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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 2024

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Sustainability plays larger role in dairy supply chain

Dairy farmers' sustainable practices are coming into greater focus as consumers pay more attention to a product's carbon footprint.

Participants in a panel discussion at the 2024 Dairy Strong conference last month spoke about changes in customer expectations and how they're driving dairy supply chain stakeholders to work more closely along the route from the farm to the fridge.

Farmers are part of a large supply chain that also includes processors and food manufacturers. As the go-between for farmers and manufacturers, dairy processors are doing what they can to help dairies be more sustainable, Holly Jones, director of global sustainability for Agropur, said.

"We hear from our customers (food manufacturers) that they want decreased greenhouse gases throughout the process, starting with the producer," she said. "We've found that the majority of farmers are open to sustainability initiatives."

Customers are asking processors for more information about a farm's carbon footprint – how it is being measured and what steps can be taken to lower it, Jones said.

"The major food manufacturers are looking at the entire process their products go through and are concerned about the amount of carbon being released into the atmosphere since that's a question their consumers are asking about," she said.

The good news is that farmers are interested in sustainability, said Evan Grong, dairy ingredients sales manager for Valley Queen Cheese Factory in Milbank, S.D. When customers reach out about projects to improve sustainability, the overall dialogue has been good, he said.

"Farmers care about their land and keeping the soil healthy and the water clean," he said.

Valley Queen uses the FARM Environmental Stewardship (FARM ES) model to measure a dairy's carbon footprint, but it's not exact, Grong said.

"They are looking at a new formula, but the key is to find the right balance. You want to gather meaningful data, but you don't want to overwhelm the producers," he said.

FARM ES metrics look at how much water a farm uses, what happens to animal waste and other farm activities, such as the use of cover crops or no-till practices.

Benefiting from farmers' carbon credits

As large companies are mindful of their carbon footprint, many are interested in purchasing carbon credits or insetting their carbon output by supporting projects that reduce, avoid or remove emissions. In the food industry, manufacturers are turning to the producers in their supply chains.

Farmers using no-till farming methods, planting cover crops or adopting other sustainable

See **SUSTAINABILITY**, Page 8



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

Participants in a panel discussion at the 2024 Dairy Strong conference last month spoke about changes in customer expectations and how they're driving dairy supply chain stakeholders to work more closely along the route from the farm to the fridge.

Speakers educate at meeting of Farmers of the Sugar River

Over 90 farmers, landowners and interested parties attended the annual meeting on Friday, Feb. 9 of the Farmers of the Sugar River at the Albany Lions Club. There were a variety of speakers to educate the audience.

Lisie Kitchel from the DNR shared the history and life of mussels in the Sugar River. In the late 1800's pearls were found and sold from the mussels (or clams) that were in the river. Thousands of people came to Brodhead and Albany searching the Sugar River hoping to find their fortune. Typically only one in 10,000 clams produces a high quality pearl. So one could understand how easily the resource was devastated by the chance to make a fortune in the Pearl Rush.

Ms. Kitchel also showed pictures of mussels and how they can create elaborate decoys to lure in host species of fish to spit eggs at them to be trapped in their gills. Specific fish are needed to complete each mussel's life cycle. Mus-

sels are very critical to filtering contaminants from water.

Chelsea Zegler from the UWEX Water Quality Program gave an update on the status of a statewide project of soil sampling to look for phosphorus stratification and if it is more prevalent in certain systems. The concern is that higher levels of phosphorus are in the top inches of the soil profile and are reduced deeper into the soil profile. It is natural and there isn't any evidence that it has impacted crop production.

An update of the Farmers of the Sugar River explained that \$25,927.01 in grant funds were spent in 2023. 65% of that money went directly to 21 watershed farmers that planted cover crops, no tilled, or planted green into cover crops. The rest was used to do sampling and put on events. The group has secured a grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for \$26,142 to support incentive payments and activities in



PHOTOS SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

Blake Vince, the keynote speaker at the Farmers of the Sugar River annual meeting, shares a practice that he's started of planting a multispecies cover crop and then harvesting the seed from all plants at once to be combined as a grain that could be replanted as another cover crop or fed as grain.

2024.

The keynote speaker, Blake Vince, from Ontario, Canada did not disappoint with his quick wit and storytelling abilities. He has traveled to numerous countries and knows several languages under the Nuffield Scholarship.

He was able to meet some of the world's greatest farmers; they would be using management techniques that kept their farms resilient to climate change and still profitable. A quote he shared to help moti-

See **SPEAKERS**, Page 8



Farmers enjoyed learning new ideas at the seventh annual meeting for the Farmers of the Sugar River held at the Albany Lions Club on Friday, Feb 9.

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Ethics violations among subjects discussed at Footville board meeting

The Village of Footville held its regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 4. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by President Steven Haberman.

Board members present: Nichole Conaway, Chuck Haggmann, Danielle Harnack, Roland Nath, David Wells, Rich Woodstock. Also present: Joe North and Devin Clark, Footville DPW; Tom Alisankus, Police Chief; Craig Keller, Municipal Judge; Holly Jensen, Village Attorney; Shawna March, Clerk-Treasurer; Kate Corbit, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer.

Public Attendees: Jill Thomson, Brenda Cude, John Thomson, Marilyn Runaas, Hope Hoerler, Sandy Baertschi, Rebecca Medearis, John Hall, Janice Reith, Gary Selck, John Harnack, Steve Sagen, Robert Selck.

Citizens Wishing to be Heard

John Thomson: Spoke to the Board Trustees regarding the letter he submitted to the Clerk's office to be disseminated to the Village Board Trustees regarding ongoing

concerns. A citizen had a copy of this letter and approached the Church of Christ elders, at their homes. Since the Elders oversee the Church, this appears to be a very direct and overt attempt to shame or have him dismissed from his job. John is asking which Board Trustee shared his letter with the public as this is a breach of public trust and an ethics violation. He is asking for their immediate resignation or removal.

