/index.php/covid-19.

Grant expands housing, training for homeless veterans

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to operate and expand Wisconsin's successful Veterans Housing and Recovery Program, which provides temporary housing, training and supportive services to military veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in order to help them obtain permanent housing.

For more than 25 years, VHRP – through its community partnerships and extensive referral network – has helped homeless veterans in Wisconsin receive the job training, education, counseling and rehabilitative services they need to obtain steady employment, affordable housing and the skills to sustain a productive lifestyle. As part of the VHRP program, three transitional veterans housing centers located in Chippewa Falls, Union Grove and Green Bay provide housing and services to 78 veterans in need.

"It is so important that we support the well-being of our state's vulnerable veterans," WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar said in a news release. "I'm pleased the VHRP will continue to assist at-risk veterans – men and women – navigate the pathway to stable housing by providing the tools and support to help put homelessness behind them."

Under the homeless providers grant and per diem program, the USDVA agrees to make a per diem payment to the state for each day a veteran participates in the VHRP.

With announcement of this grant, WDVA will expand services at both the Chippewa Falls and Union Grove locations, adding an additional 18 beds at Chippewa Falls and an additional 10 at Union Grove, allowing housing and other assistance to be provided to at least an additional 28 veterans during this grant cycle. The Union Grove location will also include housing and services for female veterans.

The grants, awarded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, are part of the grant per diem program which provides funding to community organizations that provide transitional housing and supportive services for homeless veterans, with the goal of "helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income and obtain greater self-determination," according to the release.



News from Parkview in Orfordville: Viking Times

<p>THURSDAY, AUG. 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (wear mask; 50% max capacity) • High school cross country invitational at Palmyra-Eagle, 4 p.m. <p>FRIDAY, AUG. 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (wear mask; 50% max capacity); storytime at 11 a.m. • High school cross country, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. <p>SATURDAY, AUG. 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No events scheduled <p>SUNDAY, AUG. 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library, closed • Rock County Farmers Market, 9 a.m. 	<p>MONDAY, AUG. 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (wear mask; 50% max capacity) <p>TUESDAY, SEPT. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkview Elementary School 4K, 5K and first-grade start date • Parkview Jr./Sr. High School start date • Orfordville library, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (wear mask; 50% max capacity); Teen Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. <p>WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkview Elementary School second- and third-grade start date • Orfordville library, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (wear mask; 50% max capacity)
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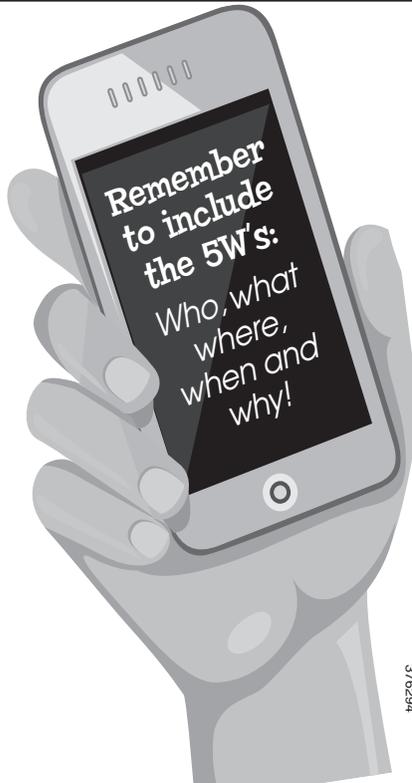
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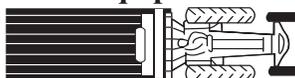
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Assembly (2nd Shift) – The position involves assembly and installation of sub-assemblies, parts and options on unit shells. The position requires a mechanical aptitude, the ability to operate a forklift and power tools, interpret blueprints and measuring devices, and perform basic math functions.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

GARAGE SALES

Brodhead Garage Sales

207 JUNIPER AVE. Fri. & Sat., Aug. 28 & 29. 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Trolling motors, fishing equipment, tools, purses, hooded sweat shirts, antique curiel, throw rugs & much more.

