

Brodhead Independent Register

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SHOPPING NEWS

917 W. EXCHANGE STREET, BRODHEAD, WI 53520

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8, 2023

FREE TAKE ONE

Free tax assistance programs
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PHOTO COURTESY BRADLEY ZIEGLER, BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE *Brodhead Independent-Register*

The new Public Safety Education Center nears completion at Blackhawk Technical College.

BTC's new facility nears completion

Friday, Nov. 3 marked three years since Rock and Green County voters approved Blackhawk Technical College's \$32 million referendum project to create state-of-the-art facilities for the college's Public Safety and Transportation programs.

Located at the corner of West Sunny Lane and Prairie Street along the northeast side of Central Campus, the project is now entering its final stages, with the last building expected to be completed by spring.

"Celebrating the progress of this transformative project fills me with gratitude for our community and optimism for the

future," said Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk.

The complex, which is known as the Public Safety + Transportation Studies Complex (PSTC), already includes the Center for Transportation Studies, an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course, a Fire Tower, an observation building and a scenario training village.

Nearing completion is the new Public Safety Education Center, which will house classrooms for Blackhawk's emergency services, fire and police programs as well as a track, gym and fitness center. Most of the building's exterior

work is complete, with crews set to finalize the interior work over the winter.

In 2018, Blackhawk purchased the land at West Sunny Lane and Prairie Street to address the growing demand for additional training spaces. After reviewing all needs, Blackhawk proposed a multi-purpose training complex for EMS/EMT, Fire Protection Technician, Law Enforcement, CDL/Truck Driver Training, Auto Technician, Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technician and Motorcycle Rider Safety. The complex also serves select workforce and community development

offerings.

On Nov. 3, 2020, about 60 percent of voters favored the referendum, moving the project forward. Construction began in March 2021. By June 2022, nearly all of the projects on the main training grounds were complete and open for use. Construction on the Public Safety Education Center began in October 2022.

"As we near the completion of these cutting-edge facilities I am confident that they will empower our students with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in their academic pursuits and careers," Dr. Pierner said.

Lincoln-Tallman Museum seeks sponsors for Holiday Tree Show

The Rock County Historical Society (RCHS) is asking local businesses, nonprofits and individuals to help bring joy to the community by sponsoring one or more trees at its annual Holiday Tree Show, presented by Blackhawk Community Credit Union (BHCCU).

Held inside the Lincoln-Tallman Museum at 440 N. Jackson Street in Janesville, this year's Tree Show will run from Nov. 24 to Dec. 30. The open-house-style tours showcase more than 125 creatively decorated trees, each sponsored by community partners. In 2022, more

than 2,500 people visited the museum during the holiday season.

"The tree show is an experience that delights everyone who visits, no matter their age. There is something magical about seeing the historic mansion filled with trees and decorations that community members have decorated," said Tim Maahs, RCHS Executive Director. "We are grateful to the many businesses, nonprofits and individuals who help to make this show special for our community and the many people who visit from surrounding areas."

Tree sponsors may select

from an array of evergreens, ranging in size from 3 to 12 feet. They can opt to personally decorate their chosen tree or enlist the help of dedicated RCHS volunteers.

Some businesses and nonprofits coordinate decorations with their organization, while others choose more traditional décor. This year, each tree will include a snowflake that lists the sponsor's name.

For more information or to sponsor a tree, please contact Kris Mathesius via email at operations@rchs.us or by phone at 608-756-4509 Ext. 1003, or visit <https://rchs.us/holiday-trees>.

For the best selection, early reservation is recommended.

About RCHS

Home to six uniquely different historic sites on a 3.5-acre campus in the historic Look West Neighborhood, the Rock County Historical Society's mission is to bridge past and present through capturing and sharing stories about Rock County. Its sites include the award-winning Lincoln-Tallman Museum, Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, RCHS Archives and Preservation Facility, Tallman Carriage House, Wilson-King Stonehouse, and the Frances Willard Schoolhouse.

Gov. Evers invests \$15M in convention center in Janesville

On Nov. 2, Gov. Tony Evers announced a \$15 million state investment to support the Woodman's Sports and Convention Center project in Janesville. Following the Governor's announcement, Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement:

"I thank Governor Evers for this important investment in our community using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Governor included a \$15 million investment in this project in his 2023-2025 Capital Budget as part of the state budget process, but the funding was unfortunately not included by legislative Republicans in the final state budget that passed the legislature and was signed into law.

"I am deeply grateful to Governor Evers for his continued engagement with community stakeholders and local legislators over the past year, and his continued commitment to making this project a reality. The state's investment in this redevelopment project will promote economic growth and will help Janesville and Rock County continue to be a leading destination in our region.

"I am thankful that Governor Evers recognized this project for what it is: a transformative project for the Janesville community. I look forward to continuing to work with local leaders, community stakeholders, and my constituents on next steps for the project."

The Woodman's Sports and Convention Center will redevelop space at Uptown Janesville at 2500 Milton Avenue. The \$15 million in federal funding directed from the state will be combined with private fundraising, federal grants, and local funding to build a versatile facility that will create a \$23 million annual impact on the local economy. The facility will host conventions, community events, sports competitions, Janesville Jets games, and more.

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Faster licensing of Wis. pharmacy school grads

Wisconsin DSPS, state pharmacy schools join to improve processes

The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) has reached an agreement with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy that will lead to faster licensing of Wisconsin pharmacy students graduating into the profession.