Reports

Report by Department of Public Works, Joe North:

- Water and Sewer: Continued treatment and testing/replaced the fluoride exhaust fan/rebuilt chlorine metering pump
- Compost Site: Waiting for Board direction
- General Village: Street sweeping continues/Prepping for Christmas decoration removal/Housing Authority Maintenance.

- S. Haberman asked for extra water monitoring and tracking (6 months to 1 year) for 251 Depot Street, The Village Inn, as he received com-

plaints from the owner. Staff has informed S. Haberman that this has been an ongoing issue. Motion to approve-R. Woodstock, second-D. Harnack; carried unanimously.

Report by Police Department, Chief Alisankus:

- Traffic enforcement continues: Morning school patrol, TiPPS and Tracs software, safety briefing for Parkview School discussed. The Village Trustees would like unlicensed vehicles to be ticketed.

Community Events

Events for 2024: Proposed events include: Easter in the Park; Movies in the Park; Fall Festival; Halloween Decorating Contest; Christmas Parade and Light up the Town; Festival of Lights.

R. Woodstock added that the Fire Department pancake breakfast is Saturday, April 27.

Public Service Announcement

Footville Municipal Court Judge Craig Keller spoke to the Village Board Trustees regarding code of conduct and ethics with the Footville Mu-

nicipal Court as there was an ongoing incident that needed to be addressed. Judge Keller conveyed that Village Board Trustees and/or citizens cannot reach out to him in an effort to help family and friends who have received citations. This is not ethical and should be avoided in the future.

Sewer Plant Improvements

J. North explained what the DNR is requiring from the Village. MSA Engineers are currently working on a compliance plan. J. North is looking to the Village Board for further direction.

Other Improvements

S. Haberman led the discussion. Multiple items were discussed: new sewer facility, new police station, new Fire Department, new Municipal Building, Fire Department Grants, Police Department Grants, and multiple multi-use facilities.

S. Haberman also stated that the DPW is very busy; he suggested that instead of building a new shop/garage Footville

should be taking all repairs to a local mechanic shop. Economic development with the UW and possible community surveys will be investigated.

Other Discussion

N. Conaway: Wanted to address a concern she had at the Special Board meeting, Thursday, Dec. 14, the attorney interviews. N. Conaway questioned S. Haberman why Chief Alisankus was dismissed from the Attorney interviews and was then told that he left on his own accord. N. Conway stated that as far as transparen-

cy goes, she did not find that agreeable and she did not like being told something that is not true.

C. Haggmann: Inquired about the Park St. lots and the compost pile determination.

D. Harnack: Inquired about lighting options on the Alliant Energy poles along Depot St.

R. Woodstock: Was concerned about what John Thomson and Judge Keller spoke about earlier. R. Woodstock stated that it borders on conduct unbecoming of a public official and if he finds out who it was, he will file a grievance.

Officer involved critical incident in Shullsburg

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is investigating an officer involved critical incident (OICI) in the City of Shullsburg that occurred on the early morning of Monday, Feb. 12.

At approximately 1:06 a.m., Lafayette County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call for a subject acting erratically on West Water Street near North Iowa Street in the City of Shullsburg, Wis. Two Lafayette County Sheriff's deputies and one Darlington police officer responded.

Upon arrival, law enforcement located a subject yelling and wandering in the street. Law enforcement made contact with the subject who physically resisted. Law enforcement deployed non-lethal means that were unsuccessful in an attempt to subdue the subject. The subject ran from law enforcement who eventually detained the subject. The subject continued to physically resist law enforcement. The subject became distressed, and law enforcement provided life saving measures. Law enforcement requested emergency medical services (EMS),

who responded to the scene. The subject was transported to a local hospital where the subject was later pronounced deceased.

No law enforcement officers were injured during the incident.

The involved officer from Darlington Police Department and the two Lafayette County Sheriff's Office deputies have been placed on administrative duty, per department policy.

The involved law enforcement were wearing body cameras during the incident. Both Darlington Police Department and Lafayette County Sheriff's Office have squad cameras.

DCI is leading this investigation and is assisted by the Shullsburg Police Department, Lafayette County Coroner's Office, Lafayette County EMS, Shullsburg EMS, Wisconsin State Patrol, DCI Crime Response Specialists, and members of DCI's Digital Evidence Unit. All involved law enforcement are fully cooperating with DCI during this investigation.

DCI is continuing to review evidence and determine the facts of this incident and will turn over investigative reports to the Lafayette County District Attorney when the investigation concludes.

Sen. Mark Spreitzer introduces bills to promote journalism

Sen. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) introduced a package of three bills with Rep. Jimmy Anderson (D-Fitchburg) and Rep. Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) aimed at improving and enhancing local journalism in Wisconsin.

LRB 4790 would create a state tax credit for local newspaper subscriptions, LRB 4115 would create a Civic Information Consortium Board that would provide grants to support local journalism and media projects across the state, and LRB 4901 would create a journalism fellowship program within the UW System for beginning journalists.

Following the introduction of the bill package, Sen. Spreitzer released the following statement:

"Over the past twenty years, local news organizations have suffered deep cuts. A quarter of American newspapers have shuttered and the number of newsroom staff has declined,

while one in every five Americans are now stranded in local news deserts.

"As a State Senator, I know first-hand how important local journalism is to the foundation of our democracy – keeping Wisconsinites informed about their government and local community, providing opportunities for discussion on important civic issues, and helping to cultivate an informed and engaged electorate. Every Wisconsinite deserves access to high-quality and affordable local journalism. This package is an important tool to support local news while encouraging civic participation.

