

Independent Register

608-897-2193

SHOPPING NEWS

917 W. EXCHANGE STREET, BRODHEAD, WI 53520

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 2021

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State launches virtual support groups for farmers

In a continued effort to help Wisconsin farmers access mental health resources, the Wisconsin Farm Center at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is launching a series of virtual farmer support groups.

The support groups are scheduled to begin in February.

“These groups are designed to bring farmers and farm couples together so they can share ideas, provide encouragement and support each other through challenging times,” said Jayne Krull, director of DATCP’s Ag Resource and Promotion Bureau, which houses the Farm Center.

Support groups will be offered at different dates and times to accommodate farmers’ schedules:

- 8 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month
- 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month
- 8 p.m. the third Thursday of every month (for farm couples)

The support groups are open to farmers and their spouses at no cost. Participants can be located anywhere in Wisconsin and must register in advance.

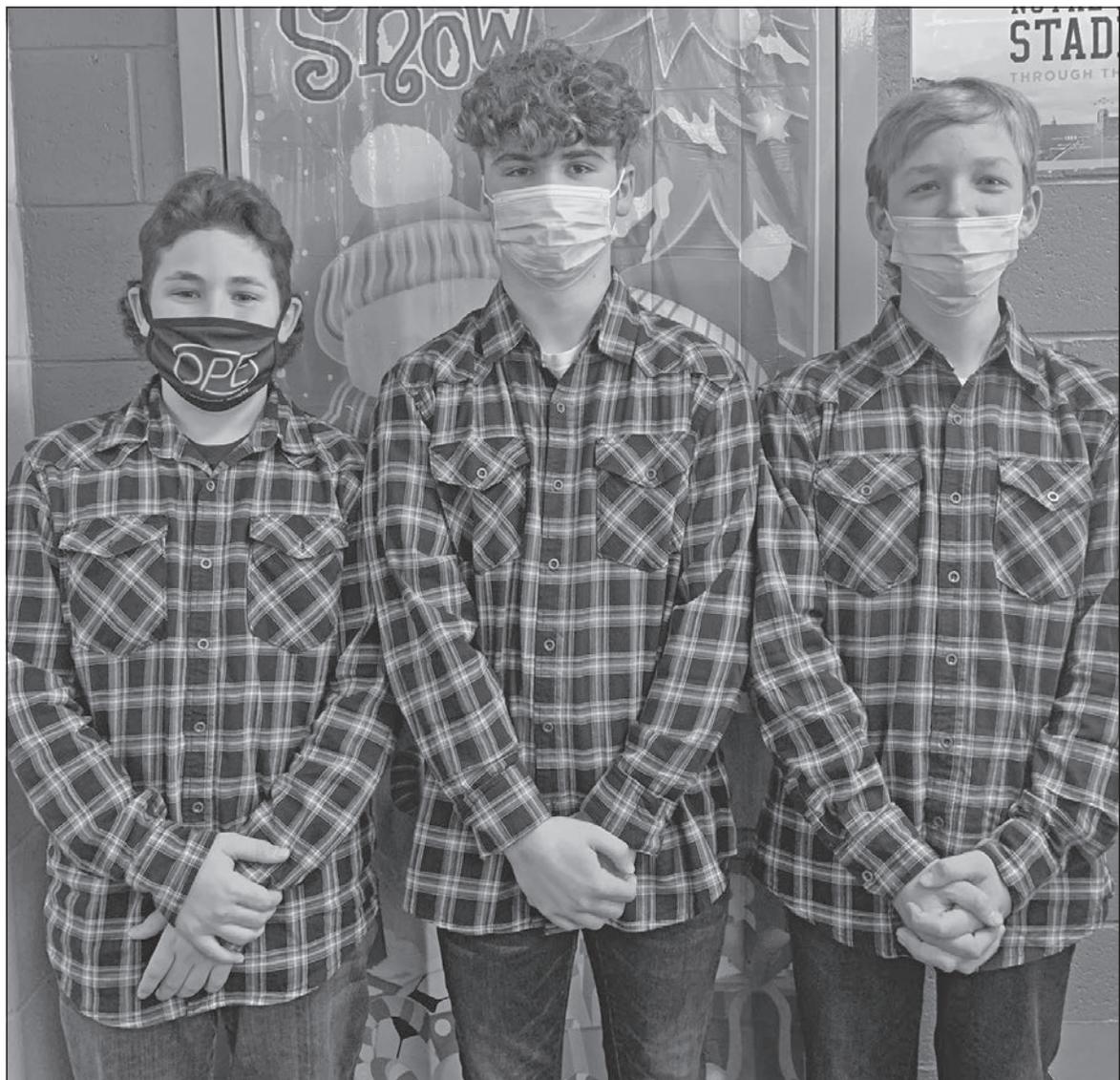
Each session will be 60 to 90 minutes long and will be held on Zoom. Sessions will be limited to 20 attendees per session, with a couple counting as one attendee.

Farmers who have experienced stress and anxiety while operating their own farm will lead and moderate the sessions as peer leaders. A licensed mental health provider with extensive experience in serving farmers will also be on-hand at each session to offer additional support as needed.

To register for a session or for more information, go online to FarmCenter.wi.gov.

DATCP’s farmer support groups are made possible by funding provided in Gov. Tony Evers’ 2019-’21 biennial budget and approved by the state Legislature. It is one of several new initiatives developed by the Farm Center in response to increased challenges faced by the agricultural industry.

Other initiatives launched in 2020 include a podcast, QPR (Question-Persuade-Refer) trainings, an expanded counseling voucher program, a 24/7 hot line and free tele-counseling sessions.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

Guard members top 1 million COVID tests

Wisconsin National Guard specimen collection teams recently broke the 1 million mark for COVID-19 tests collected since April.

The Wisconsin National Guard’s collection activities support the Wisconsin Department of Health Services’ efforts to expand COVID-19 testing throughout the entire state.

“Testing is one of the tools we use to slow the spread of this virus,” Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm said in a news release. “And when we needed help increasing testing throughout our state, the Guard answered the call, and continues to be a valuable partner in helping ensure that anyone who needs a test can get one.”

In Rock County, a team collects specimens from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays at Black-

hawk Technical College’s main campus, 6004 S. County Highway G, Janesville.

The National Guard teams, which can be tailored to meet the needs of a specific facility or community, are dispatched from a larger task force of several hundred citizen soldiers and airmen.

“They have established mobile testing sites since early April at locations ranging from correctional facilities, health clinics and institutional facilities, to private businesses, senior-living facilities and community-based testing sites,” a news release said.

National Guard forces in other states also have assisted with COVID testing, however, in no other state has the Guard shouldered such a heavy share of their state’s testing efforts, the news release said. The Wisconsin

National Guard is tops in the nation for number of tests administered.

