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SHOPPING NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 2021

Albany highlights FFA Week with special events 3

UWW offensive lineman hopes to be second day draft pick 4

FFA Week feature 8

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Library supports sexual assault awareness program

By Dan Moeller
CORRESPONDENT

The Brodhead library board voted last week to support a sexual assault awareness program in April. The board voted to allow the Green County Sexual Assault Recovery Program to set up a tent in the library parking for SARP's Denim Day.

On that day SARP will provide no-contact kits for people to decorate denim as a way to draw attention to sexual assault. The event will be held in late April, but a date hasn't been established yet. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Denim is decorated because a sexual assault victim in Italy was wearing denim jeans when raped. Later

the conviction was overturned because she was wearing tight jeans and the court reasoned the man needed the woman's help in taking off her pants and therefore the act was consensual. The outrage over that reasoning led to the first denim day in the late 1990s.

Green County SARP wants to educate people about sexual assault and let the public know that the agency exists.

"What you stand for lines up with that we stand for," library board president Kelly Gratz told the SARP's Hattie Stuessy, who

was meeting online with the board.

Library director Angela Noel said the library could make the kits available to the public before the denim day.

Collection culled

The library staff has been weeding materials after not doing so for over a year because of the pandemic. The weeded books are sent to one of the library's suppliers, which buys back some books for a small amount of credit. Others are recycled. The program is free to the library.

Library programs

Noel reported the winter reading program attracted 44 participants — 20 elementary school children and 24 teens/adults. The elementary children read for a total of 227.4 hours and the adults read 564.6 hours. The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten has 11 online participants.

Noel reported that online crafter programs on Facebook are set for 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays:

- Feb. 15 to 20, Mardi Gras mix
- Feb. 25 to 28, origami cats
- March 1 to 6, Cat in the Hat watercolor portraits

• March 8 to 13, picture frame cubes

• March 15 to 20, St. Patrick's Day magnets

Teen/adult craft kits also are available:

• Feb. 15 to Feb. 20, hot chocolate bombs

• Feb. 25 to Feb. 28, spice up your life

• March 1 to March 6, mossy shamrock

• March 8 through March 13, confetti key chain

• March 15 to March 20, string Easter garland

State tabs Rock County for vaccine clinic

The state's first community-based vaccination clinic was to open Feb. 16 at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville.

The clinic is in partnership with AMI Expeditionary Healthcare, a physician-owned and led company that provides health care in remote and under-served environments, according to a state news release.

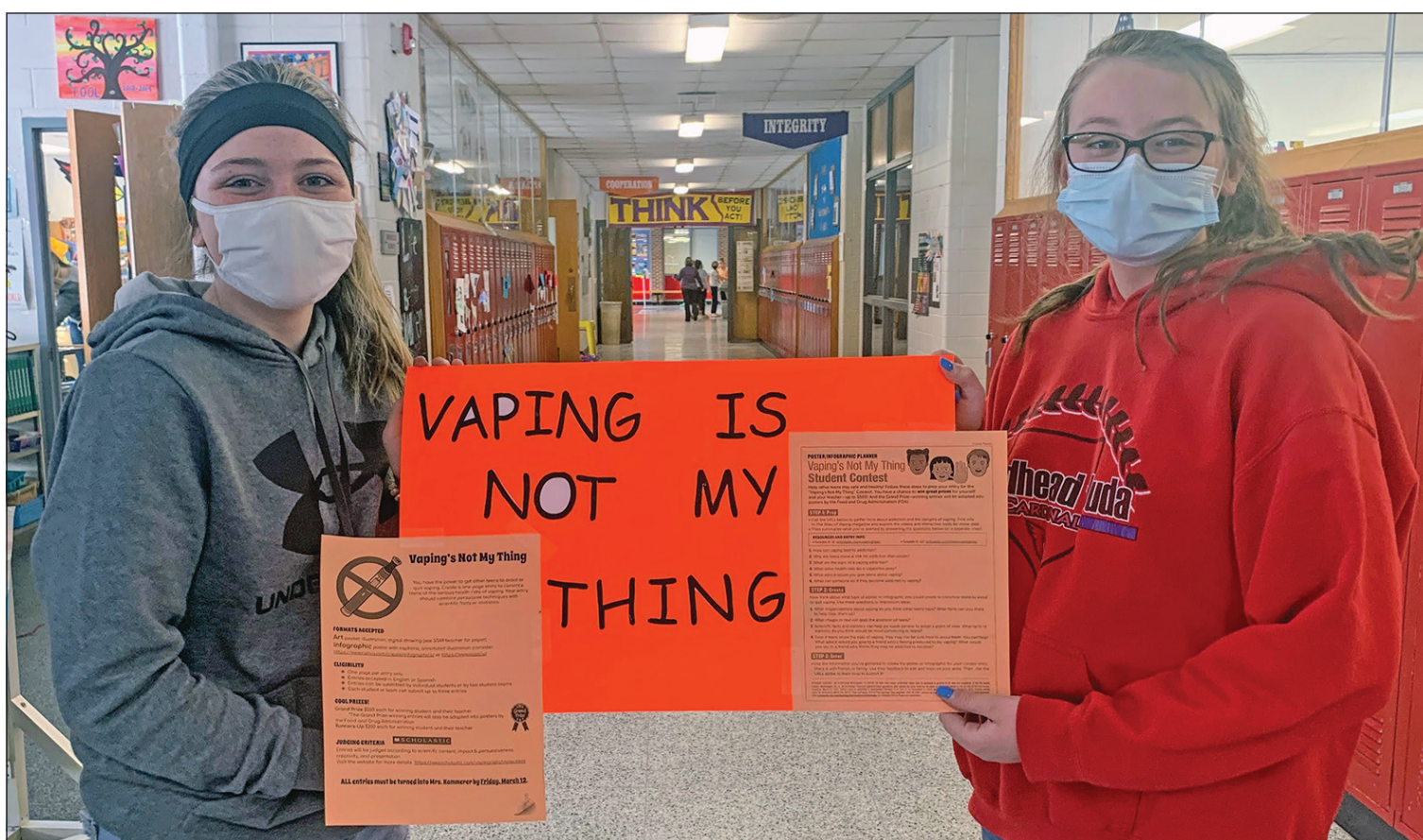
The Rock County site will start with the ability to vaccinate up to 250 individuals daily. If Wisconsin's vaccine allocations increase, the clinic's goal is to provide up to 1,000 vaccinations per day.