The move also enables the department to eliminate some current pharmacy licensing steps, bringing more efficiency to the process for DSPS, as well.

"We continue to invest in people and technology, while evaluating our processes to find opportunities for improvement," DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth said. "The Evers Administration and our agency leadership are focused on innovation, efficiency, and making Wisconsin DSPS a leader in licensing while remaining steadfast in our commitment to public safety."

The group responsible for post-graduate competency testing of Wisconsin's pharmacy school grads, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), will now be the authority granting approval to test. Currently, graduates must send proof of graduation to Wisconsin DSPS, which then

"We continue to invest in people and technology, while evaluating our processes to find opportunities for improvement."

- DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth

notifies NABP. Having the students send proof directly to NABP removes a step and speeds up the licensing process. In addition, the move allows DSPS to save time previously spent reviewing requests for testing before passing them along to NABP.

"We brought this issue to DSPS because we felt there was a redundancy in the process," said Steve Swanson, Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy. "We want to get our graduates into the state workforce as quickly as possible. We're thankful to have partners like Secretary Hereth, DSPS and the Pharmacy Board who are open and willing to work on process improvements."

NABP will also now notify DSPS electronically when test takers pass, an improvement that eliminates the need for DSPS staff to manually

enter test scores. Once DSPS receives electronic notification of passing, assuming an applicant has met all other requirements, a Wisconsin license will automatically be issued without further staff engagement. In addition, the test scores will be electronically updated in the applicant's file, meaning they should be able to see their score right away. Previously, they had to reach out to DSPS and ask for their test score.

These changes take effect Nov. 14.

The streamlining of licensing processes for pharmacists and other professions is among a growing list of improvements at DSPS since Gov. Evers appointed Hereth to lead the agency. Recent work includes upgrades to the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, providing a new fire risk tool to better protect Wisconsin communities, and the

first update to state plumbing code in well over a decade.

DSPS launched its Occupational Licensing: By the Numbers dashboard at the end of August, showing the department is issuing more licenses more quickly than ever before. The dashboard, which updates in real time, currently shows the average time for DSPS to review new application submissions is four calendar days.

About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With four offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

Police brief

Rock Co. deputy arrests Beloit man for OWI

On Nov. 5, at approximately 1:24 a.m., a Rock County Sheriff's Office Deputy stopped to check on a vehicle as it parked on the side of the road and turned on its hazard lights in front of Lot 1119 at 6219 S Hwy 51, in the town of Rock in Rock County. The driver was identified as Cristian Sandoval, 30, from Beloit. Cristian displayed signs of impairment and after the investigation was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated.

Cristian has three prior convictions for Operating While Intoxicated, making this arrest a 4th Offense,



Cristian Sandoval

which is a felony. Cristian was transported to the Rock County Jail and will be scheduled for Jail Court on

Monday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m.

"Pursuant to the Directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as found in Supreme Court Rule 20:3.6, Trial Publicity, you are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

Wis. Addiction Recovery Helpline marks five years

More than 31,000 calls, texts, chats for support answered since 2018

The Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline reached a significant milestone in October – five years of connecting state residents experiencing substance use concerns with local services and support.

This free and confidential service supported by a grant from the Department Health Services (DHS) and managed by 211 Wisconsin debuted in October 2018 as part of efforts by state officials to reduce drug overdoses.

Since then, staff have answered 31,591 calls, texts, and chats from all 72 Wisconsin counties and nine of the 11 federally recognized Tribal nations with members in Wisconsin. These contacts resulted in 78,646 referrals to agencies providing substance use disorder assessment services, counseling, inpatient care, medication-assisted treatment, and supports from people in recovery from a substance use disorder trained to help others.

"For five years, the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline has offered people hope at a time when they may feel overwhelmed by what steps to take for health and healing," said DHS Secretary-designee Kirsten Johnson. "Staffed by caring, trained specialists, it is a safe, trusted resource to turn to for information. We are grateful for the work of 211 Wisconsin and all the people who have made this service a success."

People can contact the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline 24/7 with questions about services and supports related to all drugs, including alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, methamphetamine, opioids, and tobacco whether they are struggling with drug use themselves, or are concerned for a family member or friend. The specialists who answer the contacts work to understand the needs of the person and help them navigate services and supports available to them.

"Recovery from a sub-

stance use disorder is possible," said Charlene Mouille, president and CEO of United Way of Wisconsin and 211 Wisconsin. "We want people to know that our commitment is to be there for people, no matter where they stand on their road to recovery. Our primary focus is on facilitating a non-judgmental connection, ensuring individuals access the right help at the right time and in the right environment."

To reach the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline: call 211 or 833-944-4673 or text your ZIP code to 898211 or chat at addictionhelpwi.org

The information available by phone, text, or chat can also be found through the search tool at addictionhelpwi.org, with 138,839 online searches completed since 2018. This database currently includes information about 2,114 agencies offering 5,268 different services and supports. Most of the contacts to the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline are related to alcohol, followed by stimulants, then opioids.

People with concerns regarding the use of opioids and stimulants who contact the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline have the option to be connected with a person who can help them through their recovery journey. Recovery coaches provide this service as part of a partnership between 211 Wisconsin and the Coulee Recovery Center in La Crosse. More than 1,800 people have been referred to recovery coaches since the launch of this partnership in 2020.

