

Brodhead Independent Register

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SHOPPING NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24, 2024

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State farmers union hosts Farm and Rural Lobby Day

Conservation, rural development, clean water, dairy among topics discussed

Over fifty family farmers and rural advocates gathered in Madison on Wednesday, Jan. 17 for Wisconsin Farmers Union's Farm and Rural Lobby Day, where they advocated for policy priorities set by the grassroots membership at the organization's recent state convention.

Priority topics discussed with representatives were; support for clean water and conservation, rural development, access to affordable healthcare, nutrition and agricultural education, and dairy policy.

"Farm and Rural Lobby Day allows Farmers Union members from across the state to come together and voice their concerns and solutions directly with our representatives," said Darin Von Ruden, WFU President and dairy farmer from Westby. "Our collective effort reinforces the vital role of agriculture and advocacy in shaping policies that sustain our rural communities."

Governor Tony Evers provided a special welcome at the event, highlighting efforts made by the state over the past year, including road improvement projects, support for meat processing and producer-led watershed programs, and investments in the Dairy Innovation Hub and the new Center for Dairy Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"We're working to connect the dots on all these important issues and in the year ahead, we'll continue to prioritize investments to ensure that farmers, families, and rural communities can continue building reliable health and wealth," stated Evers. "Together we will continue to ensure that farmers and rural communities across the state have the tools and resources

to thrive and we'll continue to remain a national leader in the agriculture industry for generations to come."

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Assistant Deputy Secretary Mike Strigel also addressed the family farm organization, commending them on their efforts on the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, producer-led watershed groups, and the Wisconsin Local Food Purchase Assistance (WI-LFPA) program, which connects farmers with food distribution partners and local food networks to endure distribution of fresh and nutritious foods in underserved communities.

Senator Jeff Smith spoke to attendees about bills circulating to address food waste and the need for more county conservation staffing, and Dr. Robert Craig of Citizen Action concentrated on healthcare issues in Wisconsin.

WFU members will have the opportunity to lobby again this fall when hundreds of farmers from throughout the country will gather in Washington, D.C. for the National Farmers Union Fly-In in September. Scholarships are available for first-time attendees. Members will also carry policy forward at the National Farmers Union Convention March 10 to 12 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Learn more at the website online at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. For more information visit www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.



Wisconsin Farmers Union members from throughout the state took part in Farm and Rural Lobby Day in Madison on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

PHOTO SUBMITTED Brodhead Independent-Register

Albany boys' basketball flourishing as season goes on

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Every team starts the year by telling the media the same message. That message is that they hope to improve throughout the year and to play their best ball when it matters most. Thus far, the 2023-2024 Albany Comets are the embodiment of that mantra.

After a slow start to the year, the Comets have worked their way into the mix of the Six Rivers-East Conference standings. There is still work to be done, but the Comets

and their head coach, Kurt Soderberg, have to be pleased with the recent turnaround.

The Comets got off to a miserable 1-4 start to the season. The stretch included a heartbreaking 36-34 loss to Barneveld. Something clicked after those first five games, however. In their next ten games played, the Comets went 8-2, completely revitalizing their season.

When asked about the team's turnaround, Soderberg credited their continued work, rather than pointing out one specific improvement. "I don't know that anything has changed aside from the growth of our team in terms of the proper execution of our concepts," Soderberg shared, before adding that, "We played several strong

programs early in the season, which helped us grow and mature. Our kids were fully committed to improving in the off season and their work has paid off."

Recently, the Comets saw their hard work continue to pay off as they avoided another significant losing streak. By the end of 2023, the Comets were riding a six-game winning streak. After tipping 2024 off with a victory over Johnson Creek, the Comets went on to suffer a pair of tough losses to Pecatonica and Monticello. The Comets were on the road for their matchup against Monticello, and they were back on the road just a few days later to face off with Madison Country Day.

The important thing for the Comets was how would

they respond? After a fun win streak, the Comets saw two quick losses pile up. Back in the face of adversity, the Comets stepped up their game to get a win when they needed it.

It was a dominant first half for the Comets. Their offense was firing on all cylinders as the buckets continued to fall for Albany. By the halftime break, the Comets already held a massive 44-14 advantage.

With the big lead, Albany managed to rotate some other players in for the second half. While it meant valuable minutes for their bench players, the Albany lead quickly dwindled. By the end of the game, the final score made it look

See BASKETBALL, Page 4

Reassessing the value of Wisconsin farmland

WISCONSIN POLICY FORUM

Under state law, Wisconsin farmland is supposed to be assessed based on the value of what it can produce, with state officials calculating the hypothetical income generated by an acre of land each year. However, state administrative rules instead have resulted in these parcels being taxed at roughly one-quarter of the value of what they can produce through farming. While beneficial to owners of farmland and perhaps justifiable in some respects, the state's current approach also affects other property owners.

Like many states, Wisconsin assesses the value of farmland – and taxes it – based on the income a farmer can receive

by growing crops on it.

Though commonly used across the country for agricultural land, this form of "use-value assessment" differs from the method typically used by assessors to value residential and commercial properties, which looks at what such parcels would fetch if sold. Compared to market rate values, use-value results in a lower assessed value and tax relief to farmers. Supporters argue it helps to preserve farmland from development, though evidence on this front is mixed.

However, a little-known change implemented by state officials has further reduced the assessed value of farmland, lowering property taxes even more for those landowners and

increasing them for other property owners. This gap has become particularly notable at a time when the values of Wisconsin property assessed at market rates have grown rapidly.

In 2023, an acre of Wisconsin cropland had a market value of \$6,710, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An acre of pasture was valued at \$3,150. Meanwhile, the state Department of Revenue (DOR) calculated the average value of cropland at \$933 an acre for 2023 based on the income that farmers earn from growing corn. That calculation would result in an average assessment that is 86.1%

See REASSESSING, Page 4

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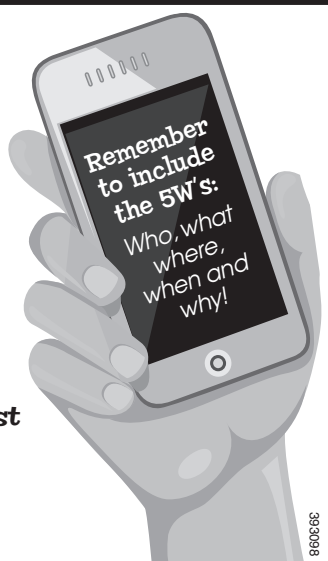
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OPEI offers 12 tips to help prepare ahead of winter storms

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners that it's important to make sure you have the right outdoor power equipment on hand and are prepared before a storm.