Six to ten additional community-based vaccination sites will open across the state as needed, and as the vaccine supply allows, the news release said.

"AMI will work closely with the Wisconsin National Guard, Wisconsin Emergency Management and local public health partners to support Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccination program and help expand vaccine coverage across the state," the news release said.

"Wisconsinites are working together to stop the spread of COVID-19 and put this pandemic behind us. This partnership with AMI is going to help us take another step in the right direction," Gov. Tony Evers said in the news release. "Our top priority is to get folks vaccinated and to continue to keep Wisconsinites healthy and safe, and that's going to take a team effort not only with partners like AMI, but with every Wisconsinite practicing social distancing and wearing masks and doing their part to help prevent the spread in the meantime."

For information, resources, and data related to Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccination program, go online to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm. For up-to-date information about Wisconsin's COVID-19 response, go online to the DHS COVID-19 webpage at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

Students take a stand against vaping

All Brodhead Middle School students have been encouraged to submit an informative poster or infographic about the health risks associated with vaping. For contest details, go online to www.scholastic.com/youthvapingrisks/index.html. Entries must be submitted to Brodhead Middle School by March 12.

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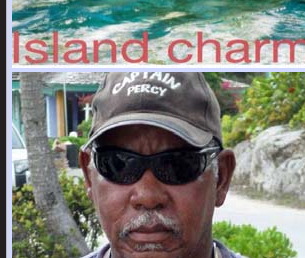


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Obituary

DOLORES SULLIVAN

Dolores Ann Sullivan, age 92, of Brodhead, passed away on Feb. 9, 2021, while at the Janesville Mercy Hospital.

Dolores was born Dec. 10, 1928, in LaFarge, Wisconsin, the daughter of Lloyd and Carol (Smith) Hutchens. Dolores married Gerald Sullivan at St. Mary's Ridge Catholic Church in Ontario, Wisconsin, on Sept. 11, 1948.

Dolores was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Brodhead since 1963, where she worked as a volunteer for many events and was on the Ladies Altar Society. Dolores worked for many years at APCO. She enjoyed camping and traveling with Gerald every year to Arizona as well as their travels abroad and going to her summer house in Adams-Friendship.

Dolores is survived by her six children, Rodger (Lynette) Sullivan, Pamela (Bob) Elliott-Cummings, Geraldine (Glennville) Johnson, Karen (Kevin) McKinney, Eugene (Debra) Sullivan and Pat (Jacqui) Sullivan; 16 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; a daughter-in-law, Jeanette Sullivan;



her longtime friends, Cozette, Royce and JoAnn; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

"The love that sprang from her heart encompassing her family is her legacy."

Dolores was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gerald, on Nov. 15, 2010; her son, David, in 2020; a great-grandson, Jackson Sullivan, in 2013; a son-in-law, Clayton Elliott, in 2002; and several brothers and sisters.

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

A visitation was held Feb. 12, 2021, at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead. Private funeral services will be held later. Burial will conclude at the Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Janesville.

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

DNR seeks input on walleye management

The Department of Natural Resources will host a Feb. 23 public meeting to discuss updating the Wisconsin Walleye Management Plan for Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson and Rock counties.

The meeting will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23. Anyone interested in walleye management in the six counties and who would like to participate should contact Max Wolter at Max.Wolter@wisconsin.gov or 715-634-7429. Pre-registration is required.

The current walleye management plan serves as a guide for one of the most sought-after fish species in Wisconsin and outlines seven goals and strategies for walleye management. The updating process will include a review of the existing plan, an analysis of available data and trends and public input on angling and management preferences.

The DNR is seeking public feedback on stocking priorities, regulation acceptance and agency resource allocation. The public is invited to give input on the process through:

- Comments on walleye manage-



PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN DNR Brodhead Independent-Register

Anglers are invited to learn more about local walleye management and give feedback at a Feb. 23 virtual meeting hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

ment preferences and issues via this public input forum

- Detailed random mail/online surveys of fishing license holders (both resident and non-resident) to scientifically gauge angler attitudes about management options
- Regional virtual meetings with

stakeholder groups and individuals to discuss local management issues and partnership opportunities

After this final meeting, the DNR will analyze all feedback and determine the best path forward for updating the current walleye management plan.

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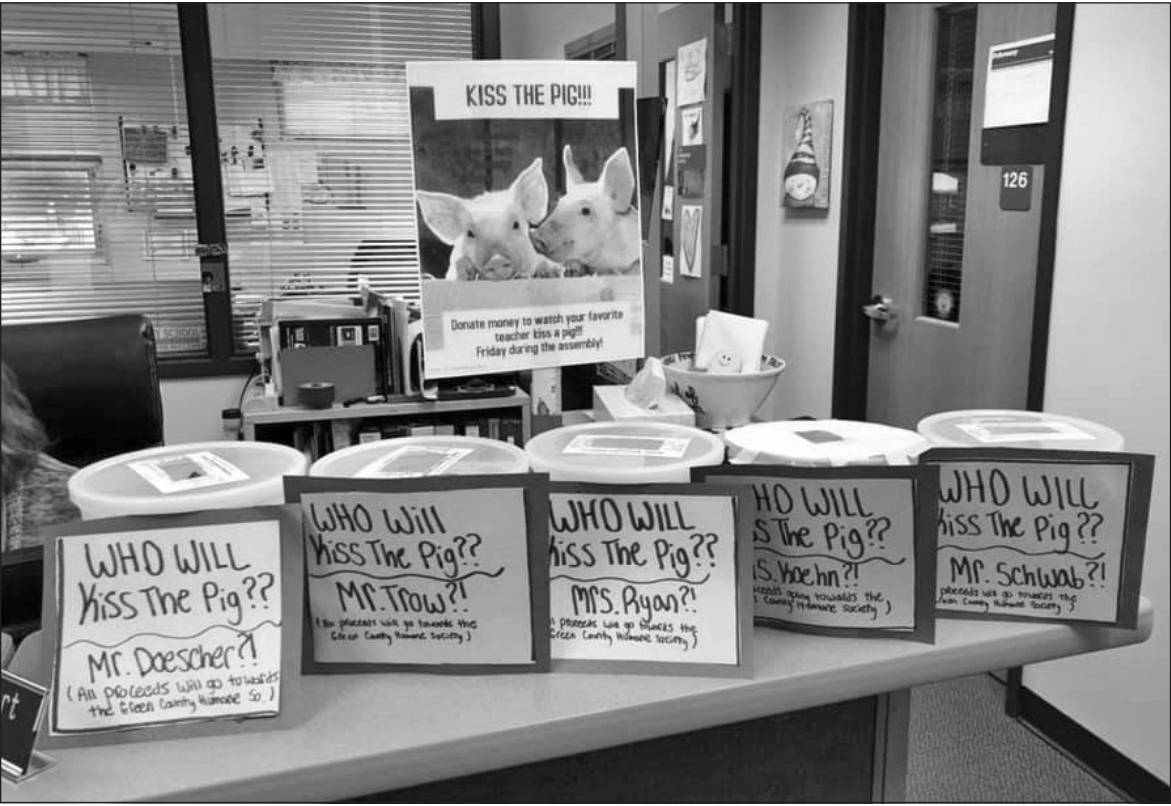
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Albany highlights FFA Week with special events



