

# Independent Register

608-897-2193

SHOPPING NEWS

917 W. EXCHANGE STREET, BRODHEAD, WI 53520

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

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## Music, food and fun on tap in downtown Monroe

Main Street Monroe is offering music and fun with the Concerts on the Square Summer Block Party, which kicks off Friday, July 16.

A variety of food booths will be available during the events. All shows feature the Main Street Beer Garden and a second beer station, plus extended serving hours.

The entertainment lineup includes:

- Friday, July 16: Wheelhouse, a nationally touring Americana and bluegrass band

from Madison. Frank Busch and friends open at 6:30 p.m.

- Friday, July 30: Random Maxx, a Milwaukee-favorite cover band. The show starts at 6:30 p.m.

- Saturday, Aug. 21: An afternoon-into-evening show will be featured on the north side of the Green County Courthouse. The lineup features three separate acts, including polkas and accordions, doo-wop and an ABBA tribute band. A tentative start time is 2 p.m.

- Friday, Sept. 17: The Jim-

mys, 2020 Best of Madison winner for Best Local Blues Band and Best Local R&B Band. The show will start at 6:30 p.m.

Colony Brands serves as the underwriter for the concert series and the John and Katie Baumann Inspiration Project is funding intermission entertainment and other activities.

For the latest updates, follow Main Street Monroe Inc. on Facebook and Instagram or go online to MainStreetMonroe.org.



PHOTO COURTESY MAIN STREET MONROE Brodhead Independent-Register  
Main Street Monroe's Concerts on the Square series kicks off Friday, July 16. Theme nights, special guests and a variety of musical genres will be featured.

## Going places: County program offers shuttle

By Mary Hookham  
CORRESPONDENT

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Green County is offering a chance for adults to get out this summer without having to worry about driving themselves. Through the ADRC's transportation options, anybody can take advantage of travel dates and locations.

"Although our vehicles are handicap accessible, this transportation is for anybody," said Morgan Kennison, aging programs coordinator at the Green County ADRC.

Starting July 1, the ADRC's shuttle service will have a new schedule:

- Second and fourth Wednesday, pickup in Belleville, New Glarus and Monticello with drop-off in Monroe. \$5 fee.

- First and third Wednesday, pickup in Albany, Brodhead and Juda with drop-off in Mon-

roe. \$5 fee.

- First Thursday, pickup in Monroe, Monticello and New Glarus with drop-off on the west side of Madison. \$13 fee.

- Third Thursday, pickup in Monroe, Monticello, New Glarus and Belleville with drop-off on the east side of Madison. \$13 fee.

- Second and fourth Thursday, pickup in Monroe, Juda, Brodhead and Albany with drop-off in Janesville. \$10 fee.

"We want to be here to help people get around," Kennison said. "Public transportation isn't really an option around southern Wisconsin, so we want to help people in surrounding communities get where they need to go at a reasonable price."

The ADRC also offers a volunteer driver escort program. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to take passengers shopping and to appointments.

There is a small co-pay for each trip, which helps cover the cost of volunteer driver reimbursement at the Internal Revenue Service reimbursement rate.

"There is no set schedule for the escort program," Kennison said. "Passengers can call the ADRC and then we will coordinate with a driver."

The ADRC is always looking for qualified drivers, she noted.

"We are trying to remind people we're out here," she said. "We just started our shuttle service back up after COVID, but the volunteer driver escort program continued to provide rides through COVID."

To learn more about available transportation services, fees and volunteer driving opportunities, go online to adrcgreencounty.org, call the ADRC at 608-328-9499 or check out the monthly newsletter called The Bridge.

## Main Street Monroe notches accreditation status

Main Street Monroe Inc. has been designated as an accredited Main Street program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of accredited programs to "recognize their

exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach," according to a news release.

"We are proud to recognize this year's nationally accredited

Main Street programs that have worked tirelessly to advance economic vitality and quality of life in their downtowns and commercial districts," Patrice Frey, president and CEO of

See MAIN, Page 3

## Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a big deal.



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# Area bank appoints new chairman

After nearly 50 years of service to State Bank of Cross Plains, Charles L. Saeman is stepping down from one of his two chairman roles associated with the bank. While Saeman will continue as chairman of the bank's holding company, S.B.C.P. Bancorp Inc., the board of directors has unanimously appointed Vernon

Jesse as the new chairman of the board for SBCP. Jesse has been an active director for both the bank and the holding company since 2015. The bank has area locations in New Glarus, Belleville and Brooklyn. An attorney serving the greater Madison community for 32 years, Jesse has been with the law firm of

Murphy Desmond S.C. since 1999. "His substantial expertise representing real estate and corporate clients provides insight to many different facets of the bank's business," a news release said. "During his tenure to date, Jesse has been instrumental in improving the customer experience for bank customers and providing long-term

value to shareholders." "We have an awesome board filled with amazing people," SBCP President & CEO Jim Tubbs said in the release. "Vern stood out as the clear choice to lead this organization. His historical knowledge of the bank, his expertise within the industry, his background as an attorney

and his absolute integrity will be appreciated at every level of bank interactions." The personnel move provides for a seamless transition in anticipation of Saeman's retirement next year, the release said. For more information about State Bank of Cross Plains, go online to [SBCP.bank](http://SBCP.bank).

## Obituaries

**WILLIAM E. 'BILL' PERKINS SR.**  
William E. "Bill" Perkins Sr., age 79, of Brodhead, passed away on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, Wisconsin. He was born March 21, 1942, in Shirland, Illinois, the son of Edward and Audrey (Dhom) Perkins. He married the love of his life, Sheila Kay Rude, on Aug. 18, 1978, in Brodhead.



and Rebecca "Becky" Vance; sisters, Rosemary (Ramon) Blaubaum and Ruth Ann (Dave) Nordeng; a brother, Steve Perkins; 11 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his

**TONY E. ZIMMERMAN**  
Tony E. Zimmerman, age 46, of New Glarus, passed away on Sunday, June 20, 2021. He was born on June 22, 1974, in Rockford, Illinois, the son of Richard and Kathryn (Brown) Pike. He married Sheridy Lund on March 27, 2004, in Brodhead.



Tony had served in fire service and as an EMT for 28 years.

He was an avid hunter. He appreciated a good sunset and enjoyed camping, fishing, traveling, cooking and working with his hands, watching a project develop. He was a jack of most trades and could build or fix most things. The most important part of his life was the love of his family, including his nieces and nephews.