"Across the country, we're seeing weather events that are more significant and more frequent. These present real challenges to homeowners and businesses. Thankfully, outdoor power equipment is here to help. There is a product and power source for every need and to address every scenario," said Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. "At all times of the year, it's important to keep your outdoor power equipment in working order, to have the right fuel on hand, and to know where your safety gear is. Get prepared now, so you are ready."

OPEI offers the following tips:

- Make a list of what you need to clean up. Survey your property. Consider the damage a storm might cause and make a list of what tools might be needed for repairs. You might need a chainsaw, pole pruner, water pump, portable genera-

tor, snow thrower, or utility vehicle.

- Take stock of your outdoor power equipment. Make sure equipment is in good working order. If needed, take your equipment to an authorized service center for maintenance or repair.

- Find your safety gear. Avoid the scramble for sturdy shoes, safety goggles, hard hats, reflective clothing and work gloves, which should be stored in an accessible area with your equipment.

- Review the owner's manuals for your equipment. Read product manuals to ensure you know how to operate your equipment safely.

- Have the right fuel on hand. Fuel stations may be closed after a storm, so it's important to have the proper fuel for your equipment. Store your fuel in an approved container. Use the type of fuel recommended by your equipment manufacturer. It is illegal to use any fuel with more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment (for more information: www.Look-BeforeYouPump.com).

- Use common sense when using outdoor power equip-

ment. After the storm, take time to think through a strategy for clean-up efforts, and use the appropriate equipment for the job. If necessary, call a professional landscape contractor or tree care service.

- Keep batteries charged. Make sure batteries for your equipment are fully charged in advance of a storm, and only used manufacturer-approved charging systems. Keep a couple of extra batteries on hand to keep equipment running.

- Trim trees safely. Keep both feet firmly on the ground, and observe the safety zone, which means keeping bystanders and power lines (those above you and any that might have fallen down) at least 50 feet away from your work area.

- Ensure portable electric generators have plenty of ventilation. Generators should never be used in an enclosed area or placed inside a home or garage, even if the windows or doors are open. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. Keep the generator dry, and make sure you have adequate lengths of ex-

tension cords. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool down.

- Drive utility vehicles (UTVs) with caution. Keep the vehicle stable and drive slowly. Do not turn the vehicle mid-slope or while on a hill.

- Be aware of others. Keep bystanders, children and animals out of your work area. Do not allow other people near outdoor power equipment when starting the equipment or using it.

- Listen to your body. Storm cleanup can be draining. Do not operate power equipment when you are tired, drink plenty of water and take regular breaks.

About OPEI

OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of outdoor power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through



PHOTO SUBMITTED Brodhead Independent-Register

To prepare for a winter storm, make sure equipment, like a snow thrower, is in good working order.

the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotech-

nical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards.

Obituaries

MARK KELTNER

Mark Alan Keltner, age 70, passed away peacefully while surrounded by his family on Jan. 17, 2024 at the Monroe Hospital in Monroe.

Mark was born on Nov. 16, 1953 in Freeport, Ill., the son of Lloyd and Lorraine (Edler) Keltner. He married Candy Wuthrich on Dec. 18, 1992 in Rock County.

Mark graduated from Beloit Memorial High School in 1972. He traveled down many career roads but his true passion in life was operating his own dairy farm. He was raised as a city boy but his heart was always in the country. Growing up he spent many summers staying at his grandparents' farm where he found his passion for dairy farming. He farmed for thirty years on his own dairy farm plus worked off the farm as well. His other passions included fast cars, which included going to Nascar races or driving his 1969 Huger Orange Z28 Chevy Camaro. He played guitar in his early years and loved listening and jamming to his music on speakers that would rattle the windows. He also enjoyed fishing and took many trips to the Mississippi River.

But what truly mattered in his life were his kids and then grandkids. He loved being a father, and through the years that extended out to other kids he met along the way. He loved



being Uncle Mark to all his nieces and nephews. Mark lived a very full life, full of many stories that

he said so many times that he should write a book. He truly was a remarkable man and touched many people's lives that he will truly be missed by many.

Mark is survived by his wife, Candy; 3 children, Christina (Robert) Richardson, Heidi Keltner and Christian Keltner; 2 step children, Jessica Perkins and Brandon Perkins; 9 grandchildren, Connor, Trevor, Selena, Austin, Alexis, Gunner, Kaelyn, Wesson and Dominic; 2 great grandchildren, Mayella and Clementine; 4 siblings, Deborah Edwards, Cynthia (Michael) Huffman, Kathy (John) Woodworth and Curt Keltner and many other nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents and one granddaughter, Peyton Richardson in 2003.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Jan. 27 at Public Houzz in Brodhead from 2 to 6 p.m.

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

ELAINE STEWART

Elaine Barbara Stewart, age 90, passed away while at her home on Jan. 18, 2024.

Elaine was born at home in Spring Grove Township, the daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Rhyner) Kundert. She married Donald Stewart on Dec. 27, 1949 in Dubuque, Iowa.

Elaine was a member of the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Brodhead for many years and attended the Atwood School on Mt. Hope Road. She enjoyed connecting with family and friends by taking pictures, printing two out and giving the extra to that person. Elaine enjoyed trying new recipes, saving her dimes, going to rummage sales and sketching, which she passed along to her children. Elaine wrote in her daily diary and still has those since the 1940's. But most of all, Elaine enjoyed working and running the farm with her family and husband Donald since 1955.

Elaine is survived by her 9 children, Phillip (Rhonda) Stewart of Monroe, Karen (Nathan) Strahm of Monticello, Michael Nolty of Janesville, Shierley (Joann) Stewart of Browntown, Kenneth (Barbara) Stewart of Mesquite, Nev., Cindy (Terry) Kobernick of Overland Park, Kansas, James



(Nancy) Stewart of Brodhead, Gregory Stewart of Brodhead and Lisa Vegter of Elkhorn; 24 grandchildren, 46 great grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren and many other nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Donald in 1993, a son Wesley in 2011, a daughter, Amy Joe Stewart in 1982, a grandson, Christopher Martin in 1971 and two siblings, Raymond Kundert and Edith Kloepping.

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

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 1005 W. 2nd Avenue in Brodhead on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 at 11 a.m. A visitation will also take place at St. Rose on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of Mass. Burial will conclude at the Greenwood Cemetery in Brodhead. Father Joseph Belamkonda will celebrate.