Students at Albany High School will have to wait for next year to see a staff member kiss the pig during National FFA Week festivities. The annual fundraiser isn't being held due to COVID-19.

By Mary Hookham
CORRESPONDENT

Members of Albany FFA are planning COVID-friendly events this year for National FFA Week, which begins Feb. 20. The special week offers a way for members to have fun in their chapters while raising awareness of the value and importance of FFA.

"In this community FFA is very important," said Haley Koehn, agriculture teacher and FFA adviser with the Albany School District. "I am glad we are able to do small things to get the students involved even if they look different during COVID."

"Being such a small rural town,

we feel FFA is important due to the amount of students who end up in the agriculture field."

Since students are on a hybrid schedule this year, the week is split in half so the first group will have their dress-up days on Monday and Tuesday while the second group will have their dress-up days on Thursday and Friday, Koehn said.

The officer team will provide breakfast for staff members who signed up. It will be delivered to staff instead of having them all eat together as they've done in the past.

See FFA, Page 5

Monroe Arts Center news

Entry period opens for regional art competition

For the 34th consecutive year, the Monroe Arts Center will sponsor the Wisconsin Regional Arts Program Competition and Exhibit. All artwork submitted for competition will be on exhibit from March 26 through April 16 in Monroe Arts Center's Frehner Gallery.

"Wisconsin Regional Art Program encourages non-professional, student and emerging artists to create and exhibit their work in WRAP competitions and artist workshops held in various regions of Wisconsin throughout the year," according to a news release.

The competition is open to all area nonprofessional artists who are at least 14 years old. Work must be original; no molds or patterns from another artist may be used. Up to two entries per artist are allowed and all media are accepted such as oil, acrylic, watercolor, photography, sculpture, fiber, metal, glass, wood, prints, pastel, digital, etc. All work must have been completed within the past two years.

The entry fee to compete, exhibit artwork and attend the April 17 virtual artist workshop is \$30 per artist.

Two pieces of artwork per artist are allowed.

The entry form and the \$30 registration fee are due at Monroe Arts Center by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 5. Artwork for the exhibit may only be delivered from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, March 12.

Monroe Arts Center will hold a virtual artist workshop at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 17. A demonstration and/or lecture by professional artist Nikki Cooper will be the focus of the workshop. Cooper will also serve as the judge for this competition.

State award winners selected at the Monroe exhibit, along with all other 2020-'21 WRAP competition winners from throughout Wisconsin, will be on display in September at a location yet to be determined. Additional awards and prizes will be given at that time.

This event is co-sponsored by the Monroe Arts Center and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Continuing Studies.

For information, call Monroe Arts Center at 608-325-5700 or go online to www.monroeartscenter.com.

Youth art contest invites entries through March 16

Registration is open now for a youth art contest sponsored by the Monroe Arts Center and the Monroe Woman's Club.

The contest is open to all area students with three age divisions: junior (kindergarten through fifth grade), intermediate (sixth through eighth grades) and senior (ninth through 12th grades).

There are three categories of art that will be accepted — fiber art, sculpture and drawing and painting.

Starting Feb. 16, students may register to receive a free Art Start Kit to help them get started on a project for the contest. To register, go online to monroeartscenter.com/communityevents or call 608-325-5700.

Contest submissions are due March 16.

Devon Calvert, an elementary art teacher in Milton, will serve as the contest judge. Calvert recently was elected to the National Art Education Association Board of Directors.

Winners will be announced April 7, with the winning entries displayed at the Monroe Arts Center.



Albany FFA members Myah Johnson and Thomas Fry, left, and Lily Larson and Haley Mueller, right, make breakfast for staff members during the 2020 National FFA Week festivities. The staff breakfast will continue during this year's COVID-altered FFA week, however, meals will be delivered instead of served to the group.

In brief

Albany community blood drive set for March 4

National Honor Society members at Albany High School are organizing a Red Cross blood drive from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at the Albany Lions Club building, 402 N. Cincinnati St.

People may register to give blood by going online to redcrossblood.org and using "Albany WI" as the sponsor code or by calling 800-733-2767. Walk-in donors also will be accepted on March 4.

County man joins corn growers board

Ben Huber of Green County was elected recently to serve as an associate director on the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association Board of Directors.

Huber is the agronomy department manager at Insight FS. At Insight, he is responsible for leading the sales, marketing, precision ag and product procurement efforts of the company's agronomy division in Wisconsin. He is also actively involved in Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Huber holds a degree in agricultural education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He and his wife, Stephanie, help operate their family's grain farm in northern Illinois.

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Albany Comet News

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

*No school, Albany School District
-Albertson Memorial Library full circulation and limited computer service, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

-Albertson Memorial Library closed

SUNDAY, FEB. 21

No events scheduled

MONDAY, FEB. 22

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

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

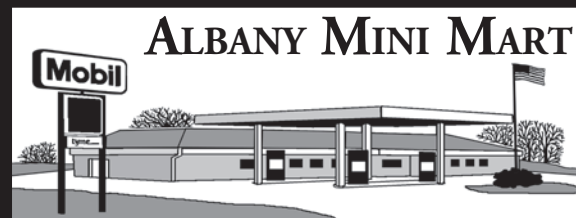
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

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

- Denotes a community event.