DHS provides 211 Wisconsin \$514,000 each year to operate the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline. The funding comes from Wisconsin's share of the State Opioid Response Grant, a federal program that supports prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services focused on ending the state's opioid epidemic.

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Free tax assistance programs need volunteers for 2024

Wisconsin offers training on tax preparation process

Wisconsin's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs are ramping up for the 2024 tax season and they need volunteers.

to learn about federal and state tax laws, and the preparation process while serving the communities where they live and work.

How to apply

Anyone interested in giving their time to either the VITA or TCE programs during the tax season from January through April 2024 should, before Nov. 30:

- Fill out a Community Volunteer Information form on the Department of Revenue website.
- Contact DOR's VITA-TCE Program Coordinator Juan Carlos Reyes at 608-261-5236 or at juan.reyes@wisconsin.gov.

Volunteers with the VITA and TCE programs annually prepare nearly 45,000 tax returns at about 160 locations statewide. The VITA program is a cooperative effort by the IRS and many individual states, including Wisconsin. Volunteers trained by the IRS and DOR prepare basic income tax returns for free. The TCE program is supported by AARP. The AARP's Tax-Aide volunteers train in cooperation with the IRS and DOR to prepare basic income tax returns for free during tax season. Most of these sites offer free electronic filing.

Whether a person is a student, retiree or anyone looking to serve the community, the VITA and TCE programs offer a unique opportunity to engage with and help people in a meaningful way while building valuable skills.

"Volunteers are the heart of these essential programs," said Wisconsin Department of Revenue Secretary Peter Barca. "The time and dedication they put into helping their friends and neighbors throughout the state is a profound example of Wisconsin's giving spirit."

The VITA and TCE programs offer free tax preparation services to qualifying Wisconsin taxpayers.

Who can volunteer?

Anyone. There is need for help in several positions, including reception greeters, document intake, and income tax preparation. Accounting or finance experience is not necessary to volunteer. Those helping clients with tax preparation services will receive formal training, making this a good opportunity

Kelch Aviation Museum undergoes construction



PHOTO COURTESY KELCH AVIATION MUSEUM *Brodhead Independent-Register*

The Kelch Aviation Museum is currently undergoing construction this fall. The Phase III "Welcome Atrium" is nearly finished and the museum expects to start building displays and hanging airplanes soon.

Members of Wis. task force set sights on future with AI

Task force members envision future with tech-savvy workforce

Wisconsin leaders from business, agriculture, education, government, and nonprofit sectors set their sights on a future in which Wisconsin successfully harnesses Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to spur economic growth and create an economy that works for everyone.

edged the apprehension many people have toward AI, they emphasized the need to invest in change management along with educational and training initiatives to drive responsible adoption of these technologies."

"Wisconsin manufacturers, medical practitioners, ag producers, and more are already employing AI to augment their workforce, improve efficiency, and in some cases, even save lives with better diagnostics and treatments," said WEDC Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development in coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., the task force aims to identify policies and investments that will continue to advance Wisconsin workers, employers, and job seekers through this technological transformation.

The task force members were asked to come up with an initial list of their priorities to help prepare Wisconsin's workforce to take advantage of the emerging technologies. The following is a synthesis of key ideas:

- Educate employers, work-

ers, and students to help prepare for the future of AI;

- Make sure policy makers and leaders have an understanding of AI;
- Improve access to training to speed skill attainment;
- Invest in community-based partners, programs, and small businesses to foster innovation;
- Know which populations are marginalized or may be disadvantaged by these emerging technologies and take steps to reduce barriers;
- Invest in change management to initiate and integrate successful adoption of AI;
- Use data and analytics to help refine these approaches and adjust over time to boost economic growth.

In an exercise designed to identify a vision for Wisconsin's future with AI, one of the task force subcommittees summed it up with this headline: "Wisconsin leverages AI to create an economy that works for everyone and provides AI opportunities to mar-

ginalized communities."

In closing remarks capping off the first task force meeting, DOA Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld encouraged task force members to approach their work with optimism, curiosity, and a healthy sense of skepticism to help separate fear and hype from reality.

"The Governor's Task Force on Workforce and Artificial Intelligence is off to a great start and we look forward to working with these leaders in the months ahead as they propose policy, budget, and educational solutions to help move our great state forward," Blumenfeld said.

The next full meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Workforce and Artificial Intelligence is set for Dec. 4 in Milwaukee. Keep up with task force activities by signing up for email notifications and learn more about the task force on the website. Find Gov. Evers' Executive Order #211 creating the task force online.

Juda Zion Community Church to collect for Green Co. food pantry

The youth group members of the Juda Zion Community Church will be holding their annual food collection for the Green County Food Pantry and the Little Blue Food Pantry on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 8 a.m. till noon at the Jefferson Township Recycling Center located on Walnut Street in Juda.

Items needed are stove top stuffing mixes, canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup or any other canned vegetable items.

Also appreciated to stock the shelves would be canned fruit, tuna, hamburger/tuna helper, any soup, crackers, cereal, peanut butter, canned meals and pudding or Jello either regular or sugar free.

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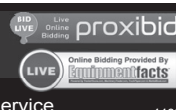
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Orfordville American Legion 209 truck raffle a success

The truck raffle on Oct. 21 organized by the Orfordville American Legion Post 209 was a success.