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

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Wisconsin dairy groups announce new award

Wisconsin dairy plays a significant role within rural communities; many who work in dairy are also community leaders, serving on boards for their schools, towns, counties and numerous other organizations.

This year, the Dairy Business Association and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin collaborated to unveil a new honor for dairy men and women who prioritize building trusted relationships with their neighbors and the surrounding community.

At DBA's annual Dairy Strong conference on Wednesday, Jan. 17, the groups announced Doug Grotegut as the inaugural recipient of the Community Builder Award.

"I really enjoy sharing my farm with everybody," Grotegut said in front of an audience at the KI Convention Center. "Reach out to people. It's not just your farm, it's your community. Do whatever's right to help out."

Grotegut co-owns and operates Grotegut Dairy Farm Inc., a third-generation family farm in Newton, Wis., and has long been a leader in the dairy community. The farm milks about 3,500 cows and manages about 3,350 acres of land.

Notably, Doug played a pivotal role in hosting the Mani-

towoc County Breakfast on the Farm, drawing thousands to the farm and educating the public about dairy farming in Wisconsin. His commitment to transparency is evident through the farm's partnership with the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center. Each year, the farm hosts tours with individuals from across the globe, giving them an up-close-and-personal experience of what Wisconsin dairy is all about.

"Doug Grotegut's dedication to his community and Wisconsin dairy is exemplary," Chad Vincent, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin CEO, said. "His efforts to engage the public, promote sustainable farming and actively engage in community events make him – and the entire Grotegut family – a remarkable recipient for the first Community Builder Award."

Grotegut accepted the award from DBA President Lee Kinnard in front of family, friends and industry peers.

"The Community Builder Award is a testament to individuals' or families' role as a pillar of the community – exemplifying leadership, responsibility and a deep-seated commitment to their community," Kinnard said. "(Doug) perfectly exemplifies what it means to build and give back to your community."

More than 450 farmers representing over 280,000 cows, along with allied professionals, attended Dairy Strong. The two-day conference features presentations from leaders in dairy policy, farm management and sustainability.

About DBA

The Dairy Business Association is Wisconsin's leading dairy advocacy group, championing smart and sensible regulations affecting the dairy community. The nonprofit organization includes farmers, milk processors, vendors and other business partners who work collaboratively to ensure that dairy farms of all sizes have the support they need to keep America's Dairyland strong. Find more information at www.dairyforward.com.

About Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin exists to be a tireless advocate, marketer, and promoter for Wisconsin dairy farmers and to drive demand for Wisconsin's dairy products. The organization represents Wisconsin farm families and works to increase the sale and consumption of Wisconsin milk and dairy products, as well as build trust in dairy farmers and the industry. For

more information, visit the website at wisconsindairy.org.

PHOTO COURTESY DAIRY FORWARD
Brodhead Independent-Register

Doug Grotegut, left, accepted the inaugural Community Builder Award from Dairy Business Association President Lee Kinnard and Chad Vincent, CEO of Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, on Jan. 17 during DBA's Dairy Strong conference at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay.



Janesville Flannelfest returns on Feb. 24, tickets on sale

Downtown Janesville Flannelfest presented by Blain's Farm and Fleet returns for the five-year anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 24, from noon to 5 p.m.

Taste over 100 beers from craft brewers all over Wisconsin and vote for a favorite brew at the homebrew competition, sponsored by The Looking Glass.

Participate in a day filled with fun and unlimited games including axe throwing, giant pong, hammerschlagen, derby race, and jousting.

Compete in the Lazy Man

Run or cornhole tournament for a chance to win great prizes.

Live entertainment will be featured throughout the event including chainsaw artists and a caricature artist, sponsored by Elevation Air. Food and merchandise vendors will be available for purchase.

Tickets are available to the public to purchase at www.janesvilleflannelfest.com. This event is brought to the public by Downtown Janesville, Inc.

A limited number of VIP tickets are available which includes access to The Venue, lunch served from noon to 1:30 p.m., a special VIP brew at The Venue, live music in The Venue, commemorative Flannelfest souvenir, pretzel necklace making station, live entertainment, beer tastings, unlimited games, Flannelfest beer mug and lanyard for \$100. The VIP area is sponsored by TDS Fiber and Harris Ace Hardware. General admission tickets are \$50 and include beer tastings, unlimited games, live entertainment, Flannelfest beer mug and lanyard. Prices will

increase on Feb. 1.

"Flannelfest is a great way to get out of the house during the winter months and participate in some fun Wisconsin-themed activities with friends. We're excited to celebrate the five-year anniversary and plan on this being the best year yet," said Elaina Szyjewski, Managing Director.

Flannelfest is sponsored by Blain's Farm and Fleet, Elevation Air, TDS Fiber, Harris Ace Hardware, The Looking Glass, Whiskey Ranch, Nowlan Personal Injury Team, Drafthouse, N1 Critical Technologies, JP Cullen, Angus Young, Sandee's Thai Fusion, Uncommon Cents Investing, Degarmo Plumbing and Piping, Big Radio, Lamar Advertising, The Venue, Brabazon Title Team, RH Batterman, The Diamond Center, and Basics Cooperative.

Flannelfest is one of the largest fundraisers for Downtown Janesville, Inc., a volunteer-led nonprofit organization. For more information, email organizers at info@downtown-janesville.com.

Dolly Parton's songs come to life on the JPAC stage

Janesville Performing Arts Center presents 9 to 5 The Musical, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick.

The musical is based on the seminal 1980 hit movie. Set in the late 1970s, this hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic.

Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers con-

coct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't

she?

Show Dates

- Friday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. (ASL interpreted)
 - Sunday, Jan. 28 at 2 p.m.
 - Friday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. (audio described)
 - Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m.
- The Saturday, Jan. 27, 2 p.m. show will be ASL interpreted. The Saturday, Feb.

3, 2 p.m. show will be audio described. For both opportunities, please email alexis@janesvillepac.org or call 608-758-0297 to reserve seats in the respective areas.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for senior citizens, and \$16 for students. Group sale discounts available for groups over 10.

Purchase tickets online at www.janesvillepac.org or by calling 608-758-0297.



PHOTO SUBMITTED *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Coming to the Janesville Performing Arts Center is 9 to 5 The Musical, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. The musical will be on the stage from Friday, Jan. 26 to Sunday, Feb. 4.

Register now for inaugural Wisconsin CEC Conference

Come to Platteville this spring and explore how local entrepreneurship drives the Driftless Region's development. Network with fellow community champions from around the state. And gain new technical skills for promoting entrepreneurship in a small town.