"I was proud to work with Reps. Jimmy Anderson and Jodi Emerson to introduce this legislative package to support the local newspapers that are the lifeblood of our communities, and I hope that my legislative colleagues will join us in supporting these important bills."

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American Red Cross seeks Southwest Wisconsin Heroes

Nominations due by March 31

Not all heroes wear capes! Know an "ordinary" person with extraordinary courage? Someone who has saved a life, helped a neighbor in need or made a difference in their community?

The American Red Cross of Wisconsin is seeking nominations for its annual Southwest Wisconsin Heroes Golf Event, honoring individuals who have made an impact in the lives of others through their bravery, dedication, and humanitarian service. Those that know a local hero, in southwest Wisconsin, can nominate them to be recognized by filling out an online form on the Red Cross website. Nominations are due by Sunday, March 31.

"We're asking for the public's help to identify individuals and groups that are deserving of recognition for their positive impact," said Kyle Kriegl, Executive Director of the American Red Cross

Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. "Your hero could be a colleague, family member, neighbor or friend who performed a selfless act of bravery or improved their community."

The event will celebrate honorees across the following categories: blood services, community impact, disaster relief, military, Red Cross and youth and young adult.

Nominees may come from communities across any of the Red Cross Southwest Wisconsin Chapter counties including Adams, Buffalo, Columbia, Dane, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Trempealeau, Vernon, and the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Heroes are nominated by the public and are chosen by an awards selection committee comprised of local community leaders. Honorees are selected based on the degree to which

their actions uphold the values of the Red Cross humanitarian mission and leave a lasting and positive impact on the community.

Nominating a hero is free and can be done quickly and easily online. For more information on nomination guidelines, category descriptions or to submit a nomination, go to this website <https://www.redcross.org/local/wisconsin/about-us/news-and-events/events/wisconsin-heroes-nominations.html>.

This year's award recipients will be honored at the Southwest Wisconsin Heroes Golf Event on Monday, June 10, at the Legend at Bergamont, 699 Bergamont Blvd., in Oregon, Wis.

For more information or to request a hard copy of the nomination form, please email Red Cross Southwest Chapter executive director Kyle Kriegl at kyle.kriegl@redcross.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

At Welty's 2020 Maple Sugar Fest, visitors practice drilling holes for a spile that allows sap to be collected from a Sugar Maple tree. Join Welty for this year's fest on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Welty Environmental Center hosts 16th Maple Sugar Fest

Get ready for the sap to flow and the syrup to boil! Welty is hosting its 16th Maple Sugar Fest on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 8 a.m. to noon at Big Hill Center, located at 1201 Big Hill Court in Beloit.

The morning will be filled with maple sugar-themed activities, such as hikes to the sugar bush, a condenser boiling sap down to make syrup, children's story time, basket weaving, wood carving, and take-home crafts. There will also be a delicious pancake breakfast featuring real maple syrup, sausage, applesauce, hot drinks, and milk. The cost is \$10 for adults (\$7 for Welty members), \$5 for kids 3-12, and children 2 and under eat for free. Tickets will be available at the door and visitors are encouraged to

bring their own utensils and mugs to cut down on waste generated by the event.

"We're excited to be adding more hands-on activities inside, in addition to a lovely hike through the Big Hill woods," said Brenda Plakans, Welty's executive director. "Visitors can watch a basket-weaving demo, see wood carvers at work, and try an ecology activity like I.D.ing paw prints and looking at insect parts through a microscope. They will also be able to taste sap as it comes out of the tree, and warm themselves by a bonfire!"

This is Welty's 16th Maple Sugar Fest, and the event has always emphasized the maple sugaring tradition in Wisconsin. This process of using the early-run of sap to create maple sugar

was introduced by Native Americans to European settlers as a strategy for getting through the last months of winter before spring food resources became available. Maple sugar was used as a seasoning as well as a treat, and was at the center of early spring celebrations. The morning will feature much of this history, as well as a delicious breakfast.

"Come enjoy the early signs of spring, rain or shine (or snow!), at Welty," encouraged Plakans. "There's something for everyone - including real maple syrup for sale - and it's a fun, and tasty, way to learn more about Wisconsin history!"

For more information visit www.weltycenter.org, email info@weltycenter.org, or call 608-361-1377.

Kandu Industries welcomes new human resources manager

Seasoned professional Lynne Sumpter joins their management team

Kandu Industries Inc., a Rock County-based non-profit that provides programs and services to people with disabilities and disadvantages, announced Feb. 2 that Rock County native Lynne Sumpter has joined the Kandu management team as human resources manager.

Sumpter will play a pivotal role in talent acquisition, employee relations, and fostering a workplace culture that aligns with Kandu's mission. Her strategic approach to human resources management will contribute to the continued growth and success of the organization.

She has over 25 years of experience in human resource management, including recruitment; administering pay, benefits, and leave; and enforcing company policies and practices. She has been recognized on multiple occasions with outstanding service awards and holds certifications and licenses that include Professionals in Human Resources, SHRM, and Senior Professional in Human Resources.



Lynne Sumpter

"We are fortunate to welcome someone with Lynne's experience," said Kathy Hansen, Kandu's executive director.

"She has a natural affinity for our mission, which makes her uniquely qualified to help us build an innovative, diverse and inclusive workforce and culture, particularly as we prepare to expand in our new facility and serve more families in our community."

Kandu Industries purchased the Blackhawk Technical College Advanced Manufacturing Training Center facility in Milton back in 2023. Kandu completed the first phase of its relocation plan to the new facility just this past January. Kandu will complete the second and final phase of its move when its Janesville-based Adel Street programs, production operation, and administration offices move later this summer.