Nearly 700 citizen soldiers and airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard are currently serving in direct support of the state’s COVID-19 response.

Those seeking a test at a Wisconsin National Guard community-based specimen collection site are urged to register online in advance using the Dynamics Testing and Registration Application (DTRA) program, which is also known as COVID Connect.

After collecting the specimens at each site, the test kits are sent to a lab for analysis, and individual citizens receive their results via an email or a phone call within three to seven days following the test.

For more information, go online to dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Coordinated fun on Flannel Day

Above: From the left, Dax Benton, Brady Zimmerman and Hunter Day show that great minds think alike and good friends dress alike on Flannel Day at Brodhead Middle School.

90th Birthday Card Shower for Phyllis Pickett

1931 was tumultuous. The Great Depression was beginning to take hold. Unemployment was over 16%. The Dust Bowl was just getting started. And Al Capone was convicted of tax evasion. But the bright spot that year came early when, on January 13, Phyllis Ann was born in Brooklyn Township, near Attica, WI, to Phillip and Mary Kauk. In 1951, Phyllis became Mrs. Glenn Pickett. Now, 8 children, 14 grandchildren, and 35 great-grandchildren later, Phyllis (Kauk) Pickett has earned the titles of wife, “Ma”, grandma, great-grandma, sister, aunt, friend, and many more. 90 years later, the world is tumultuous again. So to celebrate her 90th birthday in a safe and special way, let’s shower Phyllis with cards! It’s easy to show your appreciation — all you have to do is find and sign a card, and drop it in the mail!

Send cards to: Phyllis Pickett, 702 17th St. #504, Brodhead, WI 53520



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

Ready to go places with reading

Students at Brodhead’s Albrecht Elementary School dress like tourists to help kick off “‘Book’ a Trip: Reading Takes You Everywhere,” a special reading effort going on this month.

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE (VIRTUAL) FORUM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 • 6:30 p.m.

Live-stream at Green County Bar Association YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com, enter “Green County Bar Association” in search (a video will be posted on the channel for later viewing).

Participating are the 4 candidates for Green County Circuit Court Judge, Branch One: Faun Phillipson • Peter Kelly Jane Bucher • Daniel Bartholf

County seeks independent health care workers for vaccine

In efforts to ensure that the health care workers in Green County are vaccinated for COVID-19, Green County public health is seeking those health care workers and personal care workers who are not affiliated with a health care system and need to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

Supply of the COVID-19 vaccine is currently limited, but as production increases, more vaccine will be available to more people. The vaccine is being distributed in a phased approach and we are currently in Phase 1A, according to a news release from the health department. Individuals who are eligible to get vaccinated in this phase include health care workers and people in long-term care facilities.

"We anticipate that Phase 1 may take several months to complete," the release said.

Health care workers who are not

affiliated with a health care system and need to receive the COVID-19 vaccine are invited to fill out a survey from the Green County Public Health Department. The survey can be found by going online to gcpub.lichealth.org. Additionally, information about who is a part of Tier 1A can be found on the website.

Health department officials will follow up with those in Tier 1A who fill out the survey, in order to get them vaccinated.

If a health care worker is a part of a health care system, clinic or pharmacy, health officials ask that they speak with their employer about getting vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccine is not yet available to the general public. Green County Public Health will communicate to the public updates in COVID-19 vaccine availability through Facebook, its website and press releases.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Students exceed expectations

Brodhead Middle School seventh-graders Taiya Hawkins and Taya Anderson are the newest members of the Seventh Grade 100% Club. The seventh-grade team of teachers recognizes students such as Hawkins and Anderson who exceed expectations both in and out of the classroom. These students are helpful and kind while being positive and influential role models at the middle school.

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Ag outlook forum set for late January

The impact of COVID-19 and opportunities for Wisconsin agribusinesses are topics for the upcoming Wisconsin Agricultural Outlook Forum, which will be held virtually on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The forum will feature academic and industry leaders and is sponsored by the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Division of Extension, Office of University Relations and several organizations and associations.

The forum, organized by UW-Madison's Renk Agribusiness Institute, will be live-streamed from 9 a.m. to noon on the institute's YouTube page.

This year's program will cover the situation and outlook for dairy, corn and soybeans, livestock and meat and farm income in Wisconsin. For each agricultural industry, sessions will include brief information about economic trends and forecasts, as well as a forward-looking panel discussion featuring agricultural industry members about the impacts on — and opportunities for — the food processing and manufacturing sector caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Updates about the state-funded



FILE PHOTO BY MARY HOOKHAM *Brodhead Independent-Register*

The upcoming Wisconsin Agricultural Outlook Forum will address the impact of the pandemic and opportunities for Wisconsin agricultural businesses. The forum will be held virtually.

Dairy Innovation Hub and UW-Madison's new Meat Science and Animal Biologics Discovery building also will be provided.

One week prior to the forum, a video presentation for each primary agricultural industry will be made available on the Renk Agribusiness Institute website (renk.aae.wisc.edu) for advance viewing. Then on the morning of the forum, each speaker will give a brief summary of their presentation

followed by a longer discussion with the full panel. During this time, attendees will be able to submit questions for panelists to answer.

Forum registration is free and is open through Monday, Jan. 25. To register and view the agenda, go online to renk.aae.wisc.edu/2021-agricultural-outlook-forum.

For more information, contact Jeremy Beach at jpbach@wisc.edu or 608-262-9485.

Albany Comet News

THURSDAY, JAN. 14

-Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup for high-risk patrons, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
*Albany boys varsity basketball vs. Argyle, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15

-Albertson Memorial Library full circulation and limited computer service, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
*Albany girls varsity basketball vs. Black Hawk, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16

-Albertson Memorial Library closed

SUNDAY, JAN. 17

No events scheduled

MONDAY, JAN. 18

-Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
*Albany girls varsity basketball vs. Johnson Creek, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19

-Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup for high-risk patrons, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
*Albany boys varsity basketball vs. Monticello, 6 p.m.

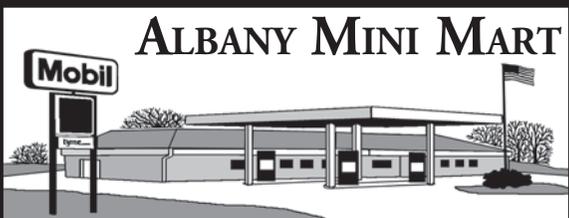
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20

-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 an community event.

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608-862-3303

State offers guide for workplace mental health during pandemic

Gov. Tony Evers recently announced the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. is providing new mental health information for employers and employees managing the added stress of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us in different ways," Evers said in a press release. "People have been experiencing varying degrees of stress, anxiety, fear, grief and loneliness as part of the pandemic. Although we're all trying to do our part to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe, it doesn't make the situation any easier. That's why we're providing this information through WEDC to help support folks across

our state so we can all get through this together."