Bill graduated from Parkview High School. He enjoyed going to flea markets and collecting and selling antiques. He was also a driver for the Amish community.

Bill is survived by his wife of 43 years, Sheila; his children, Mary (Chris) Davidson, Doug (Jenn) Brosier, Bill Perkins Jr., Mary (Doug) Scott

Tony was a maintenance technician for Emmi Roth of Monroe, Wisconsin. He had been recognized as the American Legion Firefighter of the Year for the Brodhead Fire Department, District 1 and state of Wisconsin in 2016. More recently, Tony had been a firefighter for the Fitchburg, Wisconsin Fire Department.

He is survived by his wife, Sheridy; his mother, Kathy Gal-

vin; children, Tanner (Danielle Zuleger), Isabelle, Isaac and Eloise Zimmerman; a sister, Katrina (Steven Krause) Zimmerman; and in-laws, Ginger and Randy Riese. He was preceded in death by his father, maternal grandparents and a son, Turner.

A visitation was held Sunday, June 27, 2021, at the D.L. Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead. Funeral services were held Monday, June 28, at the Living Word Church in Brodhead.

A memorial fund will be established. Online condolences may be made at [www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com).

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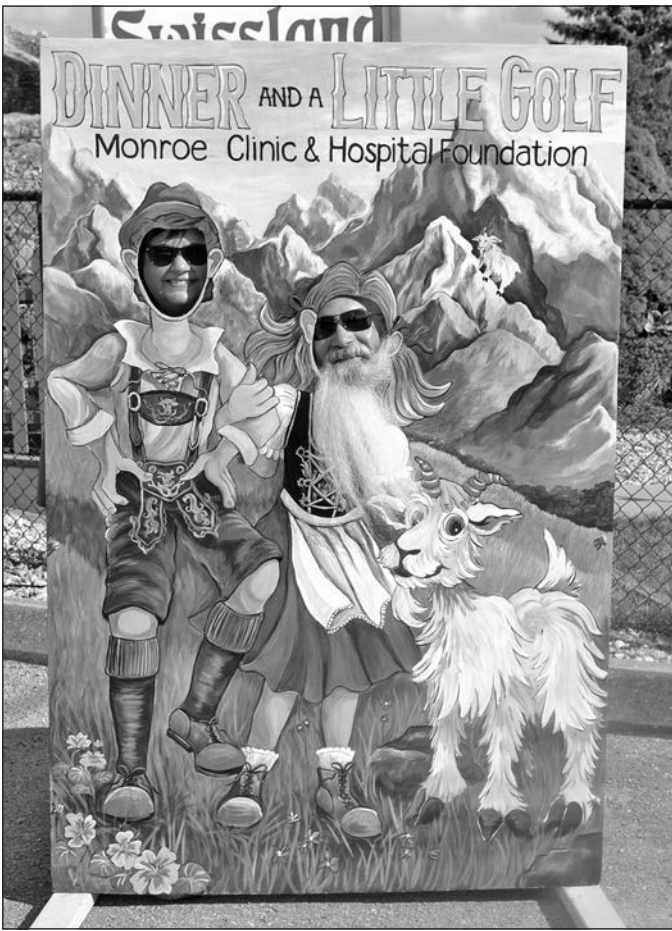
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PHOTOS SUBMITTED Brodhead Independent-Register

## Little Golf raises big money for hospice

Above right, Jane Sybers, executive director of the Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation, thanks attendees at the June 15 Little Golf event for their support. The miniature golf outing, dinner and live auction raised more than \$60,000 for Monroe Clinic Hospice services, according to a news release. The golfers played at Swissland Miniature Golf and enjoyed dinner under a tent at the Chalet Landhaus Inn, both in New Glarus. Hans Lenzlinger and family underwrote the cost of the event, resulting in all of the money raised going directly to local hospice services, according to the release. Above left, golfers from the Monroe Truck team pose at the photo board during the fundraiser.

# Into the shadows

## Ghost hunter shares experience at historic Brodhead hotel

By Janet Cook  
CONTRIBUTOR

First, a bit of history about the ghost hunt location, which is the old Harris House/Flynn's Steak House, now Payne's Pub. Built in the late 1860s, the building was home to three floors and a basement. The main floor was a restaurant and the top two floors were the local hotel.

John and Lena Bellon once owned this historical building and had planned to restore the building to its original hotel. They had also heard of the supposedly legendary ghosts who took up residence there as well. Mrs. Bellon soon realized that those spirits did exist. When walking down the hallway she would be touched on the shoul-

der, and in the lower dining room she saw shadows passing by her in the hallway. Each time, there was no one in the building but her, or she thought.

The Harrises bought the building in 1968. Their nephew (whom I have had contact with), spent much time working there. He soon became a stout believer that the building was haunted. He shared experiences of many unusual noises. He has seen a figure of someone standing in the doorway to the dining room and then quickly vanishing. There was a time a briefcase was turned upside down and papers strewn everywhere. This happened at a time when the Harrises were talking of selling the building. Another instance was when he

was going to go to the basement, but when opening the door, a woman was standing at the bottom of the stairs.

Other employees of the Harrises shared with me their experiences as well, including a woman standing at top of stairs leading to second floor. (Later a person was seen leaving and caught by police. I believe the spirit saved the employee from getting hurt by scaring her away from entering the second floor.) Another past employee shared with me the miraculous prepping of a Sunday meal at the restaurant that she did not make. Yet upon entering the kitchen, the meal was ready.

Past ghost hunts have revealed the absolute existence of the spiritual world at this lo-

cation, even as Flynn's Steakhouse, and still today.

Past hunts have resulted in our encounters with John (once the building caretaker, and now a sometime evil mean spirit). I myself have seen him one time in figure form when he passed through the walls and visited me at Fibs North. He has brushed past me numerous times, always in a cool and freaky setting.

Victoria is a beautiful lady who usually stays on the third floor, still wooing over her visiting salesman who frequented the hotel. Still today he visits her in the ghostly form, then watches the trains from the back third-floor balcony.

See SHADOWS, Page 4

## Cost share program open to organic food producers

Organic food producers and processors have until Oct. 31 to apply for reimbursement of costs related to organic certification through the USDA National Organic Program. In Wisconsin, this federal funding is administered through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Farms and businesses that produce, process or package certified organic agricultur-

al products are eligible to be reimbursed for 50 percent of certification-related costs (up to \$500 per category of certification) for expenses paid from Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021. Farms and businesses must be located in Wisconsin and currently certified as organic or actively seeking certification through an accredited organization during that time.