Kandu Industries is a 501(c)(3) organization, based in Rock County, Wis. that provides opportunities to people with disabilities and disadvantages. For more than 60 years, these work, social, and daily activities enable Kandu clients to achieve their maximum potential and enjoy the dignity of being productive citizens. Today, Kandu impacts the lives of over 200 clients along with a staff of over 100, and partners with a number of community and governmental agencies to ensure that individual choice and personal development are nurtured in the work environment as well as in other aspects of life.

State potato board seeks nominations

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting nominations through March 29 for three seats on the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board.

Producers who grow and

sell potatoes in the following districts are eligible to nominate other producers or be nominated to the board:

- District 1: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Keewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Vilas, and Washburn counties.
- District 2: Marathon, Outagamie, Portage, Shawano, Waupaca, and Waushara counties.
- District 3: Adams, Buffalo, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine,

Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Winnebago, and Wood counties.

DATCP will mail nomination forms to eligible producers. Growers must sign, notarize, and postmark completed nomination forms by March 29 and include signatures from at least five eligible growers other than the nominee. Producers should mail completed nomination forms to: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, MarketOrder Program, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911. Eligible producers who have not received a nomination form by March 15 or who have other questions about the nomination process should email DATCPMarketOrders@wisconsin.gov. DATCP will conduct the

Wisconsin Potato Industry Board election from May 10 through June 15. Elected board members will serve three-year terms from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

The Wisconsin Potato Industry Board is composed of nine producers in three districts across the state, with one at-large member elected every third year. The board oversees the collection and use of approximately \$2 million in annual assessment fees paid by Wisconsin potato growers. This funding is used to support the potato industry through research, consumer education, and promotion of Wisconsin-grown potatoes.

DATCP administers elections for Wisconsin commodity marketing boards. To learn more about the market order boards, visit https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/About_US/MarketingBoards.aspx.

DATCP organic advisory council seeks nominations

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting nominations for the Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council (OAC) through March 8.

Seats are available in each of the following categories: organic certifier, organic business, organic farmer, and at-large. Members serve three-year terms, and the council meets every other month for a total of six times per calendar year.

A committee of DATCP staff and stakeholder representatives will evaluate nominees and make recommendations for appointment to the DATCP secretary. New members will start their term at the July 2024 OAC meeting. Nomination materials and more information on the council are available on DATCP's website.

Nomination forms should explain why nominees would be valuable additions to the

council. Completed nomination forms should be mailed to Andrew Bernhardt, DATCP, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708 or emailed to andrew.bernhardt@wisconsin.gov. For questions, contact Andrew Bernhardt, DATCP Organic Programs Specialist, at 608-572-0512.

The Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council brings together public and private resources to promote Wisconsin's national leadership position in organic agriculture. By advising the DATCP Secretary and other organizations and agencies on critical organic issues, the council supports organic production, processing, and purchasing opportunities for Wisconsin farmers, processors, and consumers.

The 13-member Organic Advisory Council represents Wisconsin's organic industry and consists of:

- Three certified organic farmers, preferably reflect-

ing several farm types (dairy, vegetable, etc.).

- Three representatives from the organic business sector.
- One representative of organic consumers.
- One representative of a private, non-profit, educational organization involved in organic agriculture.
- One representative of the certification industry.
- Three at-large members.
- One DATCP representative.

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Orfordville discusses four cleanup notices

The Village of Orfordville held its regular board meeting on Monday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Orfordville Village Hall.

Call to Order

President Dennis Burtneiss called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also present were Nick Howard, Beth Schmidt, Nikki Tuffree, Terry Gerber, and Jason Knox. Also present were Jason Nehls, Librarian Sarah Strunz, Chief Jeremiah Burdick, DPW Director Nick Todd, and Clerk Sherri Waege. Absent was Cami Myers-Alstat.

Agenda Verification

Clerk Waege verified that on Feb. 7, copies of the agenda were delivered to the President and Trustees; and posted at the Library, Village Hall, and Orfordville Post Office. There were no additions made to the agenda.

Minute Approval

Motion by Gerber, seconded by Tuffree to approve the January 22, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and January 25, 2024 Special Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Citizens Wishing to be Heard

Noah Hanson of 704 Spe-

ich Road was present to explain that he received his clean up notice for his property. Hanson advised the board that he is working on the clean up to try and comply with the 30-day notice; however, he is working a lot of overtime at work. President Burtneiss thanked him for coming.

New Business

• **Public Works Committee Recommendation to sell Christmas Lights.** DPW Director Nick Todd explained that there are some of the older lantern style ornaments that the Village no longer uses due to the condition of the ornaments. Motion by Gerber, seconded by Tuffree to accept the Public Works Committee recommendation to sell the lot of approximately nine of the older Christmas ornaments on Wisconsin Public Surplus Auction. Motion carried.

• **Property Cleanup.** Chief Burdick explained that he has served four 30-day notices for cleanup in the Village. President Burtneiss explained that there are three structures that Orfordville has reached out to the building inspector about. Discussion held on enforcement including circuit court action as previously done in the village.

• **Enforcement of Clean-up Downtown.** Jason Nehls was present and asked if there were any issues with his properties. Nehls explained that he is not in violation at the former furniture store property as he painted the windows as paper is prohibited. Nehls added that the property will receive new windows this year. Nehls asked if there were concerns with any of his other properties. Schmidt asked who was responsible for repairing the door with broken glass at Taqueria Guzman. Nehls explained that that has not been determined. No action was taken.

• **Social Media Policy.** President Burtneiss explained that the personnel policy has a social media policy for the employees. President Burtneiss further explained that he has a draft of a policy for the village board members as well. President Burtneiss would like two people to review it prior to it being reviewed by the Village Board. Clerk Waege explained that she would prefer a policy for board members that addresses ethics, due to what was allowed two years ago on a page administered by a village board member. No action was taken. President Burtneiss will get his draft

reviewed and bring it back to the village board.