The new guides note that employers are in a unique position to support workers by creating an open and supportive environment that promotes healthy well-being. The guidelines provide useful resources for employers and employees to contact for additional help. In addition, both sets of guidelines suggest how to identify signs that might require further assistance as well as some strategies for how to practice self-care.

The guidelines were developed in collaboration with the Department of Health Services as part of WEDC's "Stay Safe, Stay Open" resources for

small businesses, which also provide both general and industry specific guidelines on how businesses can operate safely and guidance on preventing and managing a COVID-19 outbreak in the workplace.

"What all of these guides really aim to do is provide actionable advice for businesses, especially small businesses, as they work to keep customers, friends, and families safe," WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes said. "It's important as we head through this winter that everyone stays healthy — both mentally and physically."

The complete set of guidelines can be found at wedc.org/reopen-guidelines.

HCE group offers two scholarships

Members of the Green County Home and Community Education Inc. organization will be awarding two scholarships, in the amount of \$300 each, available to a graduating senior of a Green County High School, a relative of a Green County HCE member or a member of a Green County 4-H Club, FFA or FCCLA chapter.

The purpose of the HCE scholarship is to encourage individuals to take advantage of continuing education op-

portunities. Applicants may attend a four-year public or private college or a technical college in Wisconsin or out of state.

The scholarship will be awarded when the applicant has completed one semester of a four-year college or is at least halfway through the technical college course.

The scholarship application may be accessed from the Extension Green County website by going online to green.

extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/scholarships.

A hard copy of the scholarship application is due to the HCE Scholarship Committee chair (address provided in the application document on the Extension Green County website) and must be postmarked no later than March 15.

For more information, contact Beth Campbell, HCE Scholarship Committee chair, at 608-424-6030.

Obituary

BARBARA JOHNSON

Barbara Elizabeth Johnson, age 76, passed away at Meriter Hospital in Madison surrounded by her three children on Jan. 7, 2021, after a brief illness.

Barbara was born Sept. 10, 1944, in Freeport, Illinois, the daughter of William and Blanche (Hubbard) LaBorde.

She married Lloyd Hartman on Jan. 1, 1964. She later married Lloyd "Whitey" Johnson on Sept. 6, 1991. He preceded her in death on Nov. 20, 2019.

Barbara worked as a registered nurse since 1986 after graduating from Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville.

Barb was a life member of the American Legion Kelly Johnson Unit 90 in Ashland, as a past District 11 president and was a life member of the Duwayne Soulier Memorial Post 8239 Red Cliff in Ashland. Barb worked tirelessly helping coordinate and set up many events for the posts over the years.

Barb enjoyed quilt-making and sewing. She even sewed many of the children's clothes over the years. Barb was known to give big hugs and her smile and laugh were infectious. But most of all, Barb enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her three children,



Sharon Williams of Monroe, Wisconsin, Tim Hartman of South Wayne, Wisconsin, and Millie (Doug) Rodenkirch of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; three

step children, William (Kathy) Johnson and Hayley Johnson of Fond du Lac and Aaron Johnson of Texas; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; a brother, Edward (Sharon) LaBorde of Freeport; and several nieces, nephews and special friends she considered family.

She was preceded in death by her parents and the love of her life, Lloyd "Whitey" Johnson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the family in her memory.

A memorial gathering will be held at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home, 1105 E. Ninth Ave. in Brodhead, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16. A celebration of life will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Bridges Bar & Grill, 1034 1st Center Ave. in Brodhead.

DL Newcomer Funeral Home is serving the family. Go online to dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com or call 608-897-2484 for more information.

2020 cemetery internments

Greenwood Cemetery has released a list of 2020 internments:

- Shirley Gray
- Norma Schwartz
- Marilyn Heyerdahl
- Kenneth Meyer
- Patrick McGinty
- James McShane
- Gary Malkow
- Thomas Steele
- Juanita Flater
- Nancy Putnam
- Fred Siegenthaler
- Van Marsh
- Sharon Swenson
- Dorothy Schuur
- Thomas Edgar
- William Dixon
- Virginia Dixon
- Lawrence Grabow
- Charlene Strommen
- Devin Manley
- John Rosheisen

- James Krueger
- Ruth Brobst
- Rickey Coggins
- Donald Dodd Sr.
- Julie Walmer
- Rebecca Ferguson
- Eugene Strutzenburg
- Linda Barney
- Harry Bishop Jr.
- Donna Olsen
- Rosemary Wilke
- Hazel Johnson
- Alice Badertscher
- Jean McClaren
- Kevin Pryce
- Donald Stuhr
- Roger Denhof
- Jerry Coggins Sr.
- Ruth Lightfoot
- Russel Pinnow
- Josephine Pinnow
- Jean Woodruff
- Elizabeth Schooff

State Rep. Spreitzer notes committee assignments

State Rep. Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit, recently began his fourth term in the state Assembly and his third term serving as Assembly Democratic Caucus chair, according to a news release from his office.

Spreitzer's 45th District includes portions of Green and Rock counties, including Brodhead, Orfordville, Albany and Juda.

For the 2021-'23 legislative session, he has been appointed to the following committees: Agriculture, Assembly Organization, Campaigns and Elections, Local Government Rules, Sporting Heritage and Transportation Projects Commis-



sion. Spreitzer will be the ranking Democratic member on both the Committee on Campaigns and Elections and the Committee on Local Government. Prior to taking office, Spreitzer served as Beloit City Council president and worked for his alma mater, Beloit College.

Local newspaper dates to 1860s

By Betty Earleywine
BRODHEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Independent newspaper was first published in 1861 by I. F. Mack. East Fifth Avenue was originally Mack Street named after the publisher.

The earliest newspaper that we have at the depot museum is dated July 16, 1862, and is four pages long. The first and second pages were world and state news. Local news was usually two columns on the third page. The rest of the paper was advertising.

Here are a few excerpts of Brodhead news in 1862:

- July 16, 1862: Lightning struck a burr oak tree on

the west side of Sugar River, opposite the old ford, and killed a very valuable white Durham cow.

- Aug. 6, 1862: My son, I. F. Mack Jr., has returned from a southern prison and will be associate editor of the Independent.

- A striped snake was found stretched across the Bible on the pulpit of the Congregational Church. It found its way there between morning and evening services.

- Oct. 15, 1862: By the sudden rise of the Sugar River last week, slight damage was done to the works around the new mill. The superstructure of the mill is being raised and will soon be enclosed.

Grants to small businesses reach nearly \$240 million

Gov. Tony Evers, along with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue recently announced almost 55,000 state small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic received approximately \$240 million last year through the We're All In grants program. We're All In is the largest direct-aid program for small businesses in WEDC history.