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

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UW-Whitewater offensive lineman hopes to be a second day draft pick

By Daniel Schoettler
CORRESPONDENT

Warhawk Quinn Meinerz showed off not only his ability — but his gut — to help boost his NFL draft stock at the Senior Bowl and hopes to be a second day draft pick. The former University of Wisconsin-Whitewater All-American offensive lineman was the lone Division 3 representative and he was able to show his skills off against bigger college talent.

“It really showed how hard I’ve been working,” Meinerz said. “It really showed that I belonged with those big-name guys.”

Meinerz was able to catch a lot of social media buzz on Twitter including a meme that blew up showing how big he is, complete with his gut hanging out. He says it was cool to see and to represent Division 3 “big guys.”

And he explained the gut. “My nickname in high school and at Whitewater was ‘The Gut,’” Meinerz said of the reactions. “I always had my

gut hanging out at camp because it gets hot and humid in August and it was very odd to see the media react the way they did because it is something I have always done.”

Meinerz will get another chance to show off his grit and girth with an invite to the NFL Combine in addition to the Pro Day at Wisconsin.

Making the most of opportunity

In 2019, Meinerz was an Associated Press and American Football Coaches

Association First Team All-American as well as a D3Football.com second team All-American and first team All-West region selection. He also was the winner of the Glen Willis Offensive Lineman Award as he helped the Warhawks reach the national championship game a season ago.

Meinerz’s performance in the Senior Bowl did not surprise UW-Whitewater

head coach Kevin Bullis, who said he knew Quinn would take advantage of the opportunity. But even Bullis was pleasantly surprised at the magnitude of the situation.

“To say that we are excited is an understatement,” Bullis said. “To say that he was going to take advantage of the

See LINEMAN, Page 5



UW-WHITEWATER ATHLETICS *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Former University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawk Quinn Meinerz (No. 77) hopes to be a second day draft pick in the National Football League. He recently showed off his skills at the Senior Bowl and will be invited to the NFL Combine.

Beloit Baseball signs development agreement with Miami Marlins

Beloit Baseball has signed a professional development license with the Miami Marlins, officially beginning a 10-year contract to serve as Miami’s Advanced-A affiliate.

“Our organization is very excited to officially become an affiliate of the Miami Marlins,” team president Jeff Jurgella said in a news release. “Forming a long-term relationship with the Marlins is a great move forward for our franchise and for professional baseball in Beloit.”

“We’re looking forward to opening a state-of-the-art stadium in downtown Beloit to serve both as one of the best places in the country to develop talented players and one of the best places for fans to enjoy the game of baseball.”

Beloit was officially invited to become an affiliate of the Marlins in December as part of the new professional development license system designed to modernize the player development system and provide affiliated teams access to Major League Baseball’s partnerships, tools, technology and content to enhance fan experience.

Commissioner of Baseball Robert D. Manfred, Jr. said: “We are excited to unveil this new model, which not only provides a pipeline to the Majors, but continues the Minor Leagues’ tradition of entertaining millions of families in hundreds of communities.”

“In modernizing our Minor League system, we prioritized the qualities that make the Minor Leagues such an integral part of our game while

strengthening how we develop professional athletes on and off the field. We look forward to demonstrating the best of our game throughout local communities, supporting all those who are working hard to grow the sport, and sharing unrivaled technology and resources with minor league teams and players.”

Prior to the invitation to join the Marlins organization, Beloit was an affiliate of the Oakland Athletics from 2013 to 2020, the Minnesota Twins from 2005 to 2012 and the Milwaukee Brewers from 1982 to 2004. The team has played at the Class-A level since 1982 and will move up to the Advanced-A classification in 2021.

“Not only will we be joining a first-class organization with one of the best farm systems in baseball, but our team will be moving up to the Advanced-A classification in 2021, allowing us to bring even better baseball and more talented prospects to the field in Beloit for our fans to watch,” Jurgella said. “The timing of the new deal has worked well for our franchise, allowing us to ensure the new stadium is built to meet all facility requirements for ballparks, an important step to cementing the long-term success of professional baseball in our community.”

In addition to Beloit, the Marlins minor league system will also include the Jupiter Hammerheads at the Class-A level, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos in Double-A and the Triple-A Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp.

Rock County offers weekly video virus update

Officials at the Rock County Public Health Department are now offering a COVID-19 video update at 11 a.m. each Thursday.

The update is aimed at sharing updates and answering frequently asked questions.

“As part of the department’s ongoing efforts to provide useful, consistent, and transparent communication, these live, weekly video updates will offer another method for the public and members of the media to stay up to date on vital COVID-19 public health measures, including vaccination progress in Rock County,” according to a news release. “Each weekly broadcast will begin with an overview of current Rock County case/testing numbers and a vaccination update, followed by a more in-depth exploration of a cur-

rent topic based on the most frequently asked COVID-19 questions.”

Members of the public may view the live broadcast without any pre-registration by visiting www.facebook.com/RockCountyPHD/live at 11 a.m. each Thursday. Videos will be posted for on-demand viewing at www.facebook.com/RockCountyPHD/live and www.youtube.com/channel/UCQO-ZUNaK68wF4cdPsr4n_ow after each broadcast.

For more information on COVID-19 and Rock County Public Health Department efforts to mitigate the spread, visit public health’s website, which contains a wealth of information and is updated regularly: www.co.rock.wi.us/publichealth-familycommunity/publichealth-communicabledisease/coronavirus-disease-2019.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Seventh-graders show the way

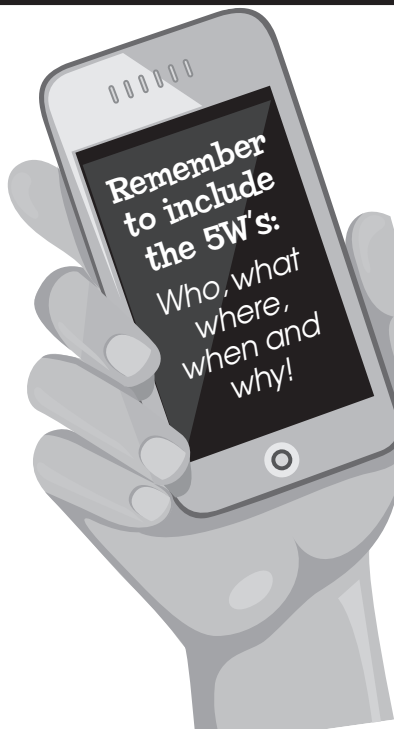
Seventh-grade teachers at Brodhead Middle School look for students who go above and beyond, lending a helping hand, serving as positive role models and encouraging others to do the same. Those students are chosen as members of the 100% Club. Laney Weis and Gracie Fields were recognized recently as the newest 100% Club members.