Applications materials and instructions can be found on-

line at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Organic Cost Share program webpage by going to [datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing\\_WI/OrganicFarmingAndFood.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/OrganicFarmingAndFood.aspx).

Applications must be mailed to DATCP-DAD, Organic Cost Share Program, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708 or emailed to [datcporganiccostshare@wi.gov](mailto:datcporganiccostshare@wi.gov).

For more information about the cost share program, contact Andrew Bernhardt, organic agriculture programs specialist, at [datcporganiccostshare@wi.gov](mailto:datcporganiccostshare@wi.gov) or 608-572-0512.

The funding for this popular program originated in the 2002 Federal Farm Bill and was renewed in the 2014 Federal Farm Bill. Funding comes from the federal government through the USDA National Organic Program.

## • Main (Continued from front page)

Main Street America, said in the release. "During an incredibly challenging year, these programs demonstrated the power of the Main Street movement to drive impressive local recovery efforts, champion small businesses and foster vibrant downtown districts.

"I am inspired by their hard work and confident that these accredited communities will continue to help their downtowns flourish in the next stag-

es of recovery."

In 2020, Main Street America programs generated \$4.14 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 4,356 net new businesses, generated 14,988 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 8,488 historic buildings and clocked 983,702 volunteer hours.

Main Street Monroe's performance is evaluated annually by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., which

works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet 10 national performance standards.

Main Street Monroe's last year has largely been defined by its LIVE! shopping nights that generated more than \$85,000 for locally owned stores, the release said. Main Street Monroe covered all processing fees and promotional expenses. Stores kept all the sales with Main Street sending

out 1,252 invoices.

The online events totaled 91,000 organic (unpaid) views on Facebook and required 125 volunteer hours.

Additionally, another \$30,000 was generated with Main Street Monroe's Share the Love gift certificate program that also was created to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Main Street Monroe has been nationally accredited every year since 2015.

## In brief

### Juda-Albany girls reach state softball touney

The Juda-Albany varsity softball squad ran right through the playoffs to reach the 2021 Wisconsin State Softball Tournament. The girls were scheduled to play Blair-Taylor on June 29 (after press time for the Independent-Register.)

After finishing the regular season near the middle of the Six Rivers-East Conference, Juda-Albany got hot at the right time, making an historic postseason run. They outscored their opponents 17-12 in what were four exciting playoff matchups.

The most exciting win of all came in a 1-0 showdown against Iowa-Grant in the sectional championship.

### Schwartzlow reunion set in Brodhead

The Schwartzlow reunion will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 10, at Putnam Park in Brodhead.

Attendees should bring a dish to pass. Table service, chicken, ham and bottled water will be provided.

For more information, call Rita (Ringhand) Vickers at 608-897-2082.

### School board seeks member for vacancy

The Albany School Board has a vacancy for the remainder of a term that ends in April 2022. The appointee could then run for re-election if desired.

Applicants must send a cover letter and a resume or summary of information about themselves to boardmembers@albany.k12.wi.us. For more information, contact board President Steve Elliott at [steve.elliott@albany.k12.wi.us](mailto:steve.elliott@albany.k12.wi.us)

### Orfordville student earns degree at Stout

Brookelynn Weeks of Orfordville graduated recently from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie.

Weeks earned a bachelor of science degree in hotel, restaurant and tourism management with a minor in hospitality, security and risk management.

### Golf outing benefits Brodhead athletics

The 21st annual Brodhead Athletics Golf Benefit is set for Saturday, July 31, at Evansville Golf Course. Golfers may enter in the masters, men's, women's or co-ed divisions.

The event includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, prizes and a buffet dinner. People may also opt to register for dinner only for a chance at prizes.

Registration is requested by July 16.

For a registration form, email Brodhead High School Athletic Director Brian Kammerer at [bkammerer@brodhead.k12.wi.us](mailto:bkammerer@brodhead.k12.wi.us) or go to Brodhead Athletics Facebook page.

## Albany Comet News

### THURSDAY, JULY 1

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 2

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 3

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JULY 4

-Happy 4th of July!  
-Albertson Memorial Library closed

### MONDAY, JULY 5

-Albany Village Hall closed  
-Albertson Memorial Library closed

### TUESDAY, JULY 6

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

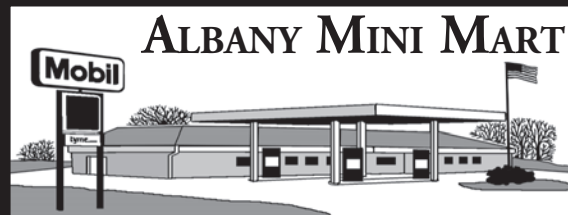
### WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- Denotes a community event.

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

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# 'Give Blood to Give Time'

## Blood donations needed as cancer patients resume care

The American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society have teamed up this June to encourage people across the country to "Give Blood to Give Time" and help ensure loved ones have the strength and support they need as they undergo cancer treatment.

According to the American Cancer Society, many patient visits and procedures were forced to delay or cancel early in the pandemic to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. With procedures resuming, blood donations are critical for cancer treatments.

Unfortunately, the Red Cross is seeing fewer blood and platelet donors give as the nation begins to climb out of this pandemic. This downturn comes at a time when the Red Cross continues to see strong demand for blood products including platelets by hospitals, causing concern for the sufficiency of the blood supply this summer.

The Red Cross has an emergency need for eligible donors to make an appointment now to give platelets to ensure critical patient needs are met. Platelets, the clotting portion of blood primarily given to cancer patients during treatment, must be transfused within five days of donation and, therefore, are always in great demand.

"Many cancer patients, especially those going through chemotherapy, will have a need for blood products during treatment," said Dr. Baia Lasky, medical director for the Red Cross, said in a news release. "When someone donates blood or platelets, they may not only help prevent life-threatening bleeding that can cause stroke or relieve some symptoms, like shortness of breath and headaches, but also give patients and their families the time and hope they need to fight back."

Some types of chemotherapy can damage bone marrow, reducing red blood cell and platelet production. Other times, the cancer itself or surgical procedures cause the need for blood products. About six blood products are needed every minute

to help someone going through cancer treatment. Yet only 3% of people in the United States give blood.

"The need for blood in cancer treatments is an important and untold story," said Howard Byck, senior vice president of corporate and sports alliances, American Cancer Society. "The American Cancer Society is excited to be working with the Red Cross on Give Blood to Give Time. Through this partnership, we want people to know there are multiple ways they can help and make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and their families."