"Wisconsin's small businesses have exemplified remarkable resilience throughout this pandemic, finding new, innovative ways to keep the doors open and the lights on. But it wasn't easy, and I am glad we were able to provide this critically needed support," Evers said in a Jan. 8 news release. "We aren't out of the woods just yet, and it is vital that we continue to support our local businesses and their employees to help them get through these tough times."

Funded by the federal CARES Act, the We're All In grants were awarded to Wisconsin small businesses in three phases throughout the first year of the pandemic.

Starting in the summer, Phase 1

distributed \$65 million to more than 26,000 businesses around the state. The grants were administered by WEDC, with each receiving a \$2,500 grant. About half of WEDC's staff shifted from normal operations to processing the grants to get the funds out to businesses.

In the fall, Phase 2 provided \$130 million to more than 26,000 businesses. The program was created by WEDC but received technical and customer service assistance from the DOR.

Due to greater demand and limited resources, Phase 2 grants were targeted toward industries hit hardest by the pandemic, as well as diverse businesses and businesses that had not received Phase 1 grants. Businesses received \$5,000 awards. Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 grants were aimed at businesses with less than \$1 million in annual revenue, regardless of industry.

In the late fall, Phase 3, We're All in For Restaurants was specifically targeted at food, beverage, and amusement businesses with annual revenues between \$1 million and \$7

million, with each qualified business receiving \$20,000. More than 2,000 received these grants, which were also administered by DOR in collaboration with WEDC.

"The intent for all of the We're All In grants was to get help to as many small businesses as we could, as quickly as we could," said WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes. "I'm pleased WEDC was able to work with DOR to help us identify many of the businesses that were struggling the most."

"We have seen economic impacts from COVID-19 that are very uneven," said DOR Secretary Peter Barca. "Some businesses are suffering a great deal while others have seen less impact."

The DOR and the WEDC have posted a searchable online database of recipients and the amounts they received at revenue.wi.gov. Additionally, there is an online interactive data visualization map of the state of Wisconsin that highlights where businesses are located, and what industries received the grants. View the map at public.tableau.com.

Local students achieve president's list status

Several local Blackhawk Technical College students were named to the president's list for fall 2020.

In order to qualify for the president's list, students must be enrolled in nine or more credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Students are listed by their hometown and program of study.

- Albany: Tiffeny M. Calkins, nursing-nonclinical; Daniele M. Hall, nursing; Hailey M. Kind, diagnostic medical sonography-nonclinical; Ciera K. Kruger, nursing-nonclinical; and Kristy L. Lenz, surgical technician
- Brodhead: Eyan G. Anderson,

- criminal justice studies; Blaine R. Berget, electric power distribution; Justyce M. Burhans, early childhood education; Austin J. Gruber, welding; Bryson J. Ils, physical therapist assistant; McKayla A. Kirby, nursing-nonclinical; Josiah L. Kloepping, automotive technician; Erin N. Lemezis-Schadewaldt, human services; Marcia C. Mcguire, radiography; Jessica L. Perkins, nursing; Trenton M. Sauer, automotive technician; Haley Schubert, nursing-nonclinical; Brandon L. Straub, criminal justice studies; Rhianna C. Teubert, nursing; Jillian M. Webber, early childhood education;

Kyle M. Wescott, criminal justice studies; and Vicki L. Wiegel, nursing

- Footville: Ashton Dimery, substance use disorder counseling
- Juda: Cortney L. Bertelrud, surgical technician; and Molly A. Salzwedel, medical assistant
- Orfordville: Amanda L. Alm, nursing; Hunter E. Baars, diagnostic medical sonography-nonclinical; Casey J. Bennett, agribusiness specialist; Erin Furrer, physical therapist assistant; Justin R. Ganus, human services; Brogan M. Swenson, human services; and Dakota E. Weber, criminal justice studies

You ought to be in pictures!

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▼ We need you to ID everyone in the photo *first* and *last* names required

▼ Tell us what's happening in the photo

▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

▼ Tell us who took the photo and we will give them a photo credit

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Area village fondly remembers longtime barber

Main Street shop was a place for friendly conversation

By Maureen Vander Sanden
CORRESPONDENT
The COVID-19 pandemic has done more than cripple Main Street America businesses in a quest to flatten the curve.

In Waterford, it claimed the life of Main Street's "True Barber," someone, who for six decades provided a cozy seat and smile, before getting to work the old-fashioned way with his clippers, comb and great conversation.

Glenn Collins died Dec. 18 from the coronavirus. He left behind his wife, children, grandchildren and the community he loved.

"It's been really difficult ... I'm lost already," said wife Shirley Collins. The two were married for 63 years and have been friends since kindergarten.

Shirley also got sick from the virus and has since recovered.

Even though Glenn was 83 years old, he was in good health, according to his wife.

"He went to the Wellness Center every day to walk the pool and never seemed to slow down. He was so well, and all of the sudden he got so sick."

The barber also followed Centers for Disease Control & Prevention guidelines stringently once he reopened following the mandated closure in spring, she said.

"He took so many precautions. He would come home and put his clothes straight into the washer before getting into the shower. At the shop, everyone had to wear a mask and he would disinfect everything between customers.

"I just don't know what more he

could have done," she said. "I hope people realize how serious this really is."

Leaving behind a legacy

With four years of barbering under his belt after graduating in 1957 from Milwaukee Vocational School's barbering program (now Milwaukee Area Technical College), Glenn heard about a little shop that was for sale in Waterford.

"We didn't even know where Waterford was," she said. "We were so poor, and we just had our daughter, but he went to check it out. And he came back to Portage and said, 'Oh Shirley, it's such a neat little town. Everyone is so friendly. He walked up and down Main Street and loved it and has loved the community ever since.'"

Fast forward from 1961 and Collins Barber Shop at 306 E. Main St. still sits nestled between two taller buildings, a doctor's office and piano shop — storefronts that have each housed dozens of different business over the years, while his little red, one-story, board-and-batten shop has remained constant.

"At his barber shop, you didn't just get a great deal on a haircut; Mr. Collins' stories about baseball, current events and connections to our small town's history were thrown in for free," said Stan Northrop, a customer since childhood. His kids also grew up groomed by Glenn.

Each Christmas Glenn would hang Matchbox cars from a tree for the kids who came through his doors. He loved children and made a positive impression on them inside and outside of his shop, friends say.



Using a razor, Glenn Collins precisely trims around the ears of longtime customer Jeff Nisbet. Collins, who established his Waterford barbershop in 1961, died of COVID-19 on Dec. 18 at the age of 83.