STORAGE AREA BEHIND Kwik Trip. 8/28 - 8-4, 8/29 - 8-2. Moved. Cleaning out 2 large storage areas, house and garage. Tires, some furniture, household items, tools, etc. Many free items. All offers considered.

W2202 PINNOW RD. Friday Aug. 28, 8 AM to 5 PM, Sat. the 29th, 8 to 1. Follow signs to W2202 Pinnow Rd, Brodhead, WI. Dieckhoff's Garage Sale: Lots of households, antiques, collectibles, curio table, lamp, gas powered string trimmer, men's clothing, cook and other books, puzzles, t-shirts, 50% off jewelry business inventory, carnival glass, and tons more!

Classifieds

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FOR SALE: LAWN TRACTOR John Deere STX38. 30 yrs. old, tuned up in spring, may need transmission work. \$200. cash. 815-654-3081

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources officials are asking for help from the public to identify road crossings where snakes, salamanders and frogs are often killed by vehicles. The aim is to gather information to better protect the creatures.

Watch for salamanders, snakes, frogs and lizards on the road

New efforts are underway to help Wisconsin's "creepy crawlies" — native frogs, salamanders, lizards and snakes — from perishing under the wheels of cars and trucks.

Wisconsin residents and visitors are being asked to report road crossings where these reptiles and amphibians are found dead or alive to help better understand where their populations occur and to save more of them in the future. The new reporting form is now available on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Reptiles and Amphibians webpage.

"Our goal is to fill in gaps of where these animals are found in Wisconsin and how they're doing in the state so we can better protect them," Rich Staffen, a DNR natural heritage conservation program zoologist, said in a news release. "We also want to identify high road mortality areas where we can work to incorporate mitigation efforts."

Rori Paloski, a DNR natural heritage conservation biologist, said that reducing road kills can help protect Wisconsin's herptiles. The term herptile encompasses amphibians and reptiles.

"Most amphibians and reptiles migrate between different habitats throughout the year, which unfortunately means they must often cross roads," Paloski said. "Road crossings pose challenges for animals, but it is also a time when citizens are most likely to see the animals and can therefore help us gather information."

The roadkill reporting effort for snakes, salamanders, lizards and frogs is modeled after DNR's well-established Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program, which encourages people to report particularly deadly road crossings for turtles. Since that effort started in 2012, people have provided nearly 3,000 turtle crossing location reports and DNR has identified 47 of those sites as particularly deadly for turtles and worked with partners to reduce mortality rates there.

Populations declining

Many snake populations have declined in Wisconsin due to habitat loss and human persecution; 13 of Wisconsin's 21 snake species are considered "rare" and listed as endangered, threatened or special concern.

"Snakes play very important roles in many ecosystems as predator and prey and they help farmers by keeping grain-eating mammals in check," Staffen said. "They also reduce disease threats posed by high rodent populations."

Three of Wisconsin's four lizard species are in trouble, including the legless and endangered slender glass lizard.

Wisconsin is home to 12 species of frogs including the American toad. A few species have relatively stable populations but many have declined throughout the state due to habitat destruction and fragmentation.

Wisconsin has seven different species of salamanders, one considered "special concern" because of

uncertain population numbers. These secretive animals are often undetected by humans but live most of their lives on land, returning to aquatic habitats only for breeding.

To learn more about amphibians and reptiles in Wisconsin, go online to dnr.wi.gov and search for "herps." The site offers species guidebooks, frequently asked questions about frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes and turtles and suggestions about how citizens can help these species.

Legal Notices

Seeking School Board Candidate

The **School District of Brodhead** is seeking interested candidates to fill a vacant seat on the School Board. Candidates must be a resident of the School District of Brodhead and be eighteen years of age or older.