Three winners from Indiana, Orfordville, and West Allis, Wis. won the three prizes of a brand new Chevrolet Silverado Truck, \$3,000 and \$1,000.

Some of the extra benefits besides raising money for the Post are pointed out by James Carlini, the chairman of the raffle who observed, "This raffle has brought the American Legion Post and the community more positive recognition as well as building a more cohesive working relationship with many local businesses throughout the area of Janesville, Beloit, Brodhead, Evansville, and Orfordville."

"We need to work together to promote the area and focus on

economic development which helps everyone in the communities," Carlini added.

The Post recently delivered a cake to Burtness Chevrolet for their help and assistance. Burtness Chevrolet was the source of the truck the Post purchased for the raffle. Their team also helped in selling tickets and providing a truck to display at every event the Post sold tickets at from the Albany Lions Car Show to the Botanical Gardens in Janesville, to the Sugar River Bank in Brodhead and the Bank of Brodhead for Covered Bridge Days and many other places around the area.

Mike Eggleston, Vice Chairman of the Raffle Committee, pointed out, "For our first time, we overcame some obstacles and we learned a lot for next year."



James Carlini and Mike Eggleston of American Legion Post 209 delivering cake to the team at Burtness Chevrolet.

PHOTO COURTESY JAMES CARLINI Brodhead Independent-Register



Post 209 Commander Kurt Stuvengen presenting a big Eagle Award to Dennis Burtness on the truck raffle night in recognition of his company's help. The inscription on the Eagle Award is "Soaring Together to Build Success."

PHOTO COURTESY JAMES CARLINI Brodhead Independent-Register

Veteran's affair officer visits tribal nations

WDVA secretary-designee travels to every one of state's 11 Tribal Nations

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Over the past several months, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary-designee James Bond has traveled to each of Wisconsin's 11 federally recognized Tribes to meet with leaders and Tribal Veteran Service Officers to discuss the issues unique to veterans in their communities. Secretary-designee Bond was pleased to be accompanied by the Department's new Tribal Liaison, Melissa Doud.

"I was honored to be a guest with each of Wisconsin's Tribes as we discussed how our sovereign nations could best work together for veterans," said Secretary-designee Bond. "Native

Americans have one of the highest representations in the armed forces, and we are indebted to them for their service. That means meeting them where they are and ensuring they receive all the benefits and services they've earned while respecting their culture and celebrating their contributions."

Secretary-designee Bond heard many of the same concerns from each of the meetings with leaders, including access to health care, mental health care, housing, employment, and a need for more services to aid in the transition from military to civilian life.

"I am a proud member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and a 20-year Army Veteran, and I'm deeply committed to advocating for Tribal communities and my fellow veterans," said WDVA Tribal Liaison Doud. "These visits are just the start as we make every effort to work

See VISITS, Page 5

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Wisconsin National Guard, Papua New Guinea techs train together

Latest exchange could make lasting impact in State Partnership Program

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing and their counterparts in the Papua New Guinea Defence Force were part of a recent subject matter expert exchange for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Sept. 18-22 at Camp Ripley Training Center, Little Falls, Minnesota.

Thirty EOD specialists – including the Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve as well as the Navy – attended the advanced conventional course, created and hosted by the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing. The course emphasized five components of the civil engineer EOD strategy – restore readiness, invest in technology, drive innovation, develop and retain leaders, and partnership.

"Bringing technicians from different components and services allows us to share knowledge widely," said Capt. Ana Smith, Air National Guard functional area manager. "Attendees can take what they learned to their units, which multiplies the value of the course."

Senior Master Sgt. Erich Sanford, the EOD Flight superintendent with the 115th Fighter Wing, said the participants from Papua New Guinea were pleased with the training opportunity.

"They were able to practice what had only been trained in theory," Sanford said.

Participants used diverse tools on live ordnance at Camp Ripley's Leach Impact Area, one of two artillery ranges on post – and an ideal site for detonating ordnance. Working in five groups, they identified



PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD Brodhead Independent-Register

Members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing and their counterparts in the Papua New Guinea Defence Force were part of a recent subject matter expert exchange for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) on Sept. 18 to 22 at Camp Ripley Training Center, Little Falls, Minn.

unexploded ordnance using reconnaissance techniques, X-Ray interpretation and technical data. Once the rounds were identified, they developed "render-safe" procedures for the live ordnance.

"Adaptability is the key to survivability in EOD," Sanford said. "Working with other units in a team environment is the best way to shift and share our perspectives."

This course, and similar exchanges, are critical to foster relationships between the Wisconsin National Guard and the Papua New Guinea Defence Force to promote security cooperation. Maj. Jessica Kelly, the Wisconsin National Guard's State Part-

nership Program coordinator, traveled to Camp Ripley to observe how the Papua New Guinea participants integrated with other EOD technicians.

"It was an amazing experience to witness not only Wisconsin National Guard and U.S. Air Force capabilities in the EOD field, but also see the exchange of common practices amongst the Papua

New Guinea Defence Force and how they are similar and different with those of the U.S. Air Force," Kelly said. "The Wisconsin National Guard and the 148th EOD Flight welcomed the Papua New Guinea Defence Force as their own brethren, and participated in field objectives that consisted of a once-in-a-lifetime shared experience."