"He had an appreciation for good manners," Northrop said. "He would compliment a child for ... greeting him politely, or saying please and thank you. When I think about the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child', I think of how fortunate I was to have had Mr. Collins in my life and the lives of my sons."

Glenn took a genuine interest in his customers' lives, according to Northrop. When his son, Keegen, went off to college in 2018, the family presented the barber with a framed

set of pictures — one of Keegan's very first haircut and the other of his last cut before leaving.

"Over time, walking into Mr. Collins' barber shop became like stopping in to visit with a relative or family friend," Northrop said.

Glenn has served families like the Northrops for generations.

Shirley noted that he was just 24 when he first opened his shop, so he grew old with most of his customers.

"That's what he loved the most, the people who came into the barber-

shop," she said.

When customers could not afford a cut, he would do it at no cost. When they lost mobility with age or due to illness, he would pay them a house call and take extra time to visit. When they passed, it hit Glenn hard, according to Shirley.

"He touched so many people during his lifetime. When my son went to the shop last week, a man came in to find out where Glenn has been, and that poor man just started sobbing when he heard the news.

"He told my son he was just going to start shaving his head."

A Phillies shrine and ode to the past

Glenn's passing marks the end of an era. His skill for cutting "real" flattops is a rarity according to customers.

In a 2014 interview, Glenn said old-school barbers were going out of business slowly but surely and he was likely the only one of his barber school class still in business at that time.

In the 1950s, "a haircut was a buck and a quarter," he recalled. "I still remember Mr. Stele saying to the class, 'one day you're going to see the \$5 haircut.' We all laughed at him, because we couldn't believe it."

After Collins raised his prices in 1998 he pledged it would be the last time. Haircuts were \$10, and \$1 less for kids and seniors.

Stepping into the barbershop was like stepping back into time. From the jar of penny candy sitting on top of the vintage cash register, to his collection of antique razors displayed next to a 1930s-barber chair that was no longer in use, Collins' shop was filled with nostalgia — and Philadelphia Phillies baseball memorabilia.

The shop walls are lined with signed baseballs, jerseys, newspaper clippings and photos of the players whom he got to meet. His most prized item is a ball signed by Hall of Famer Robin Roberts.

Everyone who took a seat in the barber chair heard about the time Glenn got a call personally from Bud Selig, after publicly criticizing the former Major League Baseball commissioner in a news article for earning too much money and allowing players to receive inflated salaries as well. Collins believed America's pastime should reflect simpler times, much like his shop.

Up until about five years ago, Glenn would hang a handwritten sign on his door to notify customers

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MAUREEN VANDER SANDEN *Brodhead Independent-Register*

The quaint Collins Barber Shop at 306 E. Main St. in Waterford has been closed for weeks after the Dec. 18 death of longtime barber Glenn Collins.

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REAL NEWS

The Independent-Register
COVID-19 outbreak sends high school students home

COVID-19 outbreak sends high school students home

COVID-19 outbreak sends high school students home

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381817

See BARBER, Page 5

COVID fears shrink while academic slide grows

Schools are not the superspreader sites some feared, but research shows students fell behind

By Peter Cameron
FOR WISCONSIN WATCH

One family reported driving to the community library parking lot, sitting there for hours each day so their children could use the Wi-Fi to do homework in the car.

Another family complained about the thousands of dollars they've spent per month on a private tutor for their children.

Those responses came from a survey of 3,227 Wisconsin parents and students in 16 Wisconsin districts — most from the northern, rural part of the state — conducted by Curtis Jones, a senior scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education program. It found nearly half of the students were failing to keep up with homework as much as they had before the pandemic.

As the first full semester of pandemic-era schooling comes to a close, experts like Jones are particularly concerned about students who already were behind. Only 15% of survey respondents said their child was learning as much as before the COVID-19 crisis. Some policymakers are pushing for a massive tutoring effort to help students catch up.

The full scope of the pandemic's effect on academic progress is still unknown in Wisconsin. As part of a pandemic relief bill, the state Legislature suspended student testing requirements for the 2019-20 school year and prohibited the Department of Public Instruction from issuing school and district report cards covering this school year.

Academic setbacks in rural schools could be related to how much face time teachers had with their students, especially those with poor internet access at home, said Kim Kaukl, executive director of the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance.

And Jones' survey suggests that the children who were already vulnerable and behind will be most affected by the pandemic and virtual schooling. Other research mirrors that, finding the most severe declines in math performance.

Internet access is key

In Wisconsin, living in a rural area is a disadvantage — especially at a time when many schools have had to close their doors and deliver education virtually. More than 40% of rural residents in Wisconsin lack access to

high-speed internet, according to the Public Service Commission, compared to about 30% nationally.

A state Department of Public Instruction survey found that students in 69% of the 408 school districts that provided online instruction in the spring lacked access to reliable Wi-Fi or internet.

That's certainly the case for the Hellenbrand family, who live on a small farm in the village of Dane about 20 miles north of Madison. The family's four children, ages 5 to 12, have had to attend school virtually all semester.

"The internet has not been our friend," said mother Amy Jo Hellenbrand during a school day last month. "It's been down a lot today. They've been kicked off their meetings quite a few times. That's been the story recently."

The local school district, Lodi, has kept its buildings closed but plans to reopen for the second semester. Students will initially attend half time, four days a week, with deep cleaning and teacher planning time on Wednesdays.

"It's been rough," Hellenbrand said. "They're done with being homeschooled, and I'm kind of at the same point — the point of being burnt out."