At the September 9, 2020 Board Meeting, candidates will get an opportunity to make a statement of qualifications/interest. The Board will select a candidate and he/she will be sworn in at this meeting. The appointed candidate will serve on the Board until the Spring 2022 general election, at which time an election will be held for a full three-year term.

Qualified candidates should submit a letter of interest to: Leonard Lueck, Superintendent School District of Brodhead 2501 W. 5th Ave. Brodhead, WI 53520

Letters of interest for this Board vacancy must be received in the District Office no later than **3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.**

The Independent Register 8/19, 8/26/2020 WNAJLP 379473

NOTICE TOWN OF MAGNOLIA TOWN BOARD HEARING TO BE HELD AT THE MAGNOLIA TOWN HALL 14729 W. COUNTY ROAD A, EVANSVILLE, WI 53536 SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Agenda:

- To consider a request from Eileen Meredith 467 W. Church St., Evansville, WI 53536 to rezone one acre from A-1 to R.R. to allow construction of a single family home on an area that is existing non-tillable land. The one acre is part of a parcel that is 131 acres. The property is located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 6 in the Town of Magnolia. The address of the property is

18109 W. Milbrandt Road, Evansville, WI 53536. The tax parcel number is 024 008002 (6-12-37).

2. Adjourn
Graceann Toberman,
Town Clerk/Treasurer
The Independent Register
8/19, 8/26/2020
WNAJLP 379548

Town of Avon
Regular Monthly Meeting
Avon Town Hall
Tuesday

September 1st, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.
Agenda:

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from August Meeting
- Treasurers Report from August
- Citizen's Concerns
- Dumping Ordinance Amendment
 - Discussion
 - Action
- Dogs at Large
 - Discussion
- Road Work
 - Discussion
 - Action
- Bug Tussel
- Ballot Drop Box
 - Discussion
 - Action
- Covid Grant
- WTA Convention Virtual
- November's Monthly Meeting
- Payment of Bills
- Chairman's Comments
- Adjournment

Maybe additional posting that will be posted 24 hours in advance. The three posting places in the Town of Avon are Debbie Jean's, Sugar River Bank, and the Avon Town Hall. **Due to the lobby of the Sugar River Bank being closed, we will be using the Piggly Wiggly in Brodhead as a temporary posting location.**

Stephanie Schwartzlow
Avon Town Clerk
The Independent Register
8/26/2020
WNAJLP 380064

Don't wait! Call today to place your classified ads with the Rock Valley Publishing newspapers. Call 608-897-2193.

'Nowhere to go': Wisconsin renters face evictions as emergency aid falls short

By Allison Dikanovic and Clara Neupert
WISCONSIN WATCH
Princess Safiya Byers
MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SERVICE

Kelli Walton waited four weeks to hear whether she qualified for state emergency rental assistance. When the news came, it was too late.

By the time the Social Development Commission, which distributes the aid, told her she was on a waiting list with thousands of others, Walton's landlord had already issued a five-day notice — kickstarting an eviction.

The mother of two from Milwaukee said before the pandemic, she was paying rent on time. But Walton was infected by the coronavirus in April as it swept through the nursing home where she worked. She spent nearly three weeks in a hospital struggling to breathe.

Walton lost months of paychecks while recovering, joining a backlog of thousands waiting for the state Department of Workforce Development to process their unemployment insurance claims. Months later, Walton, 34, is still waiting on her unemployment benefits.

She fell behind on her bills — including rent. That left Walton with a damaging eviction filing on her record, forcing her to scramble to stay in her home as she recovers from the virus.

"There's nowhere to go," she said. "Where can you go if you don't have anywhere to go?"

Thousands of Wisconsin renters contemplated those questions since May 26. That was when Gov. Tony Evers' 60-day moratorium on evictions expired. Evers was among the first governors to lift a state moratorium, and his \$25 million statewide emergency rental assistance program is failing to meet the demands of

thousands in need.