Department Head Reports

Schmidt thanked Clerk Waege for the extra hours worked the last two weeks during the annual audit. Librarian Sarah Strunz thanked Nick Howard for repairing the book drop that was damaged, and also for installing the new paper towel and trash receptacles in the bathrooms at the library. DPW Director Todd explained that he was contacted by the Village of Footville to see if they could have an agreement with the village to allow Footville residents to bring their yard waste to the Orfordville yard waste site. DPW Director Todd explained that he is looking into costs. Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Gerber to approve the Department Head Reports. Motion carried.

Vouchers

Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Gerber to approve the vouchers with a check range of 36692-36879. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion by Howard, seconded by Gerber to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried.

Orfordville police to interview more part-time officers

The Village of Orfordville held its Police Committee meeting on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Orfordville Village Hall, 303 E. Beloit Street.

Chairwoman Nikki Tuffree called the meeting to order. Present were Chairwoman Tuffree, Terry Gerber, and Beth Schmidt. Also present were Dennis Burtneiss and Clerk Sherri Waege.

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Gerber to approve the Jan. 11 minutes. Motion carried.

Day to Day Operations

Chief Burdick explained the following:

- The computer issue regarding P1 was resolved with Rock County.
- Interviews are scheduled

next week for two additional part-time officers.

• Chief Burdick, Officer Burdick, and Officer Marquez qualified with their handguns at Blackhawk Technical College.

• Officer Marquez will be on light duty effective Feb. 1.

• Continuing efforts regarding public nuisance violations in the village.

• Had a phone conference with Premier Technologies regarding phone issues and mailbox setup with individual officer directories.

• The annual audit for the department intoximeter was completed.

Motion by Gerber, seconded by Schmidt to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Motion carried.

Police news

Prostitution offender relocating to Janesville

According to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections DeAnthony K. Muldrow will be temporarily relocating to Rock Valley Community Programs, 203 W. Sunny Lane, Janesville, on Feb. 12.

Muldrow was convicted on Feb. 26, 2010 of Soliciting a Child for Prostitution, Case #08CF249, and on June 24, 2010 of 2nd Degree Sexual Assault of a Child and 3rd Degree Sexual Assault, Case #09CF334, all in Manitowoc County.

While residing at 203 W. Sunny Lane, Janesville, WI, conditions of Muldrow's supervision include, but are not limited to: No unsupervised contact with minors; No contact with victim; Not to consume drugs; Comply with Standard Sex Offender Rules; Cooperate with Electronic Monitoring; Comply with all requirements and be a lifetime registrant of the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registration Program.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office is not responsible for the placement of this sex offender in any manner; however, by law, they are required to provide public notice. For further information regarding the placement of this offender, please contact the Department of Community Corrections at 608-758-6075 or refer to



DeAnthony K. Muldrow

the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry website, www.wistaysafe.gov.

Identity of man who died in crash released

The Rock County Medical Examiner's Department is releasing the name of the individual that died following a motor vehicle vs. pedestrian crash on Feb. 10. The incident occurred at the 600 Block of West Milwaukee Street, and was reported to authorities at or about 6:44 p.m.

The individual can be identified as Kelby R. Hall, 34, of Janesville.

Mr. Hall was pronounced deceased at the hospital on Feb. 10. A forensic examination was completed on Feb. 12. Preliminary results of the examination confirm that Mr. Hall died from injuries sustained in the crash. Additional testing is underway at this time.

This incident remains under investigation by the Janesville Police Department and the Rock County Medical Examiner's Department.

News briefs

Rock County Tree Sale coming again in 2024

The Rock County Land Conservation Department is taking orders for its yearly Tree and Shrub Sale.

Distribution is usually around mid-April. Trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings in single species units of 10 for \$25 (only shrubs can be split into bundles of 10), bundles of 25 for \$35, or 50 for \$60 plus tax. Stock as of Feb. 8: Black Cherry, 18-24 inch seedlings, Colorado Blue Spruce, 7-15 inch seedlings (low-call ahead), Hackberry, 18-24 inch seedlings, Red Oak, 18-24 inch seedlings, White Oak, 18-24 inch seedlings, and White Pine, 7-15 inch seedlings. Shrubs: Nannyberry, 18-24 inch seedlings. Tree protectors and root dip planting gel are also available.


Find the order form at the Rock County Land Conservation Department website <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/de->

partments/land-conservation/trees or call 608-754-6617 ext. 3 during normal business hours.

State Senate declares Feb. 19 to 25 American Birkebeiner Week

Last week the WI State Senate adopted Assembly Joint Resolution 104, officially declaring Feb. 19 to 25 American Birkebeiner Week in Wisconsin.

American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Executive Director Ben Popp commented, "we are honored to be recognized state-wide as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this globally renowned race. Every year, we look forward to showing off our corner of Wisconsin to the world, and even more so this year. In this challenging winter, our crews have worked tirelessly making snow and creating a 10km looped course that will challenge Olympians and citizen racers alike."