An annual event in other Midwestern states, the CEC Conference is coming to Wisconsin for the first time in 2024. Business leaders,

economic development professionals, local leaders, and community champions will gather in Platteville for two days of programming about strategies for supporting entrepreneurship in Wisconsin's small towns.

The conference will be held May 30 to 31 in Platteville. For more information, visit their website at [https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/connecting-entrepreneurial-communities-con-](https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/connecting-entrepreneurial-communities-conference)

ference.

Not a typical conference, CEC will tour attendees around Platteville to explore the Driftless Region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Local businesses will host panels and presentations, and conference attendees can check out the local food scene, visit key community sites, and network with fellow leaders in rural development. Participants will walk away with new perspectives and strategies

for building entrepreneurial ecosystems in their own small towns.

Gathering entrepreneurs, business leaders, economic development professionals, decision makers, and community champions, the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference features presentations and technical programming to help small towns create environments in which entrepreneurs can thrive.

Registration open for artists for 66th Annual Tallman Arts Festival

Artists of all mediums are invited to register for the 66th annual Tallman Arts Festival, set for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the Rock County Historical Society (RCHS) and Lincoln-Tallman Museum, 440 N. Jackson Street in Janesville.

More than 2,000 people attend the arts fest, which features art of all kinds – from ceramics and photography, to jewelry, mixed media and more.

The weekend includes live music, food trucks, a children's area, beer tent, and many nonprofit exhibitors. Proceeds from the Tallman Arts Festival support educational programming and preservation of the historic buildings on the RCHS campus.

Registration is now open to artists; registration is \$100 a booth for one day, or \$150 per booth for two days. To apply, visit <https://rchs.us/taf-artist-application>.

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, Wisconsin. Its sites include the award-winning Lincoln-Tallman Museum, the Museum and Visitor Center, RCHS Archives and Preservation Facility, Tallman Carriage House, Wilson-King Stone House, and the newly renovated Frances Willard Schoolhouse.

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less than the market value, a substantial tax benefit already. Using the same method, DOR estimated the productive value of pasture land at \$280 per acre, about 91.1% below market value.

Under the DOR's final assessment method, however, an acre of cropland was valued at \$242, 96.4% less than the market rate. Pasture land was valued at \$73 per acre, or nearly 98% less.

This brief examines how Wisconsin's use-value law is written and implemented. We use DOR calculations to show the gap between the potential value of cropland based on farming income and its actual assessed value under the current state method. We also look at the implications of this gap and compare Wisconsin's approach to those of other Midwestern states.

How Use-Value Assessment Works

Assessing farmland based on its potential agricultural output instead of its market value substantially lowers assessed values and tax burdens for farmland owners. That's because values based on agricultural production typically fall well below what an acre of land could command on the open market. Methods for calculating assessed values for farmland matter for all property owners because these values are used by local governments to calculate property taxes; tax bills for individual properties are based not only on their assessed value, but also on the values of other properties within a given jurisdiction.

Because the Wisconsin Constitution requires treating all property the same regardless of type, allowing use-value assessment required a constitutional amendment. This change to the state's charter was made in 1974, but Wisconsin didn't actually change state law until 1995, responding to a wave of farm foreclosures in the 1980s and development pressures on farmland. That change specified that use-value assessment only applies to land currently used for farming, so market values are used to assess other land owned by producers along with their farm buildings and homes.

Wisconsin law states that agricultural land shall be taxed based on the income that could be generated from renting the property. To define the process, the Legislature created a Farmland Advisory Council. This body includes experts in taxation, local government finance, and agriculture, and the council determines the rules for calculating use value and meets annually to finalize the values per acre.

The formula, outlined in state administrative code, is based on how much corn could be grown on an acre of cropland and the five-year average price for a bushel of corn, and also incorporates interest rates and local property taxes to arrive at an estimate of net income. Farmland is classified into pasture and three grades of cropland, with grade one being the most productive and valuable based on the farm income it can generate.

Yet this formula for valu-

ing land based on its agricultural production ultimately plays a limited role in assessing farmland in Wisconsin. That's because of a series of changes that culminated in a 2006 adjustment to state rules that tied the annual change in farmland values to the change in statewide equalized values for all property except farmland and newly constructed buildings and structures.

Fiscal Bureau indicates the changes starting in 2004 were intended to prevent farmland values from declining. First, assessed values for cropland were frozen at 2003 levels to prevent them from falling to negative per-acre values, due to depressed corn prices and increased farming costs in the early 2000s. The 2006 change was meant to prevent dramatic future changes from the frozen 2003 values, but in the years since it has served to hold down the assessed value of farmland.

A supporter of the current approach might argue it helps prevent large swings in farmland values due to changes in often volatile corn prices and avoids a repeat of negative per-acre land values. However, the state formula for calculating the production value of farmland already smooths fluctuations in corn prices to some degree by using a five-year average price for that crop. There would also be other options to prevent negative land values, including establishing a maximum annual decrease in values, or creating a minimum per-acre value.

Value Estimates Diverge

Over time, the 2006 change has resulted in a massive gap between the values calculated using the two methods. In 2023, the estimated value of cropland and pasture based on its income potential was roughly four times the final assessed value per acre.

In fact, assessed values for cropland or pasture are no longer directly related to potential income from farming as specified in state law. Instead, they are tied more closely to changes in overall state property values.

The gap between actual assessed values and values based on farm income has closed since 2018. Cropland values in 2024, however, will diverge again, with average assessed values at \$270 per acre and output-based values calculated at \$1,149.

Meanwhile, the overall impact of use-value assessment is increasing. As market-rate land values have skyrocketed, assessed values for farmland have not kept pace, making the total value of the tax benefit the highest on record even after adjusting for inflation.

Impact on other Taxpayers

Use-value assessment does not directly lower the total taxes collected by a local government, but instead shifts the responsibility to pay the levy from farmers to other taxpayers. It also shifts responsibilities among farmers to those who own less land and more assets taxed at full value such as buildings. Assessed values are used to allocate a portion of a jurisdiction's total levy to a taxpayer's bill, with higher-value properties paying more. When the property value of farmland is lower, owners of other types of properties such as homes and businesses must make up the difference.

This transfer of the tax burden can have notable impacts within the types of local government such as towns, counties, and school districts that can have large tracts of farmland. In rural towns, a limited number of homes and even fewer businesses also may shoulder more of the cost of town services.