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News from
Parkview in Orfordville:
Viking Times

<p>THURSDAY, FEB. 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. <p>FRIDAY, FEB. 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; storytime at 11 a.m. <p>SATURDAY, FEB. 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 9 a.m. to noon <p>SUNDAY, FEB. 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library closed <p>MONDAY, FEB. 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to 7 p.m. • Orfordville Village Board meeting, 7 p.m. <p>TUESDAY, FEB. 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. • Parkview Elementary School Scoopie Night at Court Street Culver’s in Janesville, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. <p>WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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Mink farming industry now seen as COVID-19 risk

By Kate Golden
FOR WISCONSIN WATCH

The first sign of trouble was that the mink stopped eating, said Hugh Hildebrandt, one of two main mink vets in Wisconsin. Next came coughing and sneezing, lethargy and labored breathing. Hildebrandt had worked with mink for 30 years. He wrote the Merck Veterinary Manual section on mink. But he had never seen anything like this.

Captive mink have a flu season in the fall, just like people — they get it from us, in fact. But what appeared in the two Taylor County, Wisconsin, mink farms that saw outbreaks in October was not flu, which tends to sicken the weakest animals. This took out the strongest mink, the mature adult females.

Over a few days, it killed hundreds per day and about 5,500 total on the two ranches. It whipped through by coat color, light to dark: The lighter-coat mink, ranch-bred to bring out recessive genes, have long been more delicate.

Five to seven days in, the ranchers thought that most of the mink were going to die, said Hildebrandt. “And they wake up the next morning, and it’s just stopped. They all start eating. They eat more than they ever did before.”

It wasn’t hard to guess the cause. Wisconsin was a coronavirus hotspot from late summer on, and workers at mink ranches had already tested positive. The Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison confirmed the suspicion within days. The mink almost certainly got it from farmworkers, a jump called “reverse zoonosis.”

The outbreaks shone light on an industry that has for years operated so discreetly in Wisconsin — the nation’s top pelt producer — that even the offi-

cial in charge of animal health didn’t know where all of the state’s 19 mink farms were. Those farms are neither regulated nor licensed by the state.

Officials have caught up fast amid concerns that a mutation of the species-hopping virus could pose danger to humans. In fact, the state just added mink farmers to the category of residents next in line for vaccination along with teachers, child care workers and grocery store employees.

Wisconsin is not, however, contemplating a Denmark-style moratorium on mink farming or industry-wide cull, according to state veterinarian Darlene Konkle. Wisconsin has yet to find a mink-to-human leap of the virus. And since mink aren’t officially considered livestock, Wisconsin doesn’t compensate farmers whose mink are killed to prevent disease spread, she said.

“It would be no small thing to take the Denmark approach and say we’re going to depopulate all the mink farms,” Konkle said. “Because that’s a situation where you’re taking away somebody’s livelihood.”

The mink detectives

The first infections of U.S. farmed mink, in Utah in August, triggered a national investigation involving wildlife and human health experts across local, state, and federal agencies. Their questions: How did the virus get there, where would it go next, and what could it do? In Europe, the virus had spread from farm to farm, and also jumped back to humans.

Then, in mid-December, a wild mink trapped near a Utah mink farm was confirmed to have the virus, marking the “first free-ranging, native wild animal confirmed with SARS-CoV-2,” said Thomas DeLiberto and Susan

Shriner of the USDA’s Animal and Plant Inspection Service. Soon after that, two more mink — both Oregon farm escapees — also tested positive.

Of all the animals that have been infected with the coronavirus, including dogs, cats and a few other mammals, the only species to have suffered large-scale casualties so far is the American mink living on mink ranches around the world.

Since the first mink got sick on a Dutch ranch in April, millions of the animals have died or been culled on nearly 400 ranches across Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Lithuania, Greece, Italy, France, Spain and Canada. The United States has seen 16 ranch outbreaks since August.

“It’s a top priority in human and veterinary diagnostic labs,” said Keith Poulsen, director of the Wisconsin veterinary diagnostic lab, which has been running COVID tests on farmed mink and people, operating from 5 a.m. to 2 a.m. to keep up.

Outbreaks on European mink ranches demonstrated the risks. If the virus managed to establish a reservoir of disease in farmed mink or their wild cousins, it could hamper the fight against the pandemic — particularly if it mutated along the way into something deadlier, more transmissible or harder for modern medicine to attack.

No disease is an island

Such zoonotic outbreaks happen constantly, and disease reservoirs are everywhere. Raccoons harbor rabies; rodents across the American West harbor the bacterium that causes plague. People are a reservoir of tuberculosis for cattle.

See MINK, Page 6



STEVE APPS/WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL FOR WISCONSIN WATCH *Brodhead Independent-Register*
Steve Smies prepares “show samples” with a group of mink pelts at the Saga Furs auction house in Stoughton. Thousands of mink at Wisconsin farms died after contracting COVID-19 from mink farm workers.

• FFA (Continued from page 3)

Students can participate in an emblem hunt each day in which winners will receive prizes from Koehn. Throughout the week, an officer will do trivia and coloring with 4K students.

“In previous years we have had an assembly with different agriculture events and a kiss the pig contest, which we will not be able to have,” she said. “(There has also been)

dodge ball during lunch.”

Koehn said there is no donkey basketball scheduled for this year either.

FFA members are also working on a maple syrup project. They work with community members to collect sap around town and then cook it down and bottle it.

“It is a pretty fun process,” Koehn said. “And the students get to be a part of it all.”

• Lineman (Continued from page 4)

opportunity to the magnitude he did, I could have not predicted that.”

Meinerz’s high school football coach at Hartford, John Redders, said he is proud of his former Oriole and is confident Meinerz is going to do well.

“The big thing was that he got the invite and that they took a gamble on a kid that showed that he has some moxie and ability to do some things that you don’t typically see at the smaller divisions like Division 2 and Division 3,” Redders said.

“All of a sudden, Twitter was blowing up one day that this guy from Whitewater is pancake blocking, driving guys backwards three or four yards back, and just taking care of business. It was crazy,” he added.