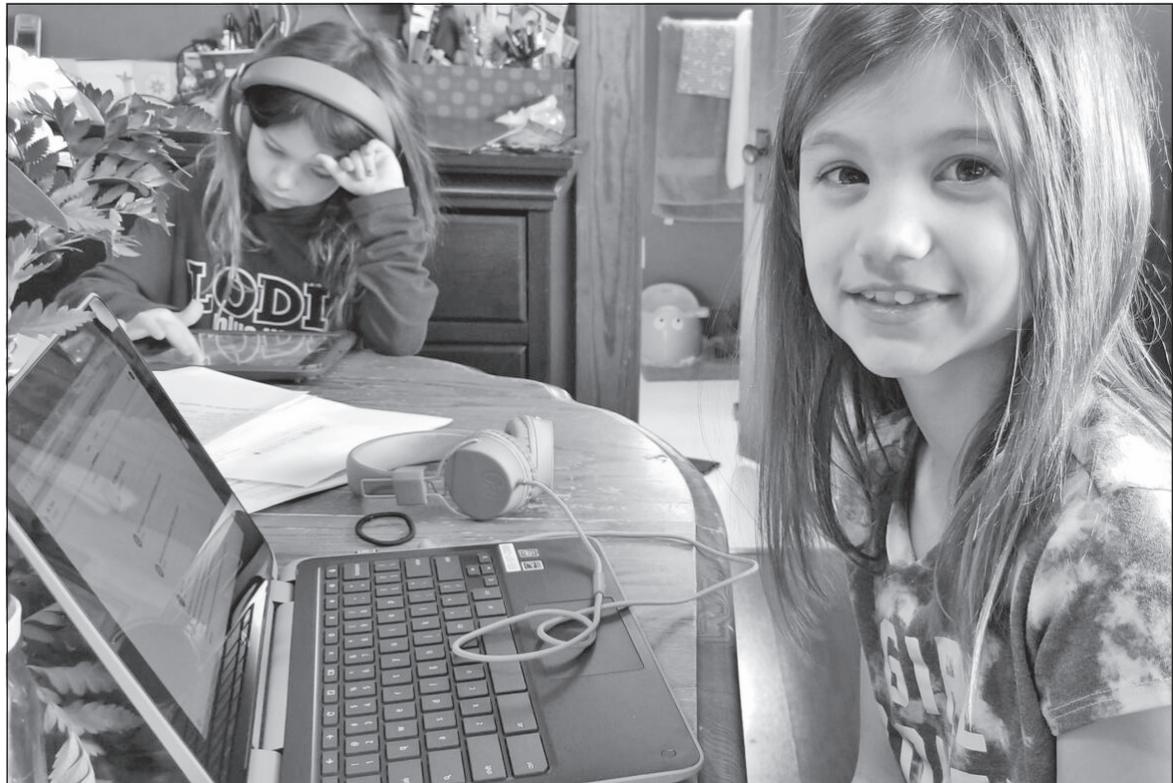
Chaotic semester better than feared

Partly due to concerns about internet connectivity, most rural school districts in Wisconsin started the academic year in person, Kaukl said. Most have also closed at least once — if not several times — and went all-virtual temporarily due to positive COVID-19 tests or community spread, he said.

But initial fears that schools — most if not all of which mandate mask wearing and social distancing — would become superspreader sites have not occurred.

The Albany School District, 30 miles south of Madison, started with its kindergarten through sixth-graders in the building, gradually adding in-person instruction for middle and high school students. The district briefly closed schools early in the semester due to a positive COVID-19 test and has required a few students and staff to quarantine during the semester. But that's been manageable for the 300-student district.

"If you would have told me that



COURTESY OF HELLENBRAND FAMILY *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Above: Reagan Hellenbrand (right) and her sister Lydia attend school virtually from their home in Dane, Wisconsin, late last year. "It's been rough," says their mother, Amy Jo Hellenbrand. "They're done with being homeschooled, and I'm kind of at the same point — the point of being burnt out."

we would reach the middle of December and have as few outbreaks as we've had, knock on wood," said Steve Elliott, a member of the school board and a father of three elementary school children there. "That's been a real shock and a blessing."

Emerging research finds infection rates in schools reflect rates in the community — and in-person instruction has not been a major source of viral spread. A 40,000-person study in Iceland found that children 15 and younger were about 50% less likely than adults to get infected and to transmit the virus. Nearly all transmissions to children came from adults, the study found.

Some school administrators and teachers in Wisconsin are finding the same thing.

The 500-student Hurley School District, on the border with the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, has yet to close its building this year, said Superintendent Kevin Genisot. There have been positive tests and quarantines of students and staff, but all have been traced to out-of-school transmission.

The release of new evidence has prompted the Public Health Madison & Dane County, which prohibited

See FEARS, Page 6

• Barber (Continued from page 4)

he will be closed the first week of March for his annual trek down south to the Phillies' ballpark for spring training.

On their last trip together, during the seventh inning, Shirley entered Glenn's name into a drawing for a team jacket. She didn't expect his would be drawn, but before the end of the game, there, right on the Phillies scoreboard was "Glenn Collins of Waterford, Wisconsin."

Shirley said, "There were like 10,000 people there, I never thought they would win. It was a great way to end our last trip down."

A humble servant

As the beloved barber's online tribute wall fills and cards are pouring in to the Collins' Washington Street home, his family finds comfort in the consistent attributes recorded by others: Humble. Faithful. Honest. Fair. Good.

"At the hospital, I got to tell dad how proud I was that he was my dad," his son, Mark, said. "He was just such a humble man. That is something I learned from him and hopefully something my kids have learned from me."

"Someone stopped me and told me he was a pillar in this community, very well respected. And I think the cards and stories from people show that."

Mark said he and his family are thankful to those reaching out to tell stories about Glenn and give their

condolences.

They are also grateful to the hospital staff who he said are working tirelessly on the COVID floor at Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

"You talk about angels among us. You can see the exhaustion in the faces of the doctors and nurses who took care of dad. They're working 12-hour shifts, double shifts and caring for their patients. You see it on

TV and hear people talking about it, but until you're on that floor, you really don't know," Mark said.

Glenn decided he did not want to be hooked up to a ventilator.

"My dad was so brave to make that decision. I can't imagine making that decision," Mark said. "He was at peace with God."

Shirley added, "He told me he saw Jesus and Jesus was smiling at him."



News from Parkview in Orfordville: Viking Times

<p>THURSDAY, JAN. 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Village of Orfordville Police Committee meeting, 6 p.m. • Village of Orfordville Public Works Committee meeting, 7 p.m. • Parkview varsity wrestling at Horicon, 7 p.m. • Parkview girls varsity basketball at Palmyra-Eagle, 7:15 p.m. <p>FRIDAY, JAN. 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; storytime at 11 a.m. • Parkview boys varsity basketball at Cambridge, 7:30 p.m. <p>SATURDAY, JAN. 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 9 a.m. to noon 	<p>SUNDAY, JAN. 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library closed <p>MONDAY, JAN. 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No school (teacher work day), Parkview School District • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Parkview boys varsity basketball vs. Black Hawk, 7:15 p.m. • Parkview girls varsity basketball at Benton, 7:30 p.m. <p>TUESDAY, JAN. 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Parkview varsity wrestling at Princeton, 6 p.m. <p>WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 	
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Fears

(Continued from page 5)

schools from opening to most students in August, to reverse itself last month, saying in-person learning can be safe. That was after the Wisconsin Supreme Court in September temporarily blocked the public health order; a final decision on the matter is pending. Still, a recent Madison Teachers Inc. survey found more than 90% of instructors oppose returning to in-person schooling.

Some districts have made extraordinary efforts to keep students in school buildings.

No matter the weather, Hurley School District props open its doors in the mornings so hundreds of students don't touch the handle on the way inside, which also improves air circulation. Genisot said the district

has a "hard rule" about maintaining 6 feet of distance and making sure no one spends more than 15 minutes close to anyone else.

"We believe that the processes and practices we have in place — and a little bit of luck, let's be honest — have let us remain open," he said.