Some counties, like Dane, have large agricultural areas surrounding cities and villages, where residential and commercial taxpayers end up paying for a larger share of county and technical college services. School districts like Hartford Union High present a similar case, with the district's roughly

225 square miles consisting of largely agricultural land surrounding smaller urbanized areas that end up paying for a greater share of school district costs.

Because the main form of state aid to schools is allocated in part based on property values, lower values in rural areas also result in at least some shift of state aid away from urban areas.

Some might argue that the cost of many government services, such as schools and public health and safety, depends on population, not geographic area, and that therefore it's reasonable to create a system that does not assign tax burdens as heavily based on the acreage that a taxpayer owns. However, there are still government costs associated with using farmland, such as transportation networks, policing, and emergency services, and the current approach may amount to a greater benefit than what the Legislature intended.

Use-value assessment was designed to provide property tax relief to those who primarily earn their income from farming. However, it also lowers taxes for developers and other landowners who purchase cropland and then lease it to farmers until it is eventually developed.

This sizable tax reduction may also increase the value of farmland by lowering the cost of holding these lands. Higher land values in turn might make it more challenging for new farmers to enter the profession.

Some states have policies to prevent non-farmers from taking advantage of this sort of tax break. However, Wisconsin law does not have these provisions beyond a requirement that land must be primarily devoted to agriculture, as determined by local property assessors. However, a charge does apply when converting agricultural land to other uses.

Other States

Most states nationally and in the Midwest tie the assessed value of cropland to the potential income from farming the land. With the exception of Michigan, Midwest states calculate this potential income using commodity prices. Some states like Minnesota have minimum acreage requirements such as 20 acres to qualify. Other states such as Iowa and Nebraska require proof of farm income generated from the property. For more on this topic, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy published a detailed report on farmland assessment nation-

ally in 2015.

Wisconsin's average property taxes on farm assets are higher than those of most Midwest states. Some of this difference, however, may relate to how farm buildings and other improvements are taxed, as well as land not classified as cropland or pasture such as certain types of forestlands. In addition, that per acre property tax is determined by many factors, including the cost of government services in each state and the presence of other local revenue sources, such as sales taxes. In other words, the chart shows only the property taxes paid by farmers but not the total taxes paid or what services they are paid to cover.

Conclusion

The state's current approach to valuing farmland amounts to a sort of double discount: the first is well understood and the second is unknown even to some experts. This approach is notable, especially in the context of the current housing affordability challenges facing many Wisconsin communities, since it puts more of the cost of government services onto residential and commercial property owners. The current approach may also distort to some extent both market values for agricultural land and state aid to school districts.

At the same time, there are likely also some benefits from the current approach. By lowering property taxes on producers, for example, use-value assessment in Wisconsin and nationally may contribute to maintaining an affordable and dependable food supply.

Ultimately, many state residents value Wisconsin's agricultural legacy and identity and may see use-value assessment as a longstanding tool to help preserve it. That may be particularly true given Wisconsin's heavy reliance on property taxes to fund local services, and the burden that policy choice places on farming, a land-intensive occupation. It's also important to note that the state's property tax bills per acre are more than most neighboring states.

However, the state has employed for years and across several administrations a method for valuing farmland that is difficult to understand and may not be consistent with state statutes. Policymakers may wish to thoughtfully consider whether this approach is meeting their goals and doing so in a transparent fashion.

DWD highlights year of historic results for state workforce in 2023

From record-low unemployment to all-time high participation in key workforce programs, the year 2023 delivered historic wins for Wisconsin workers, job seekers, employers, and other stakeholders under the leadership of Gov. Tony Evers.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD)'s latest annual report showcases the many achievements by DWD and its many partners to support workers and build an economy that works for everyone.

"DWD's 2023 Annual Report highlights what was truly a record-breaking year with important progress for Wisconsin's workers, employers, and job seekers," DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek said. "These achievements are a testament to the commitment of our agency's staff and many workforce partners to carry out Gov. Evers' vision to support and advance Wisconsin's labor market economy. Together, we carry the momentum of historic results during 2023 into a new year of continued collaboration, innovation and achievement."

Examples of highlights from the 2023 Annual Report include:

- Record-breaking apprenticeship enrollment: Wisconsin in November announced a record 16,384 Registered Apprentices and 8,357 Youth Apprentices with 5,719 employer sponsors.
- Disability employment milestone: Newly published federal data showed a record 178,337 working-age individuals with disabilities found employment in Wisconsin, emphasizing inclusivity in the workforce.
- Customer service modernization: DWD continued the unprecedented, multi-year modernization of its Unemployment Insurance (UI) system, and its Equal Rights Division introduced an

online work permit application system for younger workers and an online case portal.

- Another decline in worker's compensation premiums: The eighth straight decline in worker's compensation insurance rates, with the latest decline of 8.4% resulting in annual savings of \$148 million for Wisconsin employers.
- Workforce Solutions Initiative milestone: Gov. Evers' historic \$158 million Workforce Solutions Initiative reached a significant milestone, having delivered workforce training and support services to over 33,000 Wisconsin residents.
- Record-low unemployment: Wisconsin's unemployment rate reached an all-time low of 2.4% and a record low 73,000 unemployed workers in April. In addition, Wisconsin's labor force was 80,000 higher in December 2023 than it was in December 2022, and the state's labor force participation rate remained consistently above the national average throughout the year.

The full 2023 Annual Report is available on the DWD website.

Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development efficiently delivers effective and inclusive services to meet Wisconsin's diverse workforce needs now and for the future. The department advocates for and invests in the protection and economic advancement of all Wisconsin workers, employers and job seekers through six divisions – Employment and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, Unemployment Insurance, Equal Rights, Worker's Compensation and Administrative Services. To keep up with DWD announcements and information, sign up for news releases and follow them on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Basketball (Continued from front page)

closer than it truly was. Albany went home with a 59-40 victory over MCD on Jan. 16, picking up their ninth victory of the season.

It was a monster day for Ty Durtschi, who led the way with twenty-five points in the win. Durtschi hit five three-pointers on the night and added five assists and three rebounds to his totals. Kaden Zurfluh was the next leading scorer with nine points, as well as a team-leading seven rebounds. Caleb Smith matched Zurfluh with seven rebounds of his own. Tyler Patchen had a nice day with six points, six rebounds, and five steals. Nate Stokstad also added six points in the

victory.