### Cancer takes so much

In August 2016, Myel Bowers-Smith received an unexpected and life-changing medical diagnosis. What she thought was an infection from a mosquito bite was actually stage 4 inflammatory breast cancer. The cancer was a very rare and aggressive breast carcinoma that spread from her breast to her lymph nodes on the left side of her body.

"I just knew something wasn't right with my body," she said.

Bowers-Smith was determined to keep a positive attitude even when her treatments left her feeling sick for days at a time, unable to eat and extremely fatigued.

"I received five different chemotherapy treatments and steroids. I also received multiple plasma and platelet transfusions. I would be in the hospital bed for hours receiving treatments," she said.

After months of treatment, Bowers-Smith was told her cancer was in remission in February 2017.

"I was more than excited because I survived. I won, and it was time to get my life back! This couldn't defeat me," she said.

Bowers-Smith recognizes the role of blood products in her recovery and now encourages others to give.

"Everyone needs someone, and this is your time to help someone who needs your blood

or platelets. Be a blessing," she said. "Eligible donors, you have something good — which is your blood. A pint of blood can help save lives, and you never know if you or someone you love would need donated blood or platelet products."

### Health insights for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies through July 24. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms.

Testing may also identify the presence of antibodies developed after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is also screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease.

Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive antibody test and sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

### Blood drive safety

The Red Cross has updated



STOCK PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

American Red Cross officials say blood and platelet donations are especially critical now, as many cancer treatments have resumed with the easing of pandemic conditions.

its pandemic safety protocols in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Fully vaccinated individuals, including staff and donors, no longer need to wear masks or socially distance. Unvaccinated individuals continue to be required to wear masks and socially distance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

### About blood donation

To make a blood donation appointment or get more infor-

mation, download the American Red Cross blood donor app, go online to RedCrossBlood.org, call 800-733-2767 or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health

may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive.

To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

## • Shadows (Continued from page 3)

Always look up; he may just let you see him one day. (The spirits determine who and when they will be seen by us.)

### The hunt

It's now May 14, 2021. There is a waxing crescent moon and the skies are cloudy. I am present with the Lost Souls in the Shadows paranormal group.

Our equipment includes a spirit box, REM pod, 4k night vision camera, dowsing rods, SLS camera, thermo camera, electromagnetic field meter and more.

The spiritual connections are open.

### 8:30 p.m.

The door is unlocked. We all ascend the stairs leading to the second floor. The old wood stairs, creaking as we go, show years of use. Equipment is laid out on the north bar room. A brief walk-through takes place, familiarizing everyone of the layout before it gets dark. Flashlights are refreshed with batteries and are our only means of lighting through the hallways and past the old hotel rooms once darkness is upon us. Time passes.

Equipment is placed in multiple locations. The REM pod is positioned in the hallway leading to the south hotel rooms. Everything is still.

Time passes. We move to the room west of the bar. Immediately there is a distinct feeling of presence, something or someone is watching. We are not alone. But what or who? Questions are asked. Stillness continues. There is nothing but an uneasy feeling of presence. Time passes.

### About 9 p.m.

A few of us walk down the hallway toward the south end of building. The quiet is eerie. We ask if anyone is there, but there is only silence.

After some time we turn around and proceed down hall,

heading north. There is a walk-in style door at the hallway end. If opened entirely, it will slightly partially close from a weight on the back of the door. All is good.

Time passes. The REM pod takes a hit and the light on it flickers. Someone is now with us.

Walking past it, I again approached the walk-in door. When I am ready to walk through it, the door briskly is closed — and not gently. Someone doesn't want us there. The REM pod lights up more.

Questions are asked: Who are you? Are you John? Are you Victoria? Lights flicker then go dim. (John was once a caretaker of the hotel, who is quite ghostly active on a regular basis. Victoria is a beautiful lady who worked at the hotel.)

Time passes. REM pod continues to take hits. Yet there is no communication other than the REM pod, but we certainly are not alone.

The EMF meter begins to light up. Yes, we have company.

A few members of the team return to the room west of bar, the same room where we earlier had a distinct feeling of presence. This time there was a good 10-degree temperature change. Dowsing rods were brought in. (We made contact with) a young lad whose name is Jerimiah. With asking of questions and his response through the rods, it was determined he was 8 to 15 years old and that he liked "hanging out" at that building.

Yes we made contact, and with someone nice. Jerimiah seemed to like our presence as well. After a while his energy faded, making it impossible for him to continue enacting with us. Things are now quiet.

Time passes. We return to the bar and decide to take a few pictures. While taking the picture, orbs would swiftly appear then very quickly disappear. In previous hunts, the bar always was a hot spot for orbs.

Time passes.

At about 9:30 p.m. two members of the team went into the northeast hotel room. They took along the SLS camera. The camera screen will show form if a spirit is within its view. Time passes. Bam! There it is! Guessing it must have been a very tall person at one time. Our 6'4" team member stood next to it, and it towered over him. The spirit laid his hand on our member. Only a few minutes pass and the other form disappeared.

A spirit decides when and if they want to be seen by us. They are energy, and I am sure it took an enormous amount to show us him.

Time passes.

We again all meet up in the bar room. A recorder had been placed in one of the southeast hotel rooms. When we got the digital voice recorder back to the bar room it was still turned on, and was playing. Music was playing ever so softly. And it wasn't music from Payne's Pub downstairs. I'm guessing Victoria was playing music while waiting for her salesman to show.

Time passes.

Some team members wander to the south rooms again. In the far right room there is an immediate temperature change. A very uneasy feeling goes through us and gives us chills. We leave the room. We had a very cold and unfriendly presence with us.

Time passes.

At midnight a cool rush of air travels through the south halls. All of the equipment goes dark; all the equipment is drained. The spirits were in much need of energy, and that's exactly what they did — zapped it from our batteries etc.

It's time for the ghost hunt to end — for now. They are among us. We will be back.

If you notice suspicious activity or ghosts hanging out at your business, contact Lost Souls in the Shadows at lostsoulsintheshadows2019@gmail.com.



## GUN SHOW

**JULY 16, 17 & 18**

Fri. 4-9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Winnebago County Fairgrounds • Pecatonica, IL

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399087

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PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE. [indreg.com](http://indreg.com)

399088

# Is the state school funding formula broken?

## Wisconsin school districts keep begging voters for more money

By Heather Graves  
PRESS TIMES  
CORRESPONDENT

The results of the referendum that would bring \$1 billion over 30 years to the Racine Unified School District – and allow the district to revamp buildings dating back to the Civil War – came down to just five votes.