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+2	+3.9	+88	+163	+32	+1.0	+0.4	+31	+44	+45	-17	+45	+11.0	+11	+38
AxH	AxJ	MW	MH	CW	Marb	RE	Fat	SM	SW	SF	SG	SB	SC	
+207	+215	+131	+9	+95	+1.15	+1.32	+0.01	+52	+75	+135	+88	+223	+341	

Top 1%: CW, RE, \$F | Top 2%: YW, Milk, \$B
Top 3%: WW, MW, \$AxJ, \$C | Top 4%: Doc
Top 5%: \$AxH Top 10%: YH, \$W, \$G

MANY SERVICE AGE BULLS

FROM THE LEGENDARY LADY COW FAMILY



Sire: SG Salvation Dam: RB Lady Denver 167-439

CED	BW	WW	YW	RADG	YH	SC	Doc	Claw	Angle	PAP	HS	HP	CEM	MILK
+2	+4.0	+80	+137	+30	+3	+82	+14	+39	+52	+126	+74	+11.1	+9	+31
AxH	AxJ	MW	MH	CW	Marb	RE	Fat	SM	SW	SF	SG	SB	SC	
+212	+186	+92	+5	+79	+1.04	+1.02	-0.18	+57	+70	+124	+80	+204	+322	

Top 3%: \$F | Top 4%: CW, \$AxH | Top 5%: \$B
Top 10%: WW, RE, \$AxJ, \$C

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Brooke Davis - 219-742-7118



LiveAuctions.TV



Sire: Rathbun ChangeMaker E541 | Dam: LHA Lady Innovation 3189-514

CED	BW	WW	YW	RADG	YH	SC	Doc	Claw	Angle	PAP	HS	HP	CEM	MILK
+9	+2.3	+71	+129	+30	+6	+82	+25	+45	+55	+88	+59	+10.8	+14	+26
AxH	AxJ	MW	MH	CW	Marb	RE	Fat	SM	SW	SF	SG	SB	SC	
+212	+186	+63	+2	+60	+1.22	+0.99	+0.34	+69	+65	+109	+85	+194	+321	

Top 3%: \$F | Top 4%: CW, \$AxH | Top 5%: \$B, \$C
Top 10%: WW, RE, \$AxJ

SELLING YEARLING HEIFERS | BRED COWS

COW/CALF PAIRS | SERVICE AGE BULLS

450952

Four Parkview/Albany wrestlers going to state

On Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Mineral Point Sectionals, Parkview/Albany had seven wrestlers with four of them punching their ticket to state at the Kohl center in Madison on Feb. 22 through 24.

For the boys: Slater Valley (113), Danny Finley (126), Sam Schwengels (190), and Wes Egan (215). For the girls: Autumn Hill (107), Ayda Klein (120), and Sydney Coyne (235).

The top three for the boys in each weight class qualify. Danny Finley, Sam Schwengels, and Wes Egan finished third for the boys. On the girls side only the first place qualifies for the state tournament. Sydney Coyne placed first. Coyne is the first girl from Parkview/Albany to win sectionals and make it to the Kohl center. A school record was broken when Parkview/Albany had four wrestlers qualify for the WIAA State Tournament.

WIAA D3 Sect C at Mineral Point results for Parkview/Albany:

113 Slater Valley (41-8) place is unknown
 • Quarterfinal: Brendan Rick (Royall/Wonewoc-Cen.) 31-14 won by major decision over Slater Valley (Parkview/Albany) 41-8 (MD 12-1)

126 Danny Finley (48-4) placed 3rd

• Quarterfinal: Danny Finley (Parkview/Albany) 48-4 won by fall over Caston Gosda (Brookwood) 21-20 (Fall 2:45)
 • Semifinal: Alexander Radavich (New Lisbon) 24-10 won by decision over Danny Finley (Parkview/Albany) 48-4 (Dec 10:5)

• Cons. Semi: Danny Finley (Parkview/Albany) 48-4 won by decision over Jamin Crapp (Lancaster) 17-11 (Dec 11:6)

• 3rd Place Match: Danny Finley (Parkview/Albany) 48-4 won by decision over Colton Tollefson (Fennimore) 24-14 (Dec 7:3)

• 2nd Place Match: Alexander Radavich (New Lisbon) 24-10 won by no contest over Danny Finley (Parkview/Albany) 48-4 (NC)

190 Sam Schwengels (49-3) placed 3rd

• Quarterfinal: Sam Schwengels (Parkview/Albany) 49-3 won by fall over Ryan McCoic (Hillsboro) 25-13 (Fall 4:36)

• Semifinal: Wyatt Ahnen (Fennimore) 34-6 won by tech fall over Sam Schwengels (Parkview/Albany) 49-3 (TF-1.5 4:31 (16-1))

• Cons. Semi: Sam Schwengels (Parkview/Albany) 49-3 won by fall over Jackson Duerr (Pittsville) 22-25 (Fall 1:29)

• 3rd Place Match: Sam Schwengels (Parkview/Albany) 49-3 won by decision over Kadin Rynes (Riverdale) 30-8 (Dec 5:2)

• 2nd Place Match: Wyatt Ahnen (Fennimore) 34-6 won by no contest over Sam Schwengels (Parkview/Albany) 49-3 (NC)

215 Wesley Egan (49-4) placed 3rd

• Quarterfinal: Wesley Egan (Parkview/Albany) 49-4 won by fall over Trey Bailey (New Lisbon) 16-16 (Fall 3:42)

• Semifinal: Jackson Shramek (Blair-Taylor) 39-3 won by tech fall over Wesley Egan (Parkview/Albany) 49-4 (TF-1.5 4:57 (18-2))

• Cons. Semi: Wesley Egan (Parkview/Albany) 49-4 won by fall over Mac Busser (Mineral Point) 20-21 (Fall 3:41)

• 3rd Place Match: Wesley Egan (Parkview/Albany) 49-4 won by fall over Dalton Wolf (Fennimore) 37-11 (Fall 4:42)

• 2nd Place Match: Bode Brokopp (Iowa-Grant/Highland) 32-11 won by fall over Wesley Egan (Parkview/Albany) 49-4 (Fall 3:36)

WIAA Girls D3 Sect. C at Mineral Point results for Parkview/Albany:

107 Autumn Hill (2-15) place is unknown

• Champ. Round 1: Autumn Hill (Parkview/Albany) 2-15 received a bye (Bye)