One thing Albany has been able to do all season is spread the wealth. Each and every night, a different player can lead the score column for Albany. Soderberg spoke about the team's versatility, and how it has become one of their strengths. "We are led by two seniors [Brayden Bakken and Drew Sertle], who have played major roles in our program. Brayden runs the team and is an extension of the coaches. He can score from deep and is a very good defender. Drew has been a consistent factor on both offense and defense. He often-times guards the opponent's best player, and he has added

to his offensive game, resulting in more scoring. On any given night, there are several guys that can fill the score sheet, but it's been a true team effort on both ends of the floor. We consistently play seven guys, so it is important that we stay healthy, and everyone contributes in whatever way they can," Soderberg shared.

The Comets don't have too much on the schedule in the near future. This week, the Comets have just one game with a home matchup against Argyle on Thursday, Jan. 25. Next week, the Comets hit the road to face off with the Juda Panthers on Tuesday, Jan. 30.

Parkview/Albany 2-0 at Horicon Quad

The Parkview/Albany wrestling team traveled north to Horicon for a Trailways South Conference match-up with Deerfield and Dodge-

land. With already wrestling Horicon, the team did not dual. Matching up against Deerfield, the first meet starting weight was 150. It was a tough match up, going in the hole 24-0. The team was able to chip away at that lead to come back with a 46-36 win.

Results
 150: Caitlin Suick (DEER) over (PARAL) (For.)
 157: Joseph Treinen (DEER) over Erik Garcia (PARAL) (Fall 1:01)
 165: Bryce Eickhoff (DEER) over Jayden Anderson (PARAL) (Fall 2:51)

175: Samtana Haines (DEER) over (PARAL) (For.)
 190: Sam Schwengels (PARAL) over (DEER) (For.)
 215: Wesley Egan (PARAL) over Xavier Valdes (DEER) (Fall 0:57)
 285: Sydney Coyne (PARAL) over Jaretzy Claudio (DEER) (Fall 0:36)
 106: Matthew Morrison (DEER) over Lexi Hanson (PARAL) (Fall 2:28)
 113: Trevor Haugen (PARAL) over (DEER) (For.)
 120: Slater Valley (PARAL) over Ruben Bach (DEER) (MD 11-0)
 126: Danny Finley (PARAL) over Evan Grosvold (DEER) (Fall 2:39)
 132: Hayden Frazer (DEER) over Balin Lacy (PARAL) (Fall 0:51)
 138: Casey Hume (PARAL)

over Brayden Schmeling (DEER) (Fall 1:31)
 144: Peter Roth (PARAL) over Bryce Casteel (DEER) (Fall 0:31)
 In the second match up versus DodgeLand, the starting weight moved up one weight to 157. With the low numbers of wrestlers, the team only matched up in four weight classes. Parkview/Albany went 2-2 and came away with a 60-12 win.
 157: Erik Garcia (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 165: Anton Mikolanis (DGLD) over Jayden Anderson (PARAL) (Fall 2:48)
 175: Double Forfeit
 190: Sam Schwengels (PARAL) over Jason Banyasz (DGLD) (Fall 1:42)
 215: John Zenk (DGLD) over Jagger Wilke (PARAL)

(Fall 1:31)
 285: Wesley Egan (PARAL) over Gavin Merryfield (DGLD) (Fall 1:15)
 106: Lexi Hanson (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 113: Trevor Haugen (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 120: Slater Valley (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 126: Danny Finley (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 132: Casey Hume (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 138: Balin Lacy (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 144: Peter Roth (PARAL) over (DGLD) (For.)
 150: Double Forfeit

Parkview/Albany matched up the girls against Horicon to give each a match.
 107 Lexi Hanson (PARAL) majored Ruby Brandt (HOR) 11-7, 114 Keleigh Holl (HOR) pinned Autumn Hill (PARAL), 120 Kylee Firari (HOR) pinned Ayda Klein (PARAL), Deerfield dual at 285 Sydney Coyne (PARAL) pinned Jaretzy Claudio (DEER) in 0:36.
 With the two wins Parkview/Albany will have a share of the Conference Championship. On Thursday, Jan. 25, the team will be hosting a quad against

Johnson Creek, Montello and St. John's Academy. With a win over Johnson Creek, Parkview/Albany will have the Trailways South Conference alone for the second straight year.
 Parkview/Albany will be inducting six individuals into the Wrestling Wall of Fame: Dennis Kane, Pete Olsen, Rex Markee, Jeff Crandall, Gary Lewis, and Kerry Knutson. Wrestling will start at 5 p.m. and the ceremony will follow after the last match.

This article is courtesy Joel Steinmann.



PHOTOS COURTESY JOEL STEINMANN *Brodhead Independent-Register*
 Peter Roth, left, wrestled during a match-up with Deerfield and DodgeLand.



Sydney Coyne, right, faces an opponent at Horicon.

450196

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For those living without health insurance, a place to turn for answers

By Matthew Call
 UNIVERSITY OF
 WISCONSIN-MADISON

All at once John Manno found himself unemployed, without health insurance, and in excruciating pain. Manno, who lives in Ashland, is a freelance musician and rental property owner who has had sporadic health insurance. Just before his back gave out, he found himself completely priced out of the options he saw. Then came the diagnosis: a \$100,000 surgery to address this herniated disk and a lot of questions about what insurance options he had, if any.

John ended up on the phone with Covering Wisconsin, a statewide program of UW-Madison Extension, and Health Coverage Navigator Tina Marshalek who helped him through his decisions for coverage.

"I was at the clinic here in Ashland on the phone with her," Manno said, describing the process of sorting out his options and when his coverage could start. "It was wonderful, I'm so grateful."

Manno has been a contracted harp player for a number of years and was doing so at an Ashland restaurant until the pandemic temporarily closed

the eatery. He didn't think much of dropping his health insurance premiums when he was on pandemic-related unemployment. That was until his herniated disk started causing neurological damage.

"It was like nothing I'd ever experienced before, and the doctors had never seen anything like it," Manno said. "I needed surgery right away. It would have been permanent nerve damage otherwise."

Manno had successful surgery in October 2022 and is back playing harp at the restaurant and lifting his instrument without assistance. "I'm back to normal," he said.

Navigating the health insurance options

"There are a lot of dense health insurance rules and regulations. They can make getting coverage feel a bit overwhelming," said Marshalek. "Navigators know the tips and tricks that make finding a plan and enrolling easier. We also teach consumers as we go, making sure everyone we work with understands what options they have and how those options meet their financial or health needs."

Covering Wisconsin, our

state's federally certified and state-licensed Health Insurance Navigator agency, helps anyone in Wisconsin secure health insurance coverage, seek timely care, and navigate the healthcare system. They also help residents with all types of health insurance questions, billing concerns and appeals, and transitions to new plans and coverages. Navigators are well versed in the technical aspects of insurance and mentor clients to know what to look for. Covering Wisconsin subcontracts with a variety of community organizations to allow for Navigators to be placed around the state, living and working in the communities they serve.