In high school, Meinerz was a second team All-Conference offensive lineman his junior year before becoming Honorable Mention All-State offensive and defensive lineman his senior year.

The Warhawk offensive lineman also paid tribute to his hometown during Senior Bowl weekend. Each player could put the name of someone on a yellow heart sticker on his helmet. Meinerz chose to play for Hugs for Alaina, a fundraiser for the 11-year-old daughter of Hartford offensive line coach Paul Shelsta.

Alaina has a rare disease known as GLUT 1 and Meinerz said he considers her an inspiration.

“The morning of the Senior Bowl, Quinn called me up and asked if he could put my daughter’s name on it,” Shelsta said. “He’s about to be drafted and be in the Senior Bowl and he’s thinking about my daughter’s situation. That was pretty special.”

Always preparing

In order to prepare for past seasons and for the Senior Bowl, Meinerz has spent his summers at his great uncle’s flying fishing camp in Canada. He tried to keep in shape before fall camp by bringing a weight set up to the island and also took advantage of dead trees and trash cans to simulate a “pancake block” and snapping a football.

“Those Canada workouts were able to help me a lot,” Meinerz said. “It shows how internally motivated I am to be the best at football or the best at whatever I am trying to do. That I am willing to do whatever it takes.”



UW-WHITEWATER ATHLETICS *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Known as “The Gut,” Quinn Meinerz, who played at Division 3 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, is hoping to be a second-day pick in the NFL draft.

He had the opportunity to play an unfamiliar position at center at the Senior Bowl practices. This past fall, the Warhawks had him at center for the first time, as they knew it would prepare him for the draft and help the team.

“Fortunately, that worked out for me because all the hard work I had done the last year kind of came to fruition,” Meinerz said. “I was able to snap a football and be very natural at it and progressed throughout the week.”

UW-Whitewater has had players bounce around the NFL like wide receiver Jake Kumerow and quarterback Matt Blanchard as well as guys who have gotten rookie tryouts with teams in the past. Meinerz has the chance to be the first Warhawk drafted since

wide receiver Derek Stanley went to the Rams in 2007.

“Ultimately, what that shows people is if you come to this program, you have a chance to be noticed,” Bullis said. “A lot of times if you go to Division 3, you don’t have a chance to be noticed. Warhawk football has proven very well that you can get noticed.”

Meinerz considers those players as well as other prior Division 3 draftees such as Super Bowl participant Ali Marpet and St. John’s offensive lineman Ben Bartch as motivation for him.

“Just to have those types of guys that have done it, and to believe that I can do it as well ... The motivation is huge because I am proud to be a Warhawk.”

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Mink

(Continued from page 5)

Viruses adapt to new hosts by mutating. Some mutations can help the virus spread faster, worsen the severity of disease, make it harder for the body to fight, or make therapeutics or vaccines less effective. That has come to pass recently: an apparently super-contagious variant first discovered in Britain is expected to become the dominant U.S. strain by March.

No evidence has emerged yet that farmed mink have infected people in the United States, though the investigation is ongoing. In Denmark, which was the world's biggest mink producer with 17 million animals, hundreds of farms were affected.

There, researchers found the virus

passed from people to mink and back again, mutating as it went. Some people got a genetic variant dubbed Cluster-5 that looked extra nasty, because the virus's spikes had changed in ways that made it harder for monoclonal antibody treatments to recognize the virus, at least in the lab.

Danish and Dutch governments ordered culls of their mink for fear of creating a new reservoir for the disease. By mid-November, Cluster-5 cases had stopped turning up and had, scientists guessed, dead-ended.

The mink variant turned out not as bad as feared — but the next one could be worse.

That is why a state advisory com-

mittee of health care experts in January recommended that an estimated 300 mink farm workers be included in the next phase of the vaccine rollout, citing the potential for dangerous mutation.

The mysteries of mutation

When deciding how much to freak out about a zoonotic virus, the details — like what hosts they prefer, how long they stick around, or how fast they can mutate — make all the difference.

"Some viruses hardly ever change, but a host can remain infected for decades. Others mutate at a furious rate and change to outpace our immune response," wrote Hon Ip, a virologist at the National Wildlife Health Center

in Madison, a lab that has been testing wild animals trapped near mink farms.

Ip and other scientists knew early on that mink might be susceptible to COVID-19, because they share some immune response similarities and a key lung receptor with people.

Said Poulsen: "We'd been at this super-high alert level. And they (mink farmers) were seeing thousands die per day."

They knew, too, that Wisconsin had a heck of a lot of mink. Last year it produced a million pelts, one-third of the U.S. total.

CDC teams began collecting samples from the people and the mink on affected farms, while U.S. Wildlife

Services live-trapped wild animals nearby. The two farms that were quarantined would not be released until all their tests were negative.

Tracking who gave what to whom will take some time. "Some of them are very, very clear," Poulsen said. "People became sick from community-acquired infection, and they gave it to the mink. But that's not all the cases."

The culling controversy

Animal health authorities in the United States could order mink culls, like in Europe. Wisconsin officials have done so for other outbreaks, like on deer farms stricken with chronic wasting disease, but never for a whole industry. That would require a complex legal process, and a mass quarantine of all farms.

The European situation differs in important ways, the industry says. Denmark had way more mink, and more farms — north of a thousand — in an area "a third the size of Wisconsin" Hildebrandt said, with a lot more people around.

By contrast, Wisconsin's few farms are mostly in sparsely populated rural areas.

Across Europe, millions of mink have died or been killed, the Dutch hastened a previously planned ban on fur farming, and France announced it would close its last four farms. Meanwhile, China, also the biggest market for mink fur, has seen the European culls as a market opportunity and stepped up breeding.

Officials also fear mink ranch escapes could infect the wild population. Hildebrandt said the harsh economics of fur farming mostly solved the escape issue. The price of a pelt, which always fluctuated with high fashion's whims, has for the past few years not even covered the roughly \$35 cost of raising the animal. Most ranches are now owned by large foreign companies that erect very secure fences.

But research by wildlife disease biologist Jeff Bowman and his Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources colleagues found that 64% of the mink they trapped near ranches were either captive or wild-captive hybrids.

"Our studies showed that there are potential pathways for (disease) spread from farms to other wildlife," Bowman said.