Local governments and housing advocates are now trying to catch individuals slipping through the cracks in the federally funded state program.

"A lot of us who are doing this work right now are working one person at a time trying to stave off disaster," said Joanne Lipo Zovic, an attorney and mediator for Mediate Milwaukee, which helps tenants and landlords reach agreements outside of court. "We kind of feel like we're drinking out of a fire hose."

'A racial pattern of filings'

Roughly 30 to 40 million renters nationwide are at risk of losing their homes this year as state moratoriums on evictions expire, according to an August study by the Aspen Institute. Eviction filings are already upending lives in Wisconsin, especially in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee landlords filed for 1,447 evictions in June, 17% higher than pre-pandemic June averages, data from Princeton University's Eviction Lab show. The city's 1,347 eviction filings in July were 9% above averages from 2012 to 2016.

More than two-thirds of those filings hit Black-majority neighborhoods, according to Eviction Lab data, although Black residents make up just 39% of the population. The disparity highlights Milwaukee's status as the nation's most segregated metropolitan area, home to stark racial inequality created and maintained by decades of neglect from business and political leaders, according to research.

"Pre-COVID, there was definitely a racial pattern of filings, and that is definitely what we're seeing now," said Matt Mleczo, an Eviction Lab research assistant. "This is something that yet again is exposing and exacerbating long-running inequalities in cit-

ies like Milwaukee."

But the crisis is not confined to Milwaukee. Nearly 200,000 Wisconsin households, or 27% of state renters, are behind on rent and at risk of eviction, according to analysis of census data by Stout Risius Ross LLC, an international consulting and investment banking firm. The analysis projects 134,000 eviction filings statewide by November.

"What you're seeing right now is two crises colliding," said Brad Paul, executive director of Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP), the network of agencies distributing the state's rent assistance funds. "You're seeing the pre-existing housing crisis and COVID. It's a lethal combination."

Evictions ban short-lived

Walton started a new job in mid-July and is working part time. While she remains on the state housing assistance waiting list, she is receiving last-minute funds from Community Advocates, a nonprofit administering Milwaukee County's separate rental aid program.

Those funds staved off an eviction. But the filing, although dismissed, could still scar her record, because some landlords reject would-be renters even for thwarted evictions, housing experts say.

Evers, whose office did not respond to questions from Wisconsin Watch, took action early in the pandemic to keep people in their homes. His March 27 executive order banned landlords from evicting tenants for back rent and halted home foreclosures.

Wisconsin lifted its ban before most states. Neighboring Minnesota and Illinois still have moratoriums in place.

"We're starting to see what might happen if the right resources aren't put in place," said Eric Collins-Dyke, Milwaukee County's assistant administra-



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Wyconda Clayton is seen with pictures of family members inside her home in Milwaukee. She does not want to leave her Sherman Park neighborhood apartment, but her landlords pressed on with an eviction, refusing to accept last-minute aid from the state.

tor of supportive housing and homeless services.

Even before the pandemic, more than 306,000 Wisconsin low-income renters spent more than half their income on housing and did not receive government housing assistance. Most live in Milwaukee.

Renters make up more than half of households in Milwaukee County, which in 2016 had a higher percentage of renters than any other large Midwestern county, according to a study from the Wisconsin Policy Forum. Before the coronavirus, about half were considered rent-burdened, meaning they spent at least 30% of

their income on rent.

"There are a high number of people who are paying 50, 60, 70 or more percent of their income on housing," said Lipo Zovic of Mediate Milwaukee.

Emergency aid moves slowly

Days before his eviction ban expired, Evers funneled \$25 million in federal pandemic relief into the Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program (WRAP). He tapped housing agencies to evaluate tenants' applications and send up to \$3,000 directly to landlords.

But the agencies could not start processing applications until June 8, nearly two weeks after landlords could resume evictions.

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