On April 7, 2020, voters approved the referendum by this impossibly thin margin. Little more than two weeks later, observers gathered in Festival Hall and held their collective breath as they watched the recount of 33,315 ballots.

Racine Unified School Board president Brian O'Connell said it felt like watching the final seconds of a championship. After six rounds of ballot counting, the results were final: The referendum had passed.

It was a hard-fought campaign for the referendum, O'Connell recalled, one that met staunch opposition from HOT (Honest, Open and

Transparent) Government, the same group that would later challenge the five-vote victory, appealing all the way to the state Supreme Court.

School officials are awaiting a final verdict from the high court before they break ground on the full slate of projects the referendum money would fund.

Despite its hefty \$1 billion price tag, the district says the measure is not projected to increase the property tax rate – although any increase in assessed value will raise individual tax bills.

For now, referendum advocates in Racine applaud increased tax dollars that will allow the district to “right-size” by closing under-enrolled schools, refurbishing and expanding others, and adding new technology, including a science, technology, engineering, arts and math school.

O'Connell said there was no other way to raise the money.

“I think that’s why you see so many school districts, big and small, urban and rural, going to referendum,” he said. “If you find a school district that’s been able to raise money without going to referendum, please let me know.”

### Referendum questions common

Increasingly, school districts in Wisconsin are forced to ask voters for approval to pay for everything from maintenance of old school buildings and construction of new schools to employee pay.

Since 2016, more than seven out of every 10 of Wisconsin’s 421 school districts have gone to referendum, with two-thirds of those ballot measures passing, said Ari Brown, a researcher with the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

The frequency with which districts in Wisconsin exceed state-imposed revenue limits shows the nearly



LEA KOPKE/PRESS TIMES *Brodhead Independent-Register*

**Dennis Krueger, superintendent of the West De Pere School District, stands in the district’s new intermediate school, approved by voters in 2018. Krueger said going to referendum was the only way to raise enough money to pay for the new school, which is needed to accommodate growth in enrollment.**

30-year-old state funding formula is failing to keep up with present-day needs, school officials say.

Prior to 1993, local school districts generally had the authority to raise as much as they deemed necessary and have the local taxpayers to cover it, with the state covering a certain percentage, Brown said. But that year, the Wisconsin Legislature imposed revenue limits in response to concerns by lawmakers and members of the public about rapidly rising tax bills to fund schools.

The limits are based on a complicated formula that takes into account the assessed property in the district, the size of enrollment and past revenue, Brown said. State aid can decrease as property values increase or if student enrollment decreases.

Places like Gibraltar in Door County rely more heavily on property taxes to pay for schools, because the district is considered “property rich,” with 83.8 percent of its operating budget in

2020 coming from property taxes. Districts like Beloit rely more on state aid, because property taxes cover a smaller percentage, 2.5% of its operating budget in 2020.

And proposals by former state superintendent and current Democratic Gov. Tony Evers to change the system – and vastly increase state funding to education – have been rebuffed by the GOP-

run Legislature.

### Money dries up as enrollment drops

Brown said while the per pupil state aid has increased over time, the rate has not kept up with inflation. From the 2009-10 school year to 2018-19, inflation rose 17%, while the state average

*See FUNDING, Page 6*



BEN RODGERS/PRESS TIMES *Brodhead Independent-Register*

**Howard-Suamico School Superintendent Damian LaCroix flips through minutes from a community meeting held in the Town of Pittsfield on Nov. 15, 1856, which created the area’s first school – and the taxes to pay for it. Increasingly, school districts in Wisconsin must seek voter approval for spending when the state revenue cap and funding formula leave them short.**

## Parkview names fourth-quarter honor students

Officials at Parkview High School recently released the list of students named to honor rolls for the fourth quarter.

Highest honor students earned a 4.0 GPA. High honor students earned a GPA between 3.99 and 3.50, while honorable mention students earned a GPA between 3.49 and 3.0.

### Highest honors

- Seniors: Avery Crane, Owen Knox, Olivia Marcelus, Luke Schwengels, Sarah Task

- Juniors: Kassandra Clint, Olivia Cox, Brooklyn Creceilius, Khloe Creceilius, Tobias Engle, Kelly Hudson, Dayle Kath, Cora Schutte

- Sophomores: none
- Freshmen: Sydney Brown, Owen Collins, Elizabeth Huber, Allison Johnson, Ian Soderstrom, Cassandra Spencer, Carter Uppenkamp, Jazmyn Wiedmer

- Eighth-graders: Rafe Bjoin, Ryan Douglas, Emily Femyer, Kathryn Klassy, Michael Sanders
- Seventh-graders: none

### High honors

- Seniors: August Pautsch, Kylie Redman, Siddalee Mey-

ers, Alexandra Lloyd, Rachel Hammes, Abbigayle Butzler, Ashlyn Mabie, Jennifer Ballmer, Brianna Gaulin, Grace Groetken, Corey Wettstein, Payton Stark, Andrea Jack-son, Tyler Oswald, Blair Lewis, Travis Pulaski, Gabriella Zomok, Isaiah Myhre, Ariana Humphres, Kennedy Olson, Gage Everson

- Juniors: Megan Heisz, Bryson Kjelland, Alexander Brown, Brynn Menke, Jenna Olin, Xylie Teeman, Jenna Hume, Emily Kjelland, Emma Nelson, Cally Burrell, Treyton Oswald, Christina Stark, Catelyn Nolan, Hunter Juhl, Trevor Kjelland, David Landis, Sierra Draeving, Zander Wilson, Kyla Stacy, Legacy Meyer

- Sophomores: Ethan Did-dens, Rusty Klitzman, Gabriela Mendez, Kyra Suiter-Mey-ers, Katelynn Weeks, Gauge Pomplun, Paige Valley, Henry Krajeck, Autumn Hollibush, Chloe Mielke, Ian Suer, Hail-ey Beeman, Caden Cleasby, Morgan Coyne, Dayne But- zler, Allison Dolphin, Tyler Kersten, Kayla Revels, Paul McCarthy, Autumn Pautsch, Evan Suer