Germ concerns heightened

Because mink live in such tight quarters and are so vulnerable to disease, ranchers were careful about germs long before COVID-19 struck, Hildebrandt said. Some already required workers to shower before and after shifts.

Farms are now limiting, as much as possible, how much they move or handle the animals. At some ranches everyone arriving is photographed, to assist with contact tracing. Workers and visitors are distanced and masked up; some wear the paper suits that health care workers don.

The CDC sent a team to Wisconsin to run through safety procedures for workers and held a national webinar for mink ranchers. Government guidelines are all voluntary, except at the two quarantined farms.

Scientists are still assessing how much risk mink carcasses pose, Taylor said at the CDC's December webinar on zoonotic diseases. He said Utah requires the bodies be buried immediately in landfills, predators and scavengers kept away, and lined trucks disinfected.

The animals most at risk right now are captive mink. For them, people are the disease reservoir. Three companies are working on mink vaccines that may be ready by the spring, Hildebrandt said.

Some mink, he said, will be vaccinated before many of us are.

A version of this story first appeared in Sierra magazine. Wisconsin Watch investigations editor Jim Malewitz contributed to this report. 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

**TOWN OF DECATUR
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**
Thursday, February 25, 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. Park Road Speed Limit
9. Pinnacle Dairy Truck Route on Decatur Road
10. ATV/UTV Usage on Town Roads
11. Juda Fire Department Contract
12. WTA Convention/WTA Virtual District Meeting
13. New Vendor Account
14. Results of February 18, 2020 Election Audit Report from Government Accountability Board
15. Staffing
16. Roadwork
17. Sharing of Information/Correspondence
18. Future Agenda Items
19. Set Dates for Future Meetings
20. Adjournment

Jamie E. Olson
Clerk/Treasurer
The Independent Register
2/17/2021
WNAXLP 390174

ORDINANCE NUMBER 001-2021 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 95-11 B. OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BRODHEAD REGARDING REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

A full copy of this ordinance is available at the City of Brodhead City Hall, located at 1111 W 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, WI 53520, or by calling 608-897-4018.

Effect of Ordinance: Common council meetings will be held once a month on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Troy Nyman, Mayor
Attest: Nikolai Wahl, City Clerk
Date Adopted: 02/08/2021
Date Published: 02/17/2021
Effective Date: 02/08/2021
The Independent Register
2/17/2021
WNAXLP 390025

AGENDA BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Monday, February 22, 2021 DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM 7:00 P.M.

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET:
<https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-thn>
JOIN BY TELEPHONE:
+1 727-325-2066
(PIN: 996403637)

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - III. ROLL CALL
 - IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
- ### AGENDA
- VII. COVID-19 UPDATE
 - VIII. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH
 - IX. SNOW/INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS
 - X. ACCEPT DONATION(S)
 - XI. RESIGNATION(S)

XII. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

XIII. VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)

XIV. FUTURE AGENDA

XV. ROLL CALL VOTE TO CON-
VENE IN CLOSED SESSION
PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85
(1) (c)

a. Superintendent Search

XVI. ACTION ON CLOSED SES-
SION ITEMS

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Independent Register

2/17/2021

WNAXLP 390326

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
OF GREEN COUNTY, INC.,
A Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation
305 2nd Street
P.O. Box 398
Monroe, WI 53566

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHRISTINA TWAY

1202 E. 6th Avenue

Brodhead, WI 53520

and

UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF

CHRISTINA TWAY

1202 E. 6th Avenue

Brodhead, WI 53520,

Defendants.

Code No. 21-CV-21

Case: 30404 Foreclosure

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, to

Defendants Christina Tway and Un-

known Spouse of Christina Tway:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED

that the Plaintiff named above has

filed a lawsuit or other legal action

against you. Within forty (40) days

after February 17, 2021, you must

respond with a written demand for

a copy of the Complaint. The de-

mand must be sent or delivered to

the Court, whose address is: Green

County Clerk of Circuit Court,

Green County Justice Center, 2841

6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin

53566, and to Todd W. Schluesche,

Plaintiff's attorney, whose address

is: 250 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 106,

Monroe, Wisconsin 53566. You

may have an attorney help or re-

present you.

If you do not demand a copy of

the Complaint within forty (40) days

after February 17, 2021, the Court

may grant Judgment against you

for the award of money or other

legal action requested in the Com-

plaint, and you may lose your right

to object to anything that is or may

be incorrect in the Complaint. A

Judgment may be enforced as pro-

vided by law. A Judgment awarding

money may become a lien against

any real estate you may own now

or in the future, and may also be

enforced by garnishment or seizure

of property.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2021.

SCHLUESCHE FIELDS, S.C.,
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Habitat for Humanity
of Green County, Inc.
By: Electronically signed by
Todd W. Schluesche
Todd W. Schluesche
State Bar No. 01024392

Address:
250 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 106
Monroe, WI 53566
Phone: 608-325-2500
The Independent Register
2/17, 2/24, 3/3/2021
WNAXLP 390308

Proceedings of School District of Brodhead

City of Brodhead, Towns of Avon, Spring Grove, Decatur, Sylvester,

Spring Valley and Magnolia

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

President - Mike Krupke; **Vice President** - Jim Wahl; **Clerk** - Michael Oellerich;

Treasurer - Al Schneider; Dan Calhoun; Jodi Kail

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office Board Room

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Board President Mike Krupke at 7:00

p.m. The meeting agenda was published in the Wednesday, January 20,

2021 edition of the Independent Register.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Krupke, Jim Wahl, Michael Oellerich, Al Schneider, Eliza-

beth Kempel, Jodi Kail, and Don Buchanan

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to approve the

agenda. Motion carried, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting: January 13, 2021

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes were declared approved as

printed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD [SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY]

AGENDA ITEMS

PROGRAM PRESENTATION -

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Principal Lisa Semrow presented information on Junior

Achievement ("JA"). JA is a nonprofit organization that provides age-

appropriate curriculum centered around financial literacy, entrepreneurship,

and work and career readiness. Annette Smith presented how she incor-

porates Junior Achievement into her Careers class.