Master Sgt. Mark Hilleren, 148th EOD Flight superintendent and the designer of this advanced conventional course, said teams spent a day testing an assortment of explosives and charges to understand their effects.

"We allow teams the opportunity to get exposure to our entire explosive inventory, and the space and freedom to practice varying techniques."

Part of the training involved removing large-caliber projectiles lodged in 105-mm gun barrels. "If a weapons system such as an F-16 or A-10 experiences a jam or lodged projectile, an EOD team could be called to remove the projectile," Hilleren said, "which allows the equipment to be put back in service."

Course participants also used sandbags to build barriers to protect structures, built for this purpose by the 148th Civil Engineering Squadron, from live ordnance. Barriers were built based on information from technical data and manuals, and then tested against live ordnance.

Smith said all U.S.-trained EOD technicians attend the same initial schooling and operate from the same manuals, but operational roles vary from the Air Force and Navy.

"Further, each EOD flight has a slightly different focus, depending on the mission of their base," Smith explained. "Because of this, technicians have differing levels of hands-on experience with various procedures. The training environment at Camp Ripley allowed us to conduct realistic training that capitalized on the real-world knowledge of EOD technicians from different backgrounds."

Kelly said the current relationship between the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Wisconsin National Guard is "alive and thriving," and continues to grow with each event.

Audrey Flanagan of the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing contributed to this report.

• Visits

(Continued from page 4)

together and build relationships to get the needed services to Tribal veterans."

Secretary-designee Bond and Doud visited the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in June; the

Saint Croix Chippewa and Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in July; the Ho-Chunk Nation in August; and the Sokaogon Chippewa Community (Mole Lake), Forest County Potawatomi, Stockbridge-Munsee, Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, and the Oneida Nation in October.

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Quality is No Accident

Wisconsin Soybean Association offers support of biofuels bill

With grassroots advocacy at the heart of everything the Wisconsin Soybean Association (WSA) does, its farmer directors remain vigilant in ensuring that Wisconsin soybean growers have a seat at the table in Madison and Washington, D.C.

WSA submitted written comments in support of Senate Bill 454. The legislation would create a program within the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) that would provide \$8 million in matching grants to Wiscon-

sin fuel retailers to upgrade their equipment to make it compatible with higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel.

"The biodiesel industry in Wisconsin is growing by leaps and bounds, and this bill would help us build on that momentum," said Ryan Smith, WSA manager of strategic programs.

Introduced by Sen. Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), the bill can be used to fund grants up to 50% of the costs to upgrade equipment; retailers would be eligible for grants up to \$1,000 per dispenser

with a maximum of \$15,000 in total grants to a single facility. Facilities that receive a grant would be required to provide a gasoline-ethanol fuel blend that contains at least 15% ethanol by volume or a biodiesel fuel blend that contains at least 20% biodiesel by volume from each dispenser funded by the grant.

"Expanded biodiesel availability in Wisconsin is a winner for the whole state," Smith said. "It equates to cheaper prices at the pump, lower carbon emissions and expanded opportunities for agriculture

in Wisconsin. WSA fully supports the passage of this important legislation."

As the nation's first domestically produced, commercially available advanced biofuel, biodiesel is a clean-burning, ultra-low carbon solution that can be used in any diesel engine without modification. Made from plant-based oils, used cooking oils and animal fats, using renewable diesel instead of petroleum-based fuels reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 70% on average.

"Passing this bill would

be a big thing for the state of Wisconsin," WSA Vice President Doug Rebout said. "In the past, the governor has had a taskforce on climate change, looking at implementing better practices for the climate. The more biodiesel and renewable fuels that we use, the better it is for the climate. So, it'll help everyone, not just soybean growers."

Because biodiesel directly benefits Wisconsin soybean growers, WSA is a strong supporter of implementing policy that encourages the adoption of biofuels. B20, or

20% biodiesel blended with 80 percent petroleum diesel, adds nearly \$2 to every bushel of soybeans and increases demand by 13%.

"If this bill is passed, more gas stations will have the opportunity to offer biodiesel and ethanol options, giving people more places to buy the product and in turn, increasing demand," Rebout said. "That benefit will come back to the farmers as higher prices for their soybeans."

And more biodiesel use in

See WSA, Page 8

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF BRODHEAD

RE: Vacation, Abandonment and Discontinuance of a portion of a public street in the City of Brodhead, Green County, Wisconsin, described as follows:

That part of 8th Street located within the Original Plat of the City of Brodhead, Green County, Wisconsin described as follows: bounded on the east by the west boundary of the right-of-way of W. 3rd Avenue, bounded on the north by the south boundary of Lot 173 of the Original Plat Block 38, bounded on the west by a line running parallel from the western boundary of Lot 173 of the Original Plat Block 38 to the western boundary of

Lot 309 of the Original Plat Block 64, and bounded on the south by the north boundary of Lot 309 of the Original Plat Block 64.

Reserving a permanent utility easement including for such purpose the right to operate necessary equipment thereon, and the right of reasonable ingress and egress to maintain said utilities.

Notice is hereby given that there has been a preliminary resolution by the Common Council of the City of Brodhead on August 21, 2023, tentatively vacating and discontinuing the portion of the platted public street described above in the city.

1. This preliminary resolution is subject to the passage of the final resolution by the common

council after the public hearing scheduled for such consideration to be held on November 20, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the Common Council Chambers of the City of Brodhead located at 1111 West 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, Wisconsin.