The 235-student La Farge School District in western Wisconsin is using a hybrid model with its middle and high school students, in which two groups each come in two days per week.

"They know and we know that school is better when kids are here," said Amy Lund, a high school social studies teacher there. "Where (students) had been last winter compared to where they were this fall wasn't

good. We want to alleviate that as much as possible while still maintaining safety protocols."

Research: Virtual learning less effective

Early studies from research organizations NWEA and McKinsey & Company suggest that students are falling behind, especially in math.

The NWEA study found that while student achievement in grades 3 through 8 was comparable to previous years in reading, progress in math dipped as much as 10 percentile points from levels before the pandemic.

Even those declines likely understate the problem, researchers noted, because "student groups especially

vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic were more likely to be missing from our data."

The McKinsey study found that, on average, students started school in the fall about three months behind expectations in math. Students of color were about three to five months behind, while white students were behind by about one to three months.

Said Jones: "We'll find out what the impact is once things open back up and everybody starts taking the same assessments again."

Students can be vulnerable for a variety of reasons — lack of internet access, poverty, lack of motivation. And educators fear some of those students may fall seriously behind or drop out.

Even students without significant risk factors might take a hit. Matt Millar has good internet at his rural home in Blue Mounds, but when his three young children were forced to learn virtually when the Barneveld School District temporarily closed in November, the divorced dad had to manage them alone while trying to do his own work.

"It feels impossible at times," he said.

The two younger Millar children, 7-year-old Sterling and 6-year-old Matthias, went back to in-person class on Dec. 14, and the district brought back older students, including 10-year-old Adara, right before winter break.

Millar said he is "super grateful" his children are back in school.

Pandemic's full impact not yet clear

To counter the blows the pandemic has landed on student progress, a bipartisan group of senators is advocating for expansion of national service programs including AmeriCorps and Senior Corps to add 300,000 members to work individually with at-risk children.

Johns Hopkins researcher Robert Slavin is pushing President-elect Joe Biden for a similar effort, arguing that simply reopening schools "will not heal the damage students have

sustained to their educational progress" — especially in high-poverty schools.

Fear of COVID-19 also has moved more children into homeschooling, and they may not come back, potentially jeopardizing the per-pupil funding that public school districts receive, said Mara Tieken, an associate professor of education at Bates College in Maine.

Tieken, who focuses on rural schools, wants states to move away from education funding models that rely heavily on property taxes, which can force poorer districts to choose between cutting education budgets or raising taxes on property owners who can't afford it.

In a report released by the DPI last month, 343 school districts in Wisconsin — 82% — said they anticipated an increase in spending for the 2020-21 school year due to the pandemic.

Tieken advocates for more equity — giving districts whose students need more help more money.

"We're going to have groups of students that need more support, that need more attention, that need more resources," she said.

In Wisconsin, Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat and former state Superintendent of Public Instruction, has pushed to tweak the state's funding formula to give school districts with more poor students a greater share, but the Republican-controlled Legislature has resisted the idea.

Amy Jo Hellenbrand said she has noticed her own children's lack of academic progress in the way they speak and make grammar mistakes. "They need to be back in school," Hellenbrand said. "That was always my view."

This article is part of a collaborative reporting project with the Institute for Nonprofit News and several member newsrooms.

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (wisconsinwatch.org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Legal Notices

MEETING NOTICE CAUCUS & MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

TOWN OF SPRING GROVE

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of Spring Grove, in the County of Green, State of Wisconsin, that a Town Caucus will be held at the Town Hall, N2475 County Hwy GG, Brodhead, WI on Tuesday January 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to nominate candidates for the Town Board positions to be voted on at the April 6, 2021 Spring Election.

Town of Spring Grove Regular Monthly Board meeting to follow Caucus:
Monthly Board Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Reading of December Meeting Minutes
4. Treasurers Report
5. Public Input
6. Caucus Results
7. Rural Insurance Updates
8. Discussion & Decision on Shop Lights
9. Road Projects
 - a. Equipment Repairs/New Blade on Plow
 - b. Shop Door Repair
10. Building Permits
11. Driveway Permits
12. Tax Collection Update
13. Review of Monthly Bills
14. Adjournment

Deb Cline, Clerk

The Independent Register

1/13/2021

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TOWN OF DECATUR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, January 18, 2021 –

6:00 PM

At the Town Hall - 1408 14th

Street, Brodhead, WI

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Payment of Bills
7. Citizen Concerns
8. Raupp's Pumpkin Patch Conditional Use Permit – Town Board Review
9. Park Road Speed Limit
10. Pinnacle Dairy Truck Route on Decatur Road
11. Street Lighting
12. ATV/UTV Usage on Town Roads
13. Lynda Mauermann Garbage Pick-Up
14. Town of Albany Road Agreement
15. Closed Session Per Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation over with the Town exercises responsibility; RE: Town Patrolman 6-Month Review
16. Reconvene in Open Session
17. Roadwork
18. Sharing of Information/Correspondence
19. Future Agenda Items
20. Set Dates for Future Meetings
21. Adjournment

Jamie E. Olson

Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register

1/13/2021

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DATE SIGNED:

January 6, 2021

Electronically signed by

Thomas J. Vale

Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

CIRCUIT COURT,

GREEN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF

THE ESTATE OF

Elizabeth A. Schooff

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(Informal Administration)

Case No. 20 PR

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1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 06/18/1928 and date of death 12/15/2020, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 407 4th Street, Brodhead, WI 53520.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 04-15-2021.

5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Courthouse, Justice Center, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin.

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Rock County

Town of Spring Grove,

Green County

Town of Magnolia, Rock County

Town of Albany, Green County

Village of Albany, Green County

SPRING PRIMARY –

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. **The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.**

You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot by mail or in person.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

The deadline for making application to receive an

absentee ballot by mail is:

Thursday, February 11, 2021

at 5 p.m.

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is:

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office:

Friday, February 12, 2021

at 4:30 p.m.

No in-person absentee voting may occur on a weekend or legal holiday or on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on **February 16, 2021**. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

Contact your municipal clerk

listed below:

City of Brodhead, Nikolai Wahl

1111 W. 2nd Avenue

PO Box 168

Brodhead, WI 53520

897-4018

Town of Spring Grove,

Debra Cline

N2475 County Road GG

Brodhead, WI 53520

608-558-4787

Town of Decatur, Jamie Olson

1408-14th Street, Town Hall

PO Box 333

Brodhead, WI 53520

897-4965

Town of Spring Valley,

Della Ends

17310 Footville Brodhead Rd

Brodhead, WI 53520

608-897-4288

Town of Avon,

Stephanie Schwartzlow

15444 W Skinner Rd

Brodhead, WI 53520

608-921-3656

Town of Magnolia,

Graceann Toberman

13343 W. County B

Brodhead, WI 53520

608-876-6771

Town of Albany, Bonnie Zee

N6065 County Rd E

Albany, WI 53502

608-862-3322

Village of Albany,

Laurie Keepers

206 North Water Street

Albany, WI 53502

608-3240

The Independent Register

1/13/2021

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COBURN DUKEHART/WISCONSIN WATCH Brodhead Independent-Register

Matthias and Adara Millar play piano at their home in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, recently. The Millar children attended school in the Barneveld School District virtually for much of the first semester. Their dad, Matt Millar, says it's been difficult to manage and monitor their schooling while also working from home. Recently, all of the Millar children returned to in-person instruction.