• Quarterfinal: Autumn McDaniel (Pittsville) 2-3 won by fall over Autumn Hill (Parkview/Albany) 2-15 (Fall 1:39)

120 Ayda Klein (0-10) place is unknown

• Champ. Round 1: Ayda Klein (Parkview/Albany) 0-10 received a bye (Bye)

• Quarterfinal: Arianna Inman (Westby) 6-10 won by fall over Ayda Klein (Parkview/Albany) 0-10 (Fall 3:19)

235 Sydney Coyne (23-5) placed 1st

• Champ. Round 1: Sydney Coyne (Parkview/Albany) 23-5 received a bye (Bye)

• Quarterfinal: Sydney Coyne (Parkview/Albany) 23-5 received a bye (Bye)

• Semifinal: Sydney Coyne (Parkview/Albany) 23-5 won by fall over Emily Heisner (Mineral Point) 9-7 (Fall 2:31)

• 1st Place Match: Sydney Coyne (Parkview/Albany) 23-5 won by fall over Kaylee Manning (Ithaca/Weston) 1.6-51 (Fall 1:21)

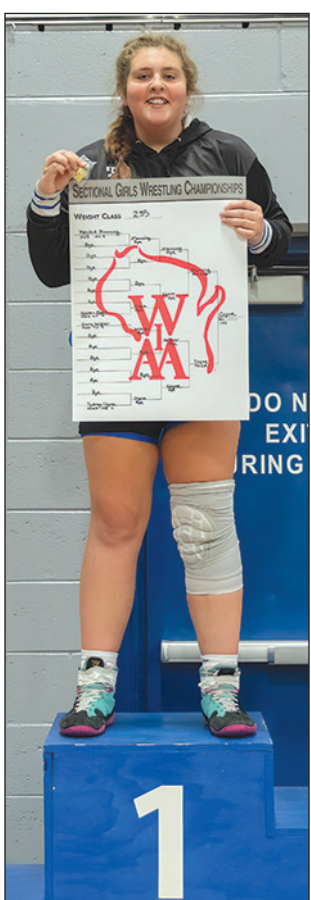
The four wrestlers will be back on the mat in Madison at the Kohl center on Thursday, Feb. 22.



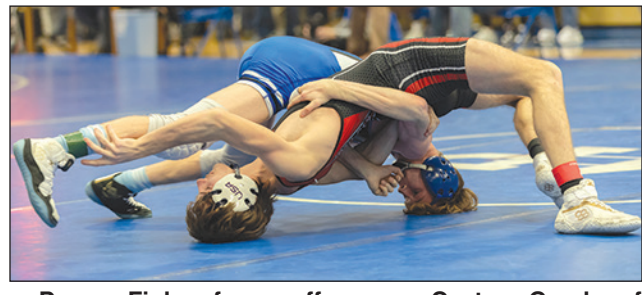
PHOTOS COURTESY JOEL STEINMANN Rock Valley Publishing
 Danny Finley placed third and will go to state.



Wes Egan placed third and will go to state.



Sydney Coyne placed first and will go to state.



Danny Finley faces off versus Caston Gosda of Brookwood during the quarterfinal.



Sam Schwengels placed third and will go to state.



Sam Schwengels faces off Kadin Rynes of Riverdale in the third place match.



Wes Egan faces off versus Trey Bailey of New Lisbon during the quarterfinal.



Sydney Coyne faces off versus Emily Heisner of Mineral Point during the semifinal.

College news

UW-La Crosse announces Dec. 2023 graduates

The following area students completed degree requirements at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in December.

UW-La Crosse, founded in 1909, is one of 13 four-year institutions that comprise the Universities of Wisconsin. UWL has more than 10,400 full and part-time students enrolled in 101 undergraduate, 28 graduate and two doctoral academic programs.

UW-La Crosse, a top-ranked national university, is the No. 1 public university in Wisconsin with fewer than 25,000 students. See more at www.uwlax.edu.

Students earning degrees in December include:

Albany
 • Ethan Anderson, Certificate, Educational Leadership Certificate

Brodhead
 • Catherine Speckman,

Bachelor of Science, Exercise and Sport Science Major: Exercise Science – Pre-professional Track, Highest Honors

• Jack Speckman, Master of Science, Occupational Therapy

• Kayla Updike, Bachelor of Science, General Studies Major

• Tania Williams, Master of Science in Education, Reading

Orfordville

• Haley Lemke, Master of Science, Clinical Exercise Physiology

Area student named to Dean's List at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The following individual from the local area has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the Fall 2023 semester. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with more than 22,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Brodhead

• Alejandra Villalva Aldama, Pathway Advising

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Those applying for the Lifeguard or Swim Lesson Instructor positions must have or be able to obtain certification. Priority will be given to applicants that are willing to fill both positions. Lifeguards must be 15 years or older. Swim Lesson Instructors must be 16 years or older and hold a current Life Guard Certification.

Concessions/Admission Employees must be able to demonstrate excellent customer service and cash handling skills. Applicants must be 14 years or older.

Employment application forms are available at City Hall (City Clerk's Office) at 31 S. Madison Street, Evansville, WI 53536 or online at www.evansvillewi.gov/jobs.

The completed application forms must be returned to Angie Olsen by email at a.olsen@evansvillewi.gov.

Applications will be reviewed periodically and positions will remain open until filled.

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451360

business & service

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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.

Crafts

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ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Natter family donation

The Natter family gave a generous donation to the Rock County Sheriff's Office Hunter Safety Program in memory of Lt. Michael Natter, who passed away in late 2023. RSCO greatly appreciates their contribution.

• Speakers (Continued from front page)

ivate him on his journey comes from Albert Einstein and says, "Those that have the privilege to know have the duty to act." He shared lots of information about his farm and answered the audience's questions.