APPROVAL OF SPORTS CO-OP RENEWALS

Motion by Al Schneider, second by Don Buchanan, to approve the sports

co-op renewals as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

SET OPEN ENROLLMENT SEAT LIMITS FOR 2021-22

Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Jodi Kail, to approve the recom-

mendation there be no seat limits set for the 2021-22 school year. Motion

carried, 7-0.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Superintendent Lueck presented an update regarding the COVID-19

pandemic. Unfortunately, the plan to vaccinate staff did not occur as

planned today. Mercy notified the District they were out of vaccines prior

to noon. There is no information available yet on a definitive timeframe for

when staff will be able to get vaccinated.

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Jodi Kail, to adopt the plan for a

return to full face-to-face instruction at the High School consistent with the

recommendation presented by Principal Matthys.

Motion carried, 7-0.

SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEW

QUESTIONS

The Board reviewed and revised interview questions from the prior Su-

perintendent interview process.

ACCEPT DONATION(S)

None at this time.

RESIGNATION(S)

None at this time.

EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to approve the

hiring of Jodi McIntyre as Accounts Payable Clerk/Payroll Benefits Spe-

cialist, at the rate of \$20.75/hour, beginning February 10, 2021.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)

None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA [February 10, 2021]

• Approve Summer School Timelines & Guidelines

• COVID-19 Update

• Superintendent Search Process

• High School Presentation

• Accept Donation(s)

• Resignation(s)

• Employment Recommendation(s)

• Volunteer Recommendation(s)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jim Wahl, second by Al Schneider, to adjourn the meeting at

7:54 p.m. Motion carried, 7-0.

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2/17/2021
WNAXLP 390327

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Adventures in agriculture

There's plenty of agricultural goodness to share

It is hard to believe it has already been over six months since I started my term as the 73rd Alice in Dairyland. This year has been unexpectedly challenging with many events canceled and working virtually from home. It has also been adventurous in ways I could never have expected with bringing a virtual audience into my home, sharing my favorite recipes, and learning so much from farmers across the state of Wisconsin.

Having six months under my belt, I wanted to reflect on some of the things I have experienced while promoting Wisconsin's \$104.8 billion agriculture industry.

After the 73rd Alice in Dairyland finals took place virtually in June, I was eager to begin my role as Alice in July. My year started off differently than many other Alices before me, not only was it the middle of a pandemic, but my term began in July instead of June. This change allowed me to develop my skills before traveling and shifted my year to end with the busiest promotion Alice in Dairyland has, June Dairy Month.

I started touring various agribusinesses across Wisconsin including an ethanol production facility, a lavender farm, dairy farms, goat farms, a cranberry bog, a farm-to-table restaurant, and more. With many of the large



By **JULIA NUNES**
Contributor

events Alice would normally attend being canceled (Wisconsin State Fair, World Dairy Expo, etc.), I am so thankful that I was still able to explore diverse farms and learn from the farmers who care for much of Wisconsin's land, animals and resources.

From the beginning, I knew that I wanted to connect with Wisconsin consumers through social media. We re-imagined our social media outreach by creating cooking videos, hosting virtual events and conducting media interviews all from home.

So far, I have hosted two virtual events, the Apple Crunch to highlight locally produced food, and the First Christmas Tree Cutting to kick off the Christmas tree season. I have also greatly enjoyed featuring various Wisconsin products while sharing some of my favorite recipes through my Wisconsin Homestyle Kitchen cooking videos on social media.

Sharing Wisconsin's diverse agricultural products and programs with consumers on social media

and through television and radio interviews has been a highlight of my year. My promotions so far have included a wide variety of activities like going "live" from the Wisconsin State Fair Park and creating a pork ribs cooking video using Wisconsin pork.

I was able to highlight the many uses of chocolate milk, the official beverage of Halloween, and showcase many different products in the Something Special from Wisconsin program. I've also been working with the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin - Badgerland Council to implement a dairy badge program.

I am especially thankful for Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin's help in creating a video farm tour of my family's dairy farm to share our pride and promote Wisconsin's dairy industry.

In response to the challenges presented in 2020 and continuing into 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has asked me to serve an additional year as Alice in Dairyland. This is a unique opportunity as Alice in Dairyland has always been a one-year term. I have agreed to serve an additional term during the 74th year of the Alice in Dairyland program.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year as we navigate through these unprecedented times, hoping 2021 will allow many of the activities and events to return that were dearly missed in 2020. From award winning cheeses, to unique commodities like ginseng, mink pelts, dry whey, and cranberries, I am excited to continue promoting Wisconsin's



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The 73rd Alice in Dairyland, Julia Nunes, helps out at Wisconsin State Fair Park, promoting the State Fair Food Drive Thru in 2020. Nunes will serve a second term as Alice in Dairyland because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

diverse agricultural products as the 74th Alice in Dairyland.

Julia Nunes is serving as the 73rd Alice in Dairyland. As Wisconsin's agriculture ambassador, her goal is to educate

audiences across Wisconsin about the \$104.8 billion economic impact and importance of the state's diverse agriculture industry.

For more information, visit aliceindairyland.com.

Main Street Monroe hosts online bingo

Organizers at Main Street Monroe are offering online bingo for families at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25.

"Nearly everything we do is geared toward families and we wanted to do something that would be a fun night in for a family of any size and age," Jordan Nordby, Main Street Monroe executive director, said in a news release.

The link to receive bingo cards will be made available on Main Street's Facebook page, facebook.com/MainStreetMonroe, when the event starts. Anyone with a Facebook page will be able to play and the same account could have more than one card if multiple devices are used.

Organizers recommend playing on a desktop or laptop and not a mobile device so that the video and bingo card may both be pulled up. There will be prizes and multiple winners per game.

For more information, call 608-328-4023.

Free workshop addresses bladder, bowel control issues

"Mind Over Matter: Healthy Bowels, Healthy Bladder" is a new workshop being offered through the Green County Aging & Disability Resource Center.

The sessions are designed to give women, age 50 and older, the tools they need to take control of their bladder and bowel symptoms. Health of-

officials say more than half of women over age 50 experience issues with bladder or bowel control.

The workshop will provide information, group activities and simple exercises and dietary changes to practice at home.

"Mind Over Matter" will consist of three, two-hour sessions from 5

p.m. to 7 p.m. March 4, March 18 and April 1 virtually via Zoom. A Zoom practice session will take place on Feb. 25.

This workshop is free. Pre-registration is necessary and spots are limited.

To learn more or to register, contact the Green County Aging & Disability Resource Center at 608-328-9499.

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"I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil."
— FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany, 3rd paragraph

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