

Highway 11 bill passed by bipartisan coalition

Legislators celebrate passing the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway Bill

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a bill authored by a bipartisan coalition of local legislators to designate Highway 11 between Orfordville and Footville as the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway.

graduating After from Parkview High School in 2009, Corporal Benjamin Neal joined the U.S. Army and was on his second deployment when he was killed in action in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province on April 25, 2012.

2023 Senate Bill 223 was previously passed by the State Senate in November 2023, and will now be sent to Governor Tony Evers for his signature.

Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) said: "I am deeply grateful to the bipartisan coalition of legislators and advocates who worked together on this important bill. I would particularly like to thank Post Commander Kurt Stuvengen, the members of the Wells-Davis-Young-Neal American Legion Post 209 in Orfordville, Bill Fitters and the American Legion Riders, and the American Legion Department of Wisconsin for their longtime and dedicated advocacy. Corporal Neal was an extraordinary and beloved member of the Orfordville community, and I look forward to Governor Evers signing this bill into law to ensure that Corporal Neal's story and sacrifice will never be forgotten."

Representative Ellen Schutt (R-Clinton) said: "Corporal Benjamin H. Neal was a true American hero, giving up his life to serve his country. I am grateful that Highway 11 between Footville and Orfordville will display his name to honor his service and sacrifice."

Representative Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit) said: "Renaming a section of Highway 11 after Corporal Benjamin Neal is long overdue. Corporal Neal paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our country. His military honors include the Purple Heart, NATO Medal, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Na-



U.S. Army photograph of Corporal Benjamin H. Neal. tional Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Stars,

the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. I sincerely appreciate everyone who worked hard to get this bill through the legislature."

Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) said: "I am grateful that we are honoring Corporal Neal's heroism with this memorial. Although we can never fully show our gratitude for those that dedicate their lives for our country, this tribute is one step towards demonstrating our utmost appreciation for the Neal family and those in service from across the state."

Kurt Stuvengen, Post Commander of American Legion Post 209, said: "It has been a long emotional road to get this accomplished. I watched Ben grow from a young boy to the warrior and hero he became. He is highly deserving to be remembered in this way by his fellow Wisconsinites. Regardless of how you feel about the military or their missions around the globe, 'Remember the warrior if not the war."

Bill Fitters, Officer of the American Legion Riders of District 1, said: "The American Legion Riders of District 1 from Post 209 wanted to ensure that no one ever forgot Corporal Benjamin H. Neal's sacrifice for our country. For the Riders, seeing Ben's name as we are heading out or returning reminds us of the importance of our mission."



PHOTOS SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

This photo of legislators and local advocates was taken before the State Assembly vote on 2023 SB 223. From left to right: Sen. Mark Spreitzer, Rep. Ellen Schutt, Bill Fitters, Kurt Stuvengen, Rep. Jenna Jacobson, Rep. Clinton Anderson.

Hogs for Heroes opens application for 2024

Hogs for Heroes, a Wisconsin-based charity, is now accepting applications from injured Wisconsin Veteran riders for their next six Harley-Davidson motorcycles to be gifted this May to July 2024.

The first application period of 2024 runs through March 2. Apply early and be considered for every Harley they are able to gift this year. Application criteria and materials are available on their "Application and Selection" page on www.hogsforheroeswi.org.

Note that the application period opened Feb. 1, and must be postmarked by March

Hogs for Heroes is a Wisconsin 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to healing the mental and physical wounds suffered by Wisconsin Veterans during the course of active duty, through the therapeutic benefits of owning and riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The charity raises funds to purchase Harleys for injured Wisconsin Veteran riders who now find themselves without the means to have a bike and a deep need to return to The Road and its comforts.

"We are working to help those injured veterans who once had a passion for riding and now find themselves without the means or ability to have a bike in their life," said Hogs for Heroes President Kevin Thompson. "Getting back on the road has been powerful healing for our 40 recipients and we encourage Wisconsin veteran riders who have been injured in the course of active duty, and are

longing to return to riding, to next Wisconsin veterans. apply as this program is for them.

Thompson continued, "Previous recipients have found great solace being back on a bike and regaining the freedom, camaraderie and peace that motorcycling provides. Just as importantly, recipients have subsequently found new ways to continue serving their community and fellow veterans by getting a motorcycle back in their lives. We encourage people to share this information with friends and roeswi.org. Be sure to follow family and help us find our

Hogs for Heroes was founded in 2015 in Madison, Wisconsin by Kevin and Audra Thompson, along with his brother and sister-in-law Craig and Michelle Thompson, with the belief that there is a long-standing tie between our military, its service members and the benefits of motor-

cycle riding. All application materials, as well as additional information on the organization, can be found at www.hogsforhethe organization on Facebook.





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Page 2 THE INDEPENDENT-REGISTER Wednesday, Feb. 28, Gov. Evers signs fair maps for Wisconsin

Gov. Tony Evers on Monday, Feb. 19 fulfilled his longstanding promise to the people of Wisconsin to fight for and secure fair legislative maps for the state of Wisconsin, undoing more than a decade of Wisconsinites living under some of the most gerrymandered maps in the United States. Gov. Evers' effort to secure fair legislative maps marks the first time in over fifty years that Wisconsin will have fair legislative maps enacted through the legislative process rather than through the courts.