Three local farmers formed a panel to discuss their use of cover crops on their farms. Jake Kaderly has a grain operation and uses wheat primarily as a cover crop. Jeremy Luckey has a dairy farm and likes to graze young stock and steers on the cereal rye mixes as much as possible

in the spring and fall. Robert Zurfluh has a mixed operation of heifers and grain and likes to use the cover crops to help with erosion control and potential biomass growth that would help as fertilizer for the next crop.

The last speaker of the day was Chris Bandura, a Conservation Cropping Specialist with UWEX. He explained the variety of sampling farmers could do to their soils and plants to help guide their management decisions. Most of the sampling has a specific timeframe to do the analysis

in order to get the best results.

The annual meeting has been well attended by farmers that look forward to learning new information and networking with others that are trying conservation practices on their farms.

The Albany Lions Club hosted the annual event and provided excellent meals for the attendees. Their support of the group is invaluable. The Farmers of the Sugar River has a website and Facebook page for others that would like to learn more about the group.

Wisconsin Attorney General urges FDA to protect kids from lead

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul recently joined a coalition of 20 attorneys general calling on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take urgent action to protect babies and young children nationwide from lead and other toxic metals in baby food.

In a letter sent on Friday, Feb. 16, AG Kaul and the coalition urged the FDA to act on their October 2021 petition and subsequent June 2022 petition and letter, which asked the FDA to issue specific guidance to the baby food industry to require testing of all finished food products for lead and other toxic metals. The coalition emphasizes the critical need for the FDA to act, citing recent findings of hundreds of childhood lead poisoning linked to recalled cinnamon applesauce pouches that were sold in stores throughout the country without first being tested for toxic metals.

"We must have clear standards to protect babies and children from ingesting toxic heavy metals in their food," said Attorney General Kaul. "Metals such as lead pose a threat tied to numerous adverse health effects. Inaction by the FDA is unacceptable."

Despite the agency concluding years ago that babies' and young children's smaller bodies and metabolisms make them more vulnerable to the harmful effects of toxic metals, the FDA has established only one action level for one type of toxic metal (inorganic arsenic) in one type of baby food product (infant rice cereal) to date. Under current FDA policy, baby food manufacturers are left to decide whether or not to even test their products for toxic metals and other contaminants.

"We must have clear standards to protect babies and children from ingesting toxic heavy metals in their food. Metals such as lead pose a threat tied to numerous adverse health effects. Inaction by the FDA is unacceptable."

– Attorney General Josh Kaul

This delay in FDA action is both a public health concern and a matter of environmental justice, as children from low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by lead through exposure to lead-based paint, lead in drinking water pipes and other sources. Lead in their food only exacerbates the existing inordinate and inequitable hazards these children face.

In April 2021, the FDA announced the "Closer to Zero" plan, under which the agency committed to proposing "action levels" for lead in various baby foods by April 2022, inorganic arsenic in various baby foods by April 2024 and cadmium and mercury sometime after April 2024. The FDA has since removed those deadlines from its Closer to Zero website. In October 2021, Attorney General Kaul joined a coalition of 23 attorneys general in filing a petition with the FDA urging the agency to issue clear industry guidance on testing for lead and other toxic metals in finished baby and toddler food

products. After the FDA denied the 2021 petition, Attorney General Kaul and the coalition sought reconsideration of the decision in June 2022. The letter sent today renews the call for the FDA to take urgent action to protect families from lead and other toxic metals in baby food products.

In the letter, Attorney General Kaul and the coalition highlight recent widespread childhood lead poisonings related to high levels of lead detected in WanaBana, Schnucks, and Weis brand cinnamon applesauce pouches. These were not tested for toxic metals and have since been recalled. The now-recalled WanaBana pouches were sold in Dollar Tree stores throughout the country. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified nearly 400 confirmed or probable childhood lead poisoning cases in connection to consumption of these cinnamon applesauce pouches.

Consumers who have purchased these recalled products and may still have them in their homes should not feed them to children or anyone else. Instead, these products should be safely discarded by carefully opening each pouch and emptying the contents into the garbage to prevent others from possibly salvaging and consuming the recalled products. For more information on these recalled products, consult the FDA.

Joining Attorney General Kaul in sending this letter to the FDA are the attorneys general of New York, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Washington.

• Sustainability (Continued from front page)

farming practices improve soil health and better trap the carbon dioxide that plants draw out of the air and trap it in the soil. That's called a carbon intervention – an activity that prevents the emission of greenhouse gas into the air that would otherwise be emitted. Carbon credits are created from carbon interventions in the form of offsets, which are activities outside a company's supply chain, or insets, which are activities that take place within the supply chain.

Large food manufacturers seek to benefit from farmers' carbon credits and turn to

processors, like Agropur and Valley Queen, for help. Jones said the companies have roadmaps of where they want to go regarding their carbon footprint and ask Agropur to help farmers reach different emissions reduction goals through special projects.

Grong said Valley Queen, in collaboration with Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, conducted a pilot on two dairy farms to measure a crop's carbon footprint from when the seed is first put in the ground to when milk arrives at its processing plant.

Many dairies are already in-

involved in the carbon business. An example would be a large farm that uses a biodigester to send biogas to a pipeline and then sells those credits, Grong said.

"Carbon credits are a commodity that can be bought and sold. Change is coming fast. The goal for us is to get a seat at the table for our producers," he said.

This year's Dairy Strong conference brought more than 400 attendees, including farmers representing over 280,000 cows, and industry professionals to the KI Convention Center.

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▼ **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

▼ Just shoot and e-mail!

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

▼ Tell us what is happening in the photo.

▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

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

**E-mail your photos at the highest possible resolution to:
news@indreg.com
BY NOON ON FRIDAY**

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE, indreg.com

This is your chance to promote your organization or special event!