- Freshmen: Victoria Mar-ian, Natalie Abey, Dillan Heisz, Samuel Schwengels,

Malachi Wendt, Collin Born- treger, Ann Keintz, Karson Redman, Savanna Warthen, Nathan Fiebig, Bowen Kopp, Cheyenne Stefanczyk, Kadin Dooley, Carter Cronin, Kylie Stark

- Eighth-graders: Bryce Appel, Evan Fronk, Ashley Bloedow, Americus Pomplun, Slater Valley, Christian Hobon, Nathaniel Rapson, Omyra Bennett, Isabella Kovac, Maysen Wellnitz, Lilyanna Gallardo, Mathias Treinen

- Seventh-graders: Oliver Friedrich, Emma Woodman, Sheri Montgomery, Davis Borntreger, Chloe Cleas- by, Alexis Crawford, Aiden Crane, Aiden Engle, Sahara Boers-Augustine, Noah Tee- man, Kyla Lloyd, Corbin Wil- liams, Hunter Brannin, Lacey Meldrum, Aubrianna Paul, Zoie Resch, Lacy Blazier, Jesse Rapson, Milo Jackson, Catherine Treinen

### Honorable mention

- Seniors: Payton Kopp, Zoe Buster, Connor Simonson, Brooke Boyd, Paul Keintz, Maicey Johnson, Dynally Noll, McKenzie Keith, Lucas Vonderhaar, Jordan Garth- waite, Bryson Lyons, Samantha Holtz

- Juniors: Charles Vogt, Noah Flood Elyafi, Dylan Wells, Bridgette Neal, Dylan Sorg

- Sophomores: Jack Wood- man, Jeyden Hough, Kolton Smith, William Toberman, Autumn Stratton, Jetta Uppen- kamp, Elle McMahon, Donny Wilson, William Holtz

- Freshmen: Gehrig Gren- awalt, Cole McMahon, Joseph Douglas, Jean-Luc Cramer, Alec Dolphin, Dustin Kauff- man, Josephine Meyers, Mak- enzie Morris

- Eighth-graders: Isaac Diddens, Owen Slye, Shelby Anderson, Keaton Bergendal, Lily Gestrich, Trevor Haugen, Samuel Vogt, Alan Diaz, Syd- ney Coyne, Abigail Anderson, Gianna Elrod, Lillian McMa- hon

- Seventh-graders: Athena Condon, Lacey Lloyd, Sab- rina Engel, Johnathon Cas- tle, Belden Moran, Keegan Steinke, Amelia Luttig, Rob- ert Ellis, Kelon Wendt, Jacob Neblock, Jordyn Rummelhoff, Grace Krajeck, Ayla Myhre, Devin Hatch, Kylee Helmer, Jonathon Girard, Gage Bur- rell, Jillian Ryan, Jagger Wil- ke, Garrett Uppenkamp, Aryn Dolphin, Anthony Galfano, Alex Johnson

News from  
Parkview in Orfordville:  
**Viking Times**

<p><b>THURSDAY, JULY 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</li><li>Parkview School District Policy Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.</li></ul> <p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; storytime at 11 a.m.</li></ul> <p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Orfordville library closed</li></ul> <p><b>SUNDAY, JULY 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Orfordville library closed</li></ul>	<p><b>MONDAY, JULY 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Orfordville library closed</li></ul> <p><b>TUESDAY, JULY 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Teen/ Tween Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</li></ul> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, JULY 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</li><li>Library in the Park at Purdy Park, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</li></ul>
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## Amish Community Business Directory

**To be included  
in this directory,  
call 608-897-2193**

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		Casement

# Legal Notices

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
GREEN COUNTY**  
DANE COUNTY  
CREDIT UNION,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
DEREK J. HOLDEN,  
Defendant, and  
GREEN CO. CLERK OF  
CIRCUIT COURT, and  
STATE OF WISCONSIN,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,  
Added Defendants.  
**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE  
SALE**  
Case No: 20-CV-000040

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on December 9, 2020, in the amount of \$105,202.25, the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:  
DATE: **July 29, 2021**  
TIME: **9:00 a.m.**  
PLACE: **Ground Floor Conference Room - Green Co. Justice Center**  
**2841 6th St., Monroe, Wisconsin**

TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to Green Co. Clerk of Courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the Clerk of Courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten (10) days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold "as is" and subject to all real estate taxes, liens and encumbrances.

**NOTICE TO THIRD-PARTY BIDDERS:** Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 846.155, third-party bidders must meet certain qualifications in order to submit a bid at sale. Included in these qualifications, a third-party bidder may not bid if the third party is more than 120 days delinquent on property taxes or has an unsatisfied court judgment related to a violation of a state or local building code. The prohibition extends to businesses and parties with which the third-party bidder is connected. Bids may not be later assigned to a person who did not qualify as a third-party bidder at the time of the sale.

If a third-party is the successful bidder at sheriff's sale, the buyer will need to submit an affidavit to the court prior to confirmation that conforms with Wis. Stat. § 846.155(6). Please consult Wis. Stat. § 846.155 for further information on the requirements imposed on third-party bidders.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Lot One (1), Certified Survey Map No. 1908, recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Green County, Wisconsin, in Volume 6 of Certified Survey Maps, page 195 as Document No. 360503, located in the Town of Exeter, Green County, Wisconsin.

**PROPERTY ADDRESS:** N8946 Madison St., Belleville, WI 53508  
Dated: June 17, 2021.

Jeffrey S. Skatrud, Sheriff  
Green County, Wisconsin  
Michael A. Sosnay  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Darnieder & Sosnay  
735 N. Water St., Suite 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
The Independent Register  
6/23, 6/30, 7/7/2021  
WNAXLP 398617

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
PROJECT: 2021 STREET RE-  
SURFACING**

OWNER: Village of Orfordville  
303 East Beloit Street, P.O.  
Box 409  
Orfordville, WI 53576-0409  
**CONTRACTS AND BID DEAD-  
LINE:**

Sealed bids for a single contract for street asphalt pavement construction will be received by the Village of Orfordville until 10:00 a.m., local time on July 8, 2021. Please note that currently the Village Hall is closed to outside visitors unless by appointment so bidders should plan delivery of bids accordingly. Bids will be opened under witness of the Village Clerk and read aloud at the above time and place. Bid results will be publicly made following the bid opening.

The contract consists of the following approximate quantities:

- Street Pulverizing 4,000 square yards
- Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavement 750 tons
- Concrete Curb & Gutter 450 lineal feet

Appurtenances to the above construction items, such as traffic control are included, but are not listed above. The quantities are subject to change without notice prior to document distribution.