2 All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard relative thereto.

Dated this 16th day of October 2023.

CITY OF BRODHEAD

Keri Miller, City Treasurer/
Deputy City Clerk

The Independent Register
10/25, 11/1, 11/8/2023
WNAXLP 445682

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

In the matter of the name change of: Barbara Marie Elmer

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 23-CV-168

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: Barbara Marie Elmer
To: Barbara Marie Elmer
Birth Certificate: Barbara Marie Hauri

IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Green County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Hon. Thomas J. Vale
Place: Green County Justice Center, 2841 6th St., Monroe WI 53566

Date: November 30, 2023
Time: 11:00AM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-328-9433 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in *The Independent Register*, a newspaper published in Brodhead WI 53520 Green County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT:

Electronically signed by
Thomas J. Vale
Circuit Court Judge
October 20, 2023

The Independent Register
10/25, 11/1, 11/8/2023
WNAXLP 445927

CITY OF BRODHEAD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Brodhead Board of Appeals on **Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Brodhead City Hall, 1111 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, to consider the following request for variance to the zoning/building codes:

Request by Christian Melton for a variance to **906 15th St.** The applicant is requesting to be able to exceed the accessory building maximum height of 15' to 19' 9". Legal description is: Original Plat Block 77 Lot 2

All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard in relation thereto.

Keri Miller,
City Treasurer/Deputy Clerk

CLASSIFIED AD:

Green County will have for sale the following:

- Town of Decatur:**
- TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-012 1376.0000** - Minimum proposal is \$1,400.00.
 - TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-012 1377.0000** - Minimum proposal is \$1,400.00.
 - TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-012-1224.0000** - Minimum proposal is \$1,700.00.
 - TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-012 1225.0000** - Minimum proposal is \$1,700.00.

Green County reserves the right to accept proposals deemed most advantageous to the County, and may reject any and all proposals.

Sealed proposals for this property will be accepted until 12:00 p.m., Thursday, November 30, 2023 at the Green County Clerk's Office, Green County Courthouse, 1016 16th Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin 53566, telephone 608-328-9430. Additional information for this property is available at the Clerk's office. A bid form can be found at the county's website, www.greencountywi.org under "Departments" and "County Clerk".

The Independent Register
11/1, 11/8, 11/15/2023
WNAXLP 446629

City of Brodhead
Posted: October 25, 2023

The Independent Register
11/1, 11/8/2023
WNAXLP 446102

CITY OF BRODHEAD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Brodhead Board of Appeals on **Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Brodhead City Hall, 1111 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, to consider the following request for variance to the zoning/building codes:

Request by Aaron Wuthrich for a variance to **the six vacant lots on the corner of 21st Street & W 4th Avenue.** The applicant is requesting to be able to build duplexes on each parcel. Currently each parcel is 11,762 square feet, and R-2 zoning requires a minimum lot size of 12,000 square feet. This variance would allow duplexes to be built on less than 12,000 square feet per parcel. Legal descriptions are: **CSM 2167 (V7-P130) LOT 3 BNG LOT 7 & PRT LOT 5 BLK 235 OP; CSM 2167 (V7-P130) LOT 1 BNG LOT 7 & PRT LOTS 1 & 3 BLK 235 OP; CSM 3556 (V13-P199) LOT 1 BNG PRT LOT 4 CSM 2167, BLK 235 OP; CSM 2167 (V7-P130) LOT 2 BNG PRT LOT 3 & N 44 FT LOT 5 BLK 235 OP; CSM 3556 (V13-P199) LOT 2 BNG PRT LOT 4 CSM 2167, BLK 235 OP; CSM 3556 (V13-P199) LOT 3 BNG PRT LOT 4 CSM 2167, BLK 235 OP.**

All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard in relation thereto.

Keri Miller,
City Treasurer/Deputy Clerk
City of Brodhead

Posted: October 25, 2023

The Independent Register
11/1, 11/8/2023
WNAXLP 446103

TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY Monthly Meeting Monday November 13, 2023 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
 - A. Supervisors
 - B. Chairman
 - C. Other reports
7. Audience communication

8. Old business
 - A. Rock County Public Works
 - B. Road work
 - C. Fire/EMS
9. New business
 - A. Approve 2023 Budget for Annual Budget Meeting of the Electors on 11/20
 - B. Closing of roads address changes, Rock Co.Planner email to Mark Schroeder
 - C. Insurance
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
11/8/2023
WNAXLP 446263

Town of Decatur- Regular Town Board Thursday, November 16, 2023, 6:00pm Decatur Town Hall 1408 14th Street, Brodhead WI 53520

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 16, 2023
 - b. November 1, 2023
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Payment of the Bills
7. Citizen Concerns
8. Roadwork
9. Traffic Study on St John & Golf Course road
10. Approval of the budget
11. Future agenda items
12. Set Dates for Future Meetings
13. Adjournment
 - Emma Brugger
Clerk/Treasurer

Posted November 3, 2023 at Town Hall, Website, Trackside Mobil, Brodhead Library, Newspaper

Follow us on our website
<https://townofdecaturwi.gov/>

The Independent Register
11/8/2023
WNAXLP 446534

AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM 2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. REVIEW FIRST HALF OF NEOLA SECTION 5000 [STUDENT] TEMPLATES
- II. DEVELOP AND FINALIZE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD APPROVAL
- III. DISCUSSION OF CALENDAR, PROCESS, AND PACING GOING FORWARD
- IV. ADJOURN

The Independent Register
11/8/2023
WNAXLP 446541

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, November 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Orfordville Fire Station Meeting Room, 173 North Wright Street, Orfordville, WI, a PUBLIC HEARING on the PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET of the Town of Spring Valley will be held. The proposed budget in detail is available for inspection at the town clerk's home or by email. The following is a summary of the proposed 2024 budget.