"I will always try to do the right thing for our state. Wisconsinites want fair maps, and Wisconsinites deserve fair maps. So, today, I'm enacting fair maps for the great state of Wisconsin," Gov. Evers said. "When I promised I wanted fair maps – not maps that are better for one party or another – I damn well meant it. Wisconsin is not a red state or a blue state – we're a purple state, and I believe our maps

should reflect that basic fact. "Today is a victory not for me or any political party but for our state and for the people of Wisconsin who've spent a decade demanding more and demanding better of us as elected officials," Gov. Evers continued. "I believe, as I've often said, that the people should get to choose their elected officials, not the other way around. And under the maps I'm signing today, I am making good on that promise. It is a new day in Wisconsin, and today is a beautiful day for democracy.'

The fair legislative maps enacted by Gov. Evers were previously submitted by the governor to the Wisconsin Supreme Court for their consideration in ongoing redistricting litigation in Clarke v. Wisconsin Elections Commission. Gov. Evers' maps, as submitted to the Court, were passed by the Republican-controlled Wisconsin State Legislature with bipartisan support last week and



PHOTO SUBMITTED Bock Valley Publishing Gov. Evers signed 2023 Act 94 on Feb. 19.

enacted by the governor today as 2023 Wisconsin Act 94. The governor's fair legislative maps, as enacted, are responsive to the will of the people, avoid partisan bias, and increase the number of competitive legislative seats.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court previously ruled Wisconsin's legislative maps were unconstitutional, leaving no legislative maps in place for the 2024 election. Gov. Evers' maps enacted today will take

effect immediately after publication and will be in place for the fall elections, providing certainty for candidates and campaigns preparing to circulate nomination papers this spring.

Gov. Evers also renewed his pledge to continue working to pass fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting in Wisconsin in order to guarantee that fair maps will always be the outcome when our state redistricts after each



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'This is a great day for Wisconsin, and there is much maining issues, specifically to celebrate. And we're not going to stop here. I – and we - are going to continue our fight for a fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting process for Wisconsin," Gov. Evers concluded. "If the people of Wisconsin vote to send Democratic majorities to Madison this November, I'll tell you right now: one of the first orders of business in our first 100 days together will be enacting a fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting system in Wisconsin."

Gov. Evers also submitted an official letter to the Wisconsin Supreme Court asking

the Court to retain jurisdiction over this matter to resolve rewhich maps will apply to special elections occurring prior to the November 2024 General Election.

Senate Bill 488, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 94:

Repeals and recreates subchapter III of chapter 4 [precedes 4.01] of Wisconsin State Statutes for the purpose of legislative redistricting; and as amended, enacts the maps proposed by Gov. Evers, which are responsive to the will of the people, avoid partisan bias, and increase the number of competitive legislative seats.

Spreitzer speaks on Evers' signing of fair maps into law

On Monday, Feb. 19, Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the statement below following Governor Tony Evers signing 2023 Senate Bill 488, now 2023 Act 94, which enacts new legislative maps:

"Today, fair maps became law in Wisconsin. The signing of Act 94 means that for the first time in over a decade, the Wisconsin Legislature will be free from the partisan gerrymandering that has stalled progress in our state. With fair maps comes the opportunity to elect a legislature that will truly reflect the will of the people and put their priorities first. From childcare to healthcare, and from gun safety to tax fairness, a new legislature means a renewed chance to put the priorities of Wisconsinites first.

"Like so many others, I have been working for fair maps in our state since it was viciously gerrymandered in 2011. When Republican gerrymandering split communities apart for partisan advantage, it became clear that unrigging our legislative maps would be a long process that was critical for the future of our democracy.

"I thank Governor Evers for his diligent review of this bill and the legal impact of enacting fair maps through the legislative process. I trust the Governor and his legal

decision for fair maps and for the people of Wisconsin. I thank the plaintiffs who pursued a legal challenge that found our previous maps to be unconstitutional, and forced Republican legislators to send fair maps to the Governor's desk. The signing of Act 94 ends the lengthy legal battle that has been fought over redistricting in Wisconsin, and it reaffirms the need to enact a better redistricting process into law. Every new decade is an opportunity to enact fairer maps, and a fair process will need to be in place to ensure that happens after the 2030 Census. Fair maps should be a constitutional guarantee in Wisconsin.

team have made the best

"I also want to thank the everyday Wisconsinites who made today possible. Without volunteers and organizers strongly advocating for fair maps in every corner of the state, we would not be here today. I also thank every person who stepped up to run for the legislature in the last decade to give voters choices, even while knowing that they were running on a map rigged against them.

"With today's bill signing, I look forward to Wisconsin's first campaign cycle under fair, competitive maps since 2010. Voters should choose their representatives. This year, they will finally have that opportunity."