**CONTRACT DOCUMENTS:**

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders, Bidder's Proof of Responsibility, Bid Proposal Form, Affidavit of Organization and Authority, Bid Bond (in the amount of 5% of the maximum amount of the bid), Notice of Award Form, Agreement Form, Notice to Proceed Form, Performance/Payment Bond (100%), Certificate of Insurance, General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Technical Specifications, Drawings and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following locations by appointment:

Village of Orfordville  
303 East Beloit Street, P.O.  
Box 409  
Orfordville, WI 53576-0409

Town & Country Engineering, Inc.  
2912 Marketplace Drive, Suite 103  
Madison, WI 53719  
608-219-6768

Paper copies of the Contract Documents and the Construction Plans may be obtained at the office of Town & Country Engineering, Inc., 2912 Marketplace Drive, Suite 103, Madison, WI 53719 via appointment only. Please call (608) 219-6768 to set a time. There is a **\$30 non-refundable** charge for these documents. Electronic documents are available on-line at Questcdn.com, Project No. 7862947 for \$30.00. This fee includes access to submit a bid on-line via Questcdn.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Bidders must be pre-qualified with the Village of Orfordville within the last year or must be pre-qualified for this work 5 days prior to the bid deadline in accordance with Section 66.0903 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Each bidder must deposit, with his bid, security in the amount of 5% of the maximum bid amount. Bidders must be experienced in municipal asphalt pavement construction.

**PROJECT FUNDING:**

Portions of the project are funded through a Local Road Improvements (LRIP) grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:**

The Village of Orfordville reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities in any bid.

Published by the authority of:  
Nick Todd, Public Works  
The Independent Register  
6/23, 6/30/2021  
WNAXLP 398650

**TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY  
Monthly Meeting Monday July  
6, 2021 at 6 PM**

Orfordville Fire District Meeting  
Room 173 N. Wright St.,  
Orfordville, WI

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Verification of proper public notice
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Reports
7. Audience communication
8. Old business
  - A. Rock County Public Works
  - B. Road work
9. New business
  - A. Hazeltine CUP

10. Future agenda items
  11. Payment of bills
  12. Adjournment
- Dela Ends, Clerk  
Recycling drop-off  
2nd Saturday of the month  
Rock Co. Public Works Bldg.  
Hwy 213 Orfordville  
9am-noon.  
www.townofspringvalley.com  
The Independent Register  
6/30/2021  
WNAXLP 398805

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
GREEN COUNTY**

UNIFUND CCR, LLC  
10625 Techwood Cir  
Cincinnati, OH 45242-2846  
Plaintiff(s)

-vs-

Carol L Harrison  
1419 12th Ave  
Monroe, WI 53566  
Defendant(s)

**Small Claims  
Publication Summons  
And Notice  
Case No. 2021SC000257**

**Publication Summons and  
Notice of Filing  
TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED  
ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):**

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court:  
Green County Courthouse  
Telephone Number of Clerk of Court 608-328-9433  
Address: 2841 6th Street,  
Monroe, WI 53566  
on the following date and time:

Date: 7/12/2021  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

**If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you.** A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and you may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Electronically signed by  
Cynthia A. Duppler  
262.641.3715  
6/21/2021  
State Bar Number 1118906

Dobberstein Law Firm, LLC  
225 S. Executive Dr., Suite 201  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
The Independent Register  
6/30/2021  
WNAXLP 398806

Town of Avon  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Avon Town Hall  
**Tuesday**  
June 6th, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
  2. Approval of Agenda
  3. Minutes from May's Meeting
  4. Treasurer's Report
  5. Constable's Report
  6. Payment of Bills
  7. Public Input
  8. Dakota Schwartzlow - Senior Project
    - a. Discussion & Action
  9. PILT Program Update
  10. ARAP Grant Update
  11. Clean Sweep Fundraising Campaign
    - a. Discussion & Action
  12. Green County Landfill Update
  13. ATV/UTV Update
    - a. Discussion & Action
  14. Board Comments
  15. Adjournment
- Maybe additional posting that will be posted 24 hours in advance. The three posting places in the Town of Avon are Debbie Jean's, Sugar River Bank, and the Avon Town Hall.  
Stephanie Schwartzlow  
Avon Town Clerk  
The Independent Register  
6/30/21  
WNAXLP 399059

## •Funding (Continued from page 5)

revenue limit per pupil increased only 6%, he said.

And if a district's enrollment decreases, the effect on its bottom line can be magnified, said Dale Knapp, director of Forward Analytics, the research arm for the Wisconsin Counties Association.

"The challenges for school districts is they have a lot of what I would call semi-fixed costs," he said. "Suppose your average class size is 25, and you're a medium-sized district, but you lose 50 students in a year. It's going to be across multiple grades, so you can't necessarily in that year lay off two teachers because you have 50 fewer students. .... So your costs don't decline linearly with enrollment."

Dan Rossmiller, director of government relations for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, said this dynamic has created funding problems for many districts - one that is difficult to explain to taxpayers who may oppose increasing taxes to pay for schools where enrollments are declining.

"What's happened since about the early 2000s is that enrollment has been decreasing," Rossmiller said. "That's what's pinching school district budgets. As enrollment goes down, the state-imposed revenue limit reduces the revenue available to the district. The real problem in explaining this to the public is that every district has a unique situation and a unique explanation."

A Republican bill that would have made enrollment declines less financially damaging failed to pass the

Legislature in 2020.

**School officials: Update funding system**

The Green Bay Area Public School District, the fourth largest district in the state, is no stranger to referendums - going to voters eight times since 1993.

Its most recent pair passed in 2017, which included \$68.25 million for a district-wide building and facilities improvement plan and an operational referendum authorizing the district to exceed the revenue cap by \$16.5 million per year for 10 years.

"So the revenue cap is what needs to change - pure and simple," said Pete Ross, the Green Bay district's chief operations officer. "It has not increased with inflation in any of the years since it's been put in place."

Ross said the cap has locked Green Bay into a level of spending that no longer supports the district's needs. In 2017, Green Bay's per pupil spending was \$9,691 - well below the state average of \$10,444, district spokeswoman Lori Blakeslee said.

"In 1993, we were fixed as a low-spending district and could not move out of that fixed spot we were in," Ross said. "So going into the 1993 school year, if you were a poor district, a low-spending district, you were destined to be that forever."