	2023	2024	%Change
REVENUES			
Taxes: General Levy	\$388,878	\$389,508	0.16
Other Taxes	\$2,262	\$2,262	0.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$174,062	\$226,483	30.12
Licenses and Permits	\$4,719	\$13,015	175.78
Misc. Revenues	\$ 592	\$5,000	744.10
TOTAL REVENUES	\$570,514	\$636,268	11.53
EXPENDITURES			
General Government	\$64,006	\$68,957	7.74
Public Safety	\$174,260	\$165,892	-4.80
Public Works	\$320,298	\$389,469	21.60
Health & Human Services	\$2,800	\$2,800	0.00
Culture Rec & Education	\$150	\$150	0.00
Capital Outlay	\$4,000	\$4,000	0.00
Reserve for Contingency	\$5,000	\$5,000	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$570,514	\$636,268	11.53

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, November 20, 2023, immediately following completion of the public hearing on the proposed 2024 budget, which begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Orfordville Fire Station Meeting Room, 173 North Wright Street, Orfordville, WI, a special town meeting of the electors will be held, called pursuant to Section 60.12 (1) of Wisconsin Statutes by the Spring Valley Town Board, for the following purpose: To approve the 2022 total town tax levy (to be collected in 2023), pursuant to Section 60.10 (1) (a) of Wisconsin Statutes.

Dated this 4th day of November, 2023- by Dela Ends, Town Clerk
608 897-4288 tsvclerk@gmail.com

The Independent Register
11/8, 11/15/2023
WNAXLP 446535

Town of Spring Grove Budget Public Hearing Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:00 P.M.

Spring Grove Town Hall, N2475 Co GG, Brodhead, WI

Proposed 2024 Budget (The detailed proposed budget is available for inspection at the town clerk's office, by appointment.) The following is a summary of the proposed 2024 budget:

2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

	Proposed 2024 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET
REVENUES		
TAXES GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$368,366.00	\$366,243.00
ARPA		\$ 50,000.00
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	\$151,022.00	\$150,998.00
LICENSES & PERMITS	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
RECYCLING GRANT	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$528,988.00	\$575,341.00
EXPENDITURES		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 67,650.00	\$ 74,700.00
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$373,038.00	\$412,391.00
PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 8,150.00	\$ 8,100.00
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 6,470.00	\$ 6,470.00
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 73,680.00	\$ 73,680.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$528,988.00	\$575,341.00

Notice of Special Town Meeting of the Electors of the Town of Spring Grove

Notice is hereby given that a special town meeting of the Town of Spring Grove, Green County, Wisconsin will be held at the town hall located at N2475 County Hwy GG, Brodhead, Wisconsin, on the 21st day of November, 2023, immediately following the completion of the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024 town budget, which begins at 5:00 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To approve year 2024 highway expenditures pursuant to s.81.01 (3), Wis. Statutes.
2. To approve the 2023 total town tax levy to be collected in 2024 pursuant to s. 60.10(1)(a), Wis. Stat.

Deb Cline, Clerk

The Independent Register
11/8, 11/15/2023
WNAXLP

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For a complete job description visit: <http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us/> To apply send a resume and cover letter by December 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. to: City of Brodhead, Personnel Committee, PO Box 168, Brodhead, Wisconsin, 53520 or email to kmiller@cityofbrodheadwi.us

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Wortham Achievement Award namesake inducted into Wis. Army Guard Hall of Honor

By Vaughn R. Larson

WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD

1st Lt. Thomas E. Wortham IV was inducted into the Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor during a joint ceremony Oct. 27 at the Wisconsin National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters.

Wortham was a combat veteran as well as a member of the Chicago Police Department, president of the Cole Park Advisory Council in Chicago, vice president of the Chicago Chapter of the Men of Iota group, and an active member of the Project Jeremiah youth mentoring group. He was tragically killed in Chicago in 2010 fighting off an armed robbery attempt, and the Wisconsin National Guard and the Chicago Police Department each developed an award to honor his legacy.

Selection into the Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor is one of the highest recognitions the Wisconsin National Guard can bestow upon a former soldier or, with limited exception for heroic or extraordinary actions, a present member of the organization.

Likewise, the 1st Lt. Thomas E. Wortham IV Achievement Award is given annually to the Wisconsin National Guard soldier or airman who best represents the citizen soldier ideal through selfless military service and servant leadership in their communities. The ribbon is green for Army and blue for law enforcement, separated by a black stripe signifying a fallen officer.

Brig. Gen. Matthew Strub, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Army, shared some attributes about the young leader who deployed to Iraq in

2004 and again in 2009.

"Those who knew 1st Lt. Wortham during his brief but brilliant career can testify to his courage, integrity and excellence as a combat leader," Strub said. "I've spoken to officers and non-commissioned officers that knew him well. Every single one of them spoke positively about him with fond memories for his selflessness, natural leadership and contagious personality."