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Fabrication (1st, 2nd & 4th Shift) – Seeking operators of fabrication equipment including shear, brake press, punch press, saw and NC backgauge. The position requires the ability to read blueprints, complete fabrication measurements, operate forklift, overhead crane, and sheet lifters. Experience operating fabrication equipment is preferred.

Janitor (2nd Shift) – The janitor position includes general office and plant cleaning, forklift operation, a light building maintenance such as painting, floor stripping/waxing and carpet cleaning. A valid driver's license is required.

Maintenance Assistant (4th Shift) – The assistant role performs preventive maintenance activities for manufacturing equipment and tools, such as welding equipment (manual & robotic), press brakes, shears, lasers, mills, lathes, drills, forklifts, HVAC, cranes, hoists, and other items as required. Perform facilities maintenance and repair to ensure reliable utilization, compliance, reliability, and safety. Operate power equipment; including skid steer, snowplow, forklift, and scissor platform lifts and assist technicians with special projects.

Material Handler (1st, 2nd & 4th Shift) – Seeking individuals with forklift experience to transport of required cell components from receiving, warehouses & department staging areas. Individual is required to read basic blueprints, maintain and complete accurate documentation & inventory. Ability to use computer warehouse receiving and inventory systems is preferred.

Painter (1st Shift) – This position involves painting parts and units with an electrostatic spray gun while conforming to established quality standards. A vocational diploma in auto body and paint technology, with knowledge of coatings, coating systems, and electrostatic spray coating is preferred. Ability to read basic blueprints and measuring devices and wear a fully enclosed hood type air supplied respirator is required.

Paint Prep (1st & 2nd Shift) – This general labor position involves preparation of the unit for the paint process; power washing, scraping, sanding, and material handling. The ability to use basic hand tools is required, with occasional forklift operation.

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FIND BARGAINS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

Burlington Liars Club names 2020's top fibber

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

Daryl Lockwood has once again been honored for submitting the winning lie to the Burlington Liars Club. Lockwood, of Waupaca, who won in 2019, became the club's first triple winner in its history spanning more than nine decades.

The Burlington Liars Club selected Lockwood based on his fib related to what can loosely be called an at-home COVID-19 test.

"...Take a glass and pour a decent dram of your favorite whisky (gin or rum) into it; then see if you can smell it. If you can, you are halfway there; then drink it and if you can taste, it is reasonable to assume you are currently free of the virus. I tested myself mine times last night and was virus free every time, thank goodness.

"I will have to test myself again today though, as I have developed a headache which may also be a symptom."

The repeat winner didn't believe the Liars Club would permit a back-to-back champion, let alone three times, with his first title in 2013. Lockwood, however, said he is

grateful the Liars Club decided to award him with the prize.

"I am surprised that they allowed me to win two years," said Lockwood. "That is pretty amazing."

Lockwood indicated he developed the lie because the Liars Club often looks at current events, which can only be one thing in 2020, and that is the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, Lockwood said he and his friend meet regularly to craft the wittiest lies to submit to the Burlington Liars Club.

"We get together at least once a week and once in awhile we try out some of our lies," he said. "Then we come up with the best lies to send in."

In 2019, his entry showed the lighter side of banking, noting an experience he had with a teller.

"I went to the bank yesterday and asked the clerk to check my balance. She came out from behind the counter and pushed me over!"

Lockwood's winning lie in 2013 took humor in health insurance while paying homage to Christmas.

"My new health insurance contained so many clauses that Santa is considering suing for defamation of

character."

Lockwood plans on continuing the contest, even though he has won three times, simply because it allows him and his friend another excuse to meet in the months leading up to the Burlington Liars Club announcement.

Among those earning honorable mention this year were 2018 winner Chuck Goldstein from Janesville.

Goldstein's 2020 fib took a jab on the Eastern Time Zone.

"I'm always jealous of my brother-in-law in Michigan because he's an hour ahead of us, he always knows the outcome of the Packer game before I do."

Locally, Burlington resident Shad Branan also earned honorable mention, putting a different twist on what transpired in 2020.

"2020 has been a disappointing year in many ways. My entry to the Liars Club didn't even win."

Others garnering honorable mention include Dave Hildebrand, of Rice Lake, and Chicago's Gerard Vail.

Hildebrand recalled seeing Mormon Tabernacle Choir grow since he was a youngster.

"I'm so old that when I was born

the Mormon Tabernacle Choir was just a trio," his entry states.

Vail, meanwhile, said "Our Little League team was so bad, the opposing coach would tell his players, 'hit 'em where they are.'"

Locally inspired

The Burlington Liars Club began the contest in 1929 when Burlington Police Capt. Anton Delano remembered his adventures on the Great Lakes.

"Captain Delano, who sailed salt water and then skippered sailing vessels on the Great Lakes for years, related a story about a voyage around Cape Horn, when they sighted what they thought to be land – a bleak, barren island, just protruding above the ocean – an uncharted island," the Liars Club website states.

Apparently, said the Captain, it was a huge island, for they sailed along its shore for three days before they discovered it was not an island at all – only a whale, asleep on the surface."

A year later, Burlington Police Chief Frank Beller followed up with his own award-winning fib, according to the Liars Club.

Beller's lie took his own relationship with local judges under consideration.

"Judges met at the police station on January 1, 1930, and were just about to award the championship to another man, when one of them asked the chief if he did not want to compete."

"Me?" replied the chief, in an injured voice. "Me? Why I never told a lie in my life." And by unanimous consent, the judges, who had known him for years, awarded Chief Beller the 1930 medal."

Since then, the Burlington Liars Club has named winners from 27 different states, one Canadian Province and another who lived in Sweden.

Club President Dennis Tully said about 75 entries were submitted in the 2020 contest, about half of what is typically sent in.

He attributes the decline to a lull in 2020 activity, but the Liars Club will continue its contest, and has started accepting entries for 2021.

Contestants can email their entries to championlies@gmail.com or address them to The Burlington Liars Club, P.O. Box 156, Burlington, WI 53105.

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