Savion Castro, Madison school board vice president, said even high property value districts like Madison do not fare well under the revenue caps because of the significant needs of some of their students. The district

passed a pair of referendums in November 2020 totaling \$350 million - \$317 million for capital projects and \$33 million in operating funds that will phase in over four years.

"We have very, very, very high levels of inequity in our school system. West High School has the highest level of income inequality in the whole state," Castro said. "Big picture, I think we need to come up with a formula that is reflective of the actual needs of students and the changing demographics that we are seeing in our schools."

But former Republican state Sen. Luther Olsen, who chaired the Senate Education Committee until 2020, said the nearly 30-year-old funding formula has done the job, curbing what lawmakers and many members of the public felt was unfettered spending by school officials.

"What was happening is that schools were writing checks and the state was having to sign its name on the bottom, and when it said it would fund whatever a school spent, there was no concern," he said.

**Proposals for change stall**

Olsen and state Rep. Joel Kitchens, R-Sturgeon Bay, served as co-chairs of the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding. Both are long-time former school board members in northeastern Wisconsin.

In 2019, the commission put forth 20 recommendations for legislative action -

*See FUNDING CONT., Back Page*

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Several area students were named to spring semester dean's lists:

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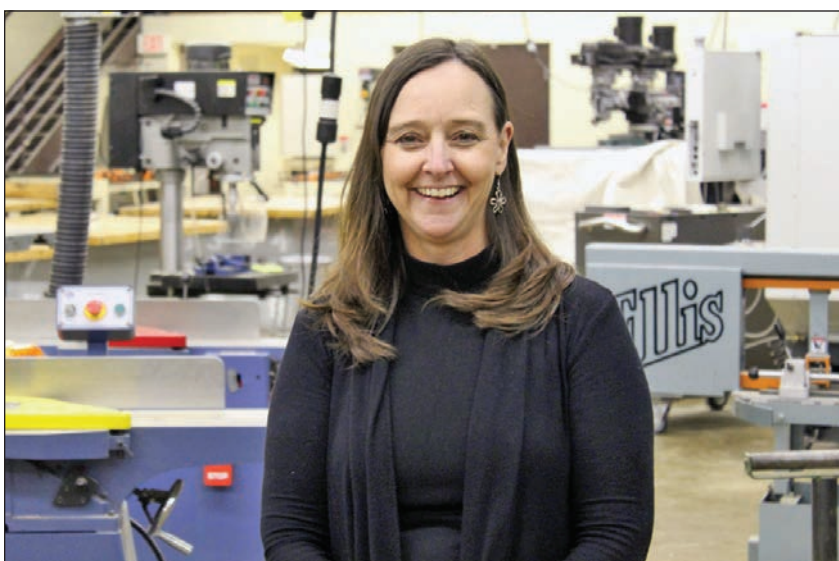
- Haley Knauf, Aurora University. Knauf, a finance/business administration major, earned a 4.0 GPA.

**Brodhead**

- Nathan Mohr, Northwestern College. Mohr, a senior majoring in exercise science, is the son of Tommy-John and Ruth Mohr.
- Maria Mendoza, Aurora University. Mendoza, a social work major, earned a 4.0 GPA.
- Carisa Purdue, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Purdue is a freshman.

**Orfordville**

- Hadlie Kelly, Aurora University. Kelly, a social work major, earned a 4.0 GPA.
- Hannah Brennan, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Brennan is a senior.
- Rachel Miller, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Miller is a senior.



LEA KOPKE/PRESS TIMES *Brodhead Independent-Register*  
**Seymour Community School District Superintendent Laurie Asher said the high school is expanding its tech ed department thanks to a referendum passed in April. Like most Wisconsin school districts, Seymour has had to ask voters to approve additional spending to meet district needs.**

including restoring the state's commitment of two-thirds funding of school costs, adjusting per-pupil funding with inflation, factoring in the needs of low-income pupils and updating revenue limit formulas. (A complete list of recommendations can be found at [tinyurl.com/blueribbonrecs](http://tinyurl.com/blueribbonrecs))

The Legislature has taken no action on those proposals, but, said Kitchens, "I would hope that we would still have a chance to get those done this time or in the future."

Another former school board member, state Rep. Kristina Shelton, D-Green Bay, said Wisconsin needs a school funding formula that is "transparent, equitable and sustainable."

"Unfortunately," she said, "what we found is our formula is none of those things, and it is harming Wisconsin kids, families and teachers."

**District relies on history of public support**

Howard-Suamico Superintendent Damian LaCroix keeps a powerful reminder of the past, which he hopes is a sign of the future of public education. Nestled on his office bookshelves are the original minutes from a community meeting held in the Town of Pittsfield on Nov. 15, 1856.

"The only thing on the agenda was this group recognizing the need if the community was going to prosper and thrive, they needed to invest in their schools," LaCroix said.

On that day, those 17 community members agreed on a \$200 tax to build a new schoolhouse and a \$50 tax to pay for a teacher.

Fast forward 165 years,

and school finance in 2021 is infinitely more complex — and the needs of students and the community have grown to levels unfathomable in the 1800s.

Because Howard-Suamico was a low-spending district back in 1992, it has held nine referendum questions to boost spending since 2005, seven of which passed.

Most recently, on April 6, district voters approved two referendum questions, including \$98 million to renovate learning spaces and operational funding to decrease class sizes, better compensate teachers and maintain facilities.

"Over 160 years ago, leaders in this community recognized education is not an expense, it's an investment," LaCroix said. "We have a duty, a moral and ethical obligation, to educate every child and help them maximize their potential."

*Press Times Editor Ben Rodgers and Wisconsin Watch's Mario Koran and Dee J. Hall contributed to this story. It was produced by the NEW News Lab, a collaboration of newsrooms focusing on issues important to northeastern Wisconsin.*

*This article was made available to this news group through the nonprofit Wisconsin Watch ([www.wisconsinwatch.org](http://www.wisconsinwatch.org)), which collaborates with WPR, Wisconsin PBS, other news media and the UW-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication. All works created, published, posted or disseminated by Wisconsin Watch do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of UW-Madison, any of its affiliates or Rock Valley Publishing, LLC.*



BEN RODGERS/PRESS TIMES *Brodhead Independent-Register*  
**Minutes from a community meeting held in the Town of Pittsfield on Nov. 15, 1856, show the vote on the area's first school, and subsequently the tax to fund it. Howard-Suamico School Superintendent Damian LaCroix keeps the records close at hand to remind him of the area's historical commitment to funding schools.**

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