Strub spoke of sensitive security missions Wortham led – he and his soldiers dressed in civilian gear and driving low-profile vehicles – in southern Iraq during his 2009-10 deployment. Wortham received the Bronze Star for leading more than 200 combat missions. The general relayed details of one such mission from Wortham's commander on that deployment, Lt. Col. Matthew McDonald, then a captain in the 1st Squadron, 105th Cavalry Regiment.

"Minutes before crossing the border, they encountered a convoy traveling on the same route that had just been caught in a fierce ambush," Strub said. "All their vehicles were thoroughly shot up."

Wortham collected information from the returning convoy, and then briefed his men.

"Tommy was in control," Strub said. "Calm and confident – he clearly had the respect of his sergeants and soldiers as he briefed them, developed the plan, then checked and rechecked their preparation to go into the unknown. He showed no fear in that moment."

Strub said that McDonald knew Wortham had passed the crucial tests that all combat leaders aspire to – his men

admired him, and they would follow him.

Wortham joined the Chicago Police Department in 2007, quickly gaining the trust and admiration of his peers and supervisors for his willingness to patrol the most dangerous areas in Chicago's seventh district.

"By any measure of a military and law enforcement career, Wortham's star shone brightly," Strub said. "So many fellow soldiers who had known him for years only learned after his death of his above-and-beyond service as a citizen."

Wortham, while off-duty, served as president of the Cole Park Advisory Council, a community policing organization dedicated to reducing the rising crime in the neighborhood. He organized neighborhood watches and conducted youth interventions to steer youth away from gangs, drugs and violence. He worked to keep local basketball courts open and safe from gang violence. He served as a mentor and positive role model.

"We are forever indebted to Tom," Strub said.

Wortham's sister Sandra spoke on behalf of his family.

"Tommy has been gone for quite a while now – it's been 13 and a half years," she said. "But the way that you remember him makes us feel like it was yesterday, and we can never thank you enough."

Sandra said her brother dreamed of serving in the military since childhood, and credited her parents, Carolyn and Thomas E. Wortham III, for developing his character.

"One thing I can take comfort in is, though he did not live a long life, he did exactly what he wanted to," Sandra said.



PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD *Brodhead Independent-Register*

1st Lt. Thomas E. Wortham IV was inducted into the Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor during a joint ceremony Oct. 27 at the Wisconsin National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters.

"Listening to the stories about his time overseas – that was a dream for him."

She encouraged those serving in the armed forces and in law enforcement to carry on their work.

"Please know that there is nothing society could do without you," she said. "We count on our service members, we count on our law enforcement members, and Tommy really embodied that mix of citizen and soldier."

The Wortham family received a certificate of commendation from Gov. Tony Evers as well as a copy of the plaque which will be displayed in the Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor at Joint Force Headquarters.

The Wisconsin Air National Guard's Master Sgt. Charles "Earl" Ells, a watch supervisor in the air traffic control tower and radar approach control at Volk Field, is the 2023 recipient of the 1st Lt. Thomas E. Wortham IV Achievement Award.

Brig. Gen. David May, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Air, introduced Ells

and spoke of spending time in the control tower with Ells during a Northern Lightning exercise when more than 70 fighter aircraft taxied onto the runway for the morning training mission.

"I was having heart palpitations," said May, a former commander at Volk Field. "But for Earl it was just another day in the office. I was always impressed with how seamlessly he and his controllers were able to adjust to the extreme swings in the operational tempo in our airspace, always keeping our air crews safe."

Ells also serves as the Camp Douglas village president, where during his tenure he has overseen improvements to Main Street and utilities, won a \$750,000 grant to build a new community center, organized meal delivery for hundreds of elderly village residents, and developed and expanded the village's Armed Forces Day event.

When Volk Field's airspace complex was updated in 2019, Ells was part of the effort to engage local pilots to ensure safety.

"If you spend any time in the Camp Douglas area, you will see the good work of Earl Ells," May said. "He's a consummate people person with a vision for his community, always focused on making progress and accomplishing tangible things."

Ells organized informational field trips to Volk Field with the Tomah Area School District, emphasizing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and encouraging military service.

Ells said that, of all the awards he has received during his military career, the Wortham IV Achievement Award means the most.

Speaking without a script, Ells thanked retired Col. Jim Olson and retired Chief Master Sgt. Greg Cullen for their mentorship, and his family for their support. He shared that he is a quarter Native American, and is enrolled in the Bad River Indian Reservation by Ashland, Wisconsin. He closed his comments with a short statement in Ojibwe, which translated as "Many lives strengthened one."

• WSA (Continued from page 6)

Wisconsin has economic benefits. Wisconsin currently produces 25 million gallons of biodiesel at two plants, REG Madison in DeForest and Walsh BioFuels in Mauston. If SB 454 is passed and demand for renewable fuels increases, it may bring with it a need for

more crush plants. "Hopefully, if we get enough biodiesel use in Wisconsin, it may also increase demand for crush plants and processing facilities that could bring more jobs into the state," Rebut said.

As always, WSA never stops

working on behalf of Wisconsin's soybean growers. As a vital component of the soybean industry, biodiesel provides environmental and economic benefits to everyone. The WSA believes that passing SB 454 would be a step in the right direction for Wisconsin.

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