Extension's Health and Being Institute includes Covering Wisconsin as part of a portfolio of programs benefiting people across Wisconsin. From nutrition education, informing local food systems, advocating for patients, improving physical and mental health, Extension works with individuals, communities, Tribes, nonprofits and others to lift up all voices and provide avenues that make the healthy choice the easy choice. See more at extension.wisc.edu/health.

The need for navigating health insurance

The number of consumers who seek Covering Wisconsin's health insurance

enrollment help continues to increase each year, from around 3,000 in 2020 to more than 7,000 now. Data from the Kaiser Family Foundation suggests that those who have searched for coverage themselves wished they had gotten assistance from a Navigator to help them in the process.

Statewide more than 280,000 residents are uninsured, 83% of whom would qualify for medical assistance programs such as Medicaid, BadgerCare, or on the federal Marketplace. Having health insurance can improve an individual's overall health and reduce financial risks.

"Health insurance can smooth out the rough edges when you think about paying for medical coverage," said Allison Espeseth, Director of Covering Wisconsin. "We provide free, unbiased help for anyone in Wisconsin who is trying to sort through changing rules, changing plans, costs, and unique terminology of health insurance."

Getting and keeping health insurance is not a simple process. This is especially true for those who don't have access to coverage through an employer, such as those who are self-employed, farmers, small business owners, or lower income. When needed medical care gets put off or bills pile up, going without health insurance can lead to deterioration of good health

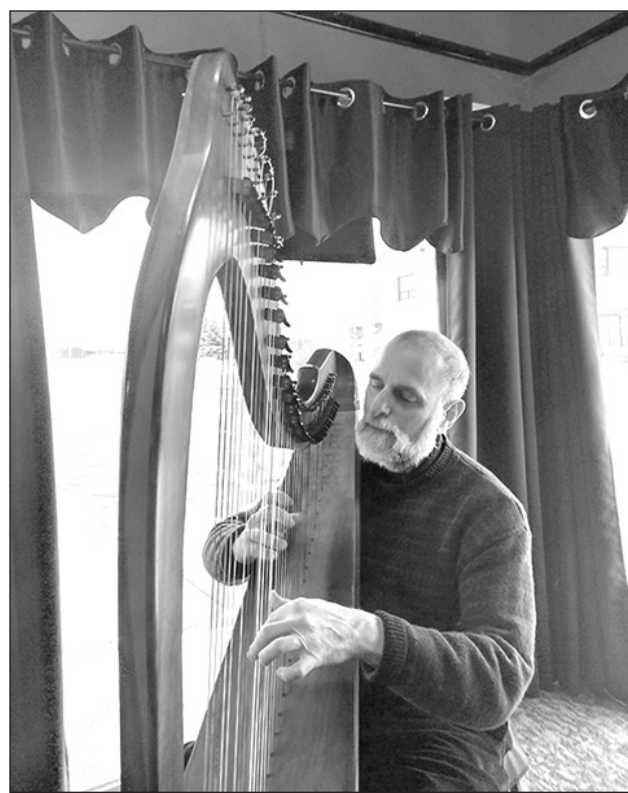


PHOTO SUBMITTED *Brodhead Independent-Register*
John Manno of Ashland, a freelance musician and blind property owner, found himself without health insurance at a time when he was recommended for major back surgery.

and financial security.

Since 2003, Covering Wisconsin has provided free, impartial education and assistance to Wisconsin residents. Health Insurance Navigators stationed across the state support consumers' health insurance needs, such as finding coverage to fit their health care situation, budget, pro-

vider preferences, and other needs. This includes commercial plans made available through the Health Insurance Marketplace, as well as State of Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus coverage for those who meet eligibility criteria. Find more information and access services at coveringwi.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM 2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI

6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. SOLAR PROJECT (PRESENTATION BY CATIE MALCHESKI FROM PIEPER POWER)

II. HVAC PROJECT

III. BUILDING & GROUNDS VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS / ADDITIONS

IV. DISCUSSION ABOUT END-OF-YEAR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

V. PRIORITY PROJECTS AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR APPROVAL

VI. DETERMINE NEXT STEPS AND ADDITIONAL MEETING DATE(S)

VII. ADJOURN

The Independent Register
 1/24/2024
 WNAXLP 450066

Notice of Dissolution of Golz Family Farm, LLC and Instructions for Submitting Notice of Claim

Notice to any and all Creditors of Golz Family Farm, LLC:

You are hereby notified that Golz Family Farm, LLC has been dissolved, effective December 31, 2023.

It is hereby requested that any and all persons with a claim, known or unknown, against Golz Family Farm, LLC or its members, agents, or employees, in their capacities as such, present said claim in accordance with this published notice.

To file a notice of a claim against Golz Family Farm, LLC you must send the following written information to the address below, no later 120 days following the first date of this publication:

1. A statement of the amount of your claim;
2. The legal name of the entity asserting the claim;
3. Identification or brief description of the agreement or other circumstances under which the claim arose; and,

4. Any other information you believe may be useful to verify the nature and amount of the claim, including copies of any relevant documents.

Please send all of the above information to:

Attorney Walter E. Shannon
 Shannon Law Office, LLC
 104 W. Main St.
 Evansville, WI 53536

PLEASE NOTE: A claim against the dissolved limited liability company or its members, agents, or employees, is barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is brought within two (2) years after the first publication date of this notice. If your claim is so barred, you will have no further rights to assert or otherwise take action with respect to your claim, against Golz Family Farm, LLC or its members, agents or employees.

If you have any questions, please contact Attorney Walter E. Shannon, Shannon Law Office, (608) 882-5944.

The Independent Register
 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 2024
 Clintop Topper and
 Evansville Examiner
 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2024
 WNAXLP 449481

ORDINANCE 001-2024 AN ORDINANCE RE-DESIGNATING SECTION 432-40 SUBSECTIONS F. AND G. AND CREATING SECTION F. REGARDING ATV/UTV'S ON 1ST ST AND 1ST CENTER AVE IN THE CITY OF BRODHEAD

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

Effect of Ordinance: Section 432-40 subparts F. and G. are redesignated as subparts G. and H. respectively. Section 432-40 F. is hereby created to read as follows: F. Access to residences and businesses. Operation of an all-terrain vehicle or utility-terrain vehicle is authorized on 1st Street or 1st Center Avenue to provide access to or from residences and businesses located adjacent to 1st Street or 1st Center Avenue within the corporate boundaries of the City of Brodhead. Such access must be made directly to or from the nearest designated route to the residence or business.

Edward "Casey" Jones, Mayor
 Attest: Kristin Covert, City Clerk
 Date Adopted: 01/15/2024
 Date Published: 01/24/2024
 Effective Date: 01/15/2024

The Independent Register
 1/24/2024
 WNAXLP 450158

Orfordville police held committee meeting

The Village of Orfordville held its police committee meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at the village hall.

Chairwoman Nikki Tuffree called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Present were Chairwoman Tuffree, Terry Gerber and Beth Schmidt. Also present were Dennis Burtness, Chief Jeremiah Burdick, and Clerk Sherri Waega.

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Gerber to approve the Dec. 14, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Licenses

Chief Burdick recommend-

ed that licenses be approved for Brookelynn Weeks and Clifford Lesnik. Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Gerber to recommend the Village Board approve licenses for Brookelynn Weeks and Clifford Lesnik. Motion carried.

Day to Day Operations

Chief Burdick explained the following:

- The annual Department of Justice employee survey was completed.
- The employee roster was updated with Rock County I.T. to support the CAD system and Spillman.

• The Department is working on three properties for cleanup.

• The 2024 budget was prepared and finalized.

• The January schedule was completed and offers great coverage.

• Met with Chief Alasankis from the Village of Footville to discuss SOP lockdown procedures. Chief Alasankis was also provided with a fob to access both school buildings in the event of a critical incident situation.

• Completed the monthly use of force report.

• Prepared for and filed the

reimbursement ARPA grant.

• Sent a letter to the resident of 108 S. Center Street to give 30 days to vacate.

Citizen Complaint

President Burtness informed the committee of a citizen complaint. A letter will be sent to the complainant informing them that there will be no action taken.

Body Camera Policy

The Committee reviewed the current body camera policy, it was determined that no changes need to be made.

Orfordville president speaks on ATV changes

The Village of Orfordville held its regular board meeting on Monday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the village hall.

President Dennis Burtness called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present were President Burtness, Nick Howard, Beth Schmidt, Cami Myers-Alstat, Nikki Tuffree, Terry Gerber, and Jason Knox. Also present were Steven Nordeng, Chief Ryan Perkins, Chief Jeremiah Burdick, Librarian Sarah Strunz, DPW Director Nick Todd, and Clerk Sherri Waega.

Clerk Waega verified that on Jan. 5 copies of the agenda were delivered to the President and Trustees; posted at the Village Hall, Library, and the Post Office. There were no additions made to the agenda.

New Business

Chief Burdick drew the names for Trustee Candidates to determine the order that they will appear on the ballot. The names will appear in the following order: 1. Tory Baars, 2. Nick Howard, 3. Terry Morris, 4. David Olsen, and 5. Terry Gerber. Amend Resolution R-2023-

02: Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Myers-Alstat to amend Resolution R-2023-02 to appoint Steve Nordeng to the Planning Commission and Fire Chief Ryan Perkins as Emergency Management Director. Motion carried.

Resolution R-2024-01 Setting Aside Unused Funds: Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Schmidt to approve Resolution R-2024-01 which sets aside unused funds from 2023 to be used in 2024 for part time police wages and park operations. Motion carried.

Lease renewal for copier: Clerk Waega explained that the lease for the copier is up this spring and provided two options for a new copier from Gordon Flesch. Discussion was held on purchasing the existing copier outright, and also to get a second bid from another vendor. Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Knox to table to the Jan. 22 meeting. Motion carried.

Village President's Update

President Burtness explained that he normally does his update on the last meeting

of the month, but since the last December meeting was cancelled, he wanted to mention a few things.

President Burtness explained that on Dec. 12 of 2022 the board passed an ordinance allowing ATV traffic on Hwy 213 within the village limits. The request was submitted to the Department of Transportation in March of 2023 after getting the documentation in order. The board didn't hear back from the DOT until summer when they requested minor language changes for clarity. This was passed by the board on Aug. 14, 2023. The Village finally got approval from them last week. They do not permit the village to install the signs, so now are waiting for the county to complete the work.

Frontier Communications provides landline and internet service to the Village. Frontier has proven difficult to work with. There have been "temporary" phone lines in a couple of areas that have just been laying on the ground, strung across fences in backyards etc. dating back about three years now. Many

attempts to get this rectified have failed. The board had one company representative view these locations last fall and were hopeful, but it seems to have failed too. The board hasn't given up, they just haven't found the person who will actually own up to their problem and fix it. President Burtness added that he has reached out to Channel 3, the Madison News Station, to utilize the Call for Action program to see if the problem can be resolved.

"The reason I have for mentioning these items is to illustrate what can be an agonizingly slow process in getting something done," said Burtness. "We all like to have things done in a timely fashion and will continue to do what we can. There are often more layers of what goes on in the background than what meets the eye. I just wanted residents to know that some concerns are out of our control. I would like to add thanks to all of the hardworking men and women of our community for their efforts this past year. It is because of you that makes living in Orfordville a great place to be."

Classifieds

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

The Housing Authority of the City of Evansville is seeking an experienced professional for the position of Executive Director.

The position is 40 hours per week managing two HUD housing programs - Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and a 20-unit elderly and disabled apartment complex with Section 8 rental assistance. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners.

The applicant must possess excellent administrative, supervisory, planning, and public relations skills, must have demonstrated ability to work with people, possess written and oral communication skills and have the ability and willingness to work with federal, state, and local government agencies. This position requires a highly motivated, organized, and detail-oriented individual. Property management experience is a plus.

Candidates need proficient knowledge and experience with financial accounting (including software) and payroll processes, along with knowledge of the internet, Word, and Excel. Must have a valid driver's license and ability to lift 40 pounds, plus climb, bend, and reach while conducting home inspections.

Starting salary range is \$50,000-\$55,000 (depending on qualifications) with paid vacation, holidays, mileage reimbursement and sick time. Submit cover letter and resume to: Housing Authority of the City of Evansville, P.O. Box 605, Evansville, WI 53536, or email to Executive Director at toni@evansvilleha.com. The position remains open until filled. For a more detailed job description and questions, contact Toni Coats at the email above.

449450

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for sale

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DISCLAIMER NOTICE This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

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7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@spublishers.com.

Misc. For Sale

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real estate

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business & service

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Ad must be prepaid.
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FREE

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Private Party Only
Just fill out the coupon below and drop off or mail to:
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Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price

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