Janesville Zonta Club celebrates women's day

Join the Zonta Club of CPA, co-owner of Hagen Janesville in honoring the CPA women who came before in Zonta invites the audience, an event titled "Upon Whose to share their own stories of

the women who came before them in their personal and/or professional lives. For more information, contact Zonta via the Janesville Zonta Facebook page; email them at janesville_president@zontadistrict6.org, or call 608-931-5705. Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented on an equal basis with men. lives in fear of violence.



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The event is on Friday, March 8 at The Woman's Club at 108 S. Jackson in Janesville. It is free and open to the public.

At 4:30 p.m. a social hour will be held, offering complimentary wine and light hors d'oeuvres. The program will start at 5:30 p.m. The featured speakers will talk about the women who came before them in their professional and/or personal lives and who helped pave the paths that they are on now. Featured speakers include: Regina Dunkin, Beloit City Council President; Dr. Jill Cousino, DO; Amiee Leavy, YWCA of Rock County Racial Justice Director; Jamie in decision-making positions Karns, Executive Director of the Leadership Development In such a world, no woman Academy; and Denise Webb,

Alzheimer's advocates meet with lawmakers

Advocates shared stories, asked for policy support on Wisconsin Advocacy Dav

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, more than 150 advocates from across Wisconsin met in Madison for the Alzheimer's Association's 2024 Wisconsin Advocacy Day.

These advocates met with legislators at the State Capitol to ask that Alzheimer's disease and dementia remain legislative priorities in the coming year in support of the more than 120,000 Wisconsinites living with the disease, and their families.

The all-day event kicked off at 9 a.m. at the Best



Advocates met with legislators at the State Capitol to ask that Alzheimer's disease and dementia remain legislative priorities this year.



Governor Evers, middle, greeted attendees at the conference.

Western Premier Park Hotel, practices for sharing personal when Governor Tony Evers and First Lady Kathy Evers greeted and encouraged attendees. A legislative panel discussion and other guest

stories with lawmakers and how to ask for support for the following: • Funding the Wisconsin

Dementia Crisis Innovation Grant program with a budget of \$250,000 to provide crisis responders the necessary training and tools to serve those with dementia.

 Ensuring high-quality care in assisted living facilities by establishing standards and guidelines for using a Memory Care" designation.

• Implementing the recommendations in the Wisconsin State Dementia Plan to ensure Wisconsin has the necessary infrastructure in place to address this growing public health crisis.

In the afternoon, advocates met with their State Senators and Representatives in small groups to make their asks and relate their personal experi-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

Over 150 folks from across the state met up in Madison on Feb. 20 to ask their lawmakers to keep Alzheimer's disease and other dementias a legislative priority as part of the Alzheimer's Association's annual Advocacy Day.

ences with the disease.

'Our advocates are unrelenting in their fight for a world without Alzheimer's, said Allison Cramer, director of public policy, Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter. "It's powerful to have our voices heard and to bring a purple wave of supporters to Madison."

Alzheimer's Statistics:

• In Wisconsin, more than 120,000 individuals are liv- other dementias cost Amering with Alzheimer's, a number expected to increase to \$345 billion, and the cost is 130,000 by 2025. More than 198,000 individuals serve as caregivers.

• In Wisconsin, caregivers spend 213,000,000 total hours providing unpaid care at a val-

ue of \$3.97 billion.

• In 2023, Alzheimer's and ican taxpayers an estimated projected to rise to \$1 trillion by 2050.

To learn more about yearround advocacy efforts in Wisconsin, visit alzimpact. org/wisconsin.

BTC holds soul food luncheon to raise funds

Nearly 200 people gathered ing to scholarships and pro-Tuesday, Feb. 20 for Blackhawk Technical College's Soul Food Luncheon, a tradition that started 40 years ago to raise money for the college's Diversity Scholarship Fund.

"This event is about bringing together our community to celebrate Black History Month, enjoy each other's company and to also give thanks," said Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk. "This longstanding tradition is really about breaking bread with one another, building bridges, making connections, forging friendships and helping our students.

Organized by Blackhawk's Multi-Cultural Alliance, the Student Government Association, the Culinary Arts Department, and the Blackhawk Technical College Foundation, the Soul Food Luncheon serves as a vital component of the college's Black Ĥistory Month festivities, contribut-

moting a sense of community. This year's event featured musical performances by Lewy V, Curtis Crump Jr., and Genesis Renji. Jackie Jackson, a Blackhawk instructor, emceed the event, which also featured Julieta Rosales, a Blackhawk Nursing student and recipient of a Diversity

Scholarship. "I am very grateful for the help that I received through this scholarship. It definitely makes it easier to start school and to buy books and other needs," said Julieta. "Thank you for your donations. They made a huge impact on all of us students who want to make a better future for our families and society.'

The menu included baked/ fried chicken, ham, fried catfish, BBQ ribs, okra, candied yams, collard greens, cole slaw, black-eyed peas, macaroni and cheese, cornbread and rolls.

The Blackhawk Technical to new or continuing students.

Foundation established the Diversity Scholarship to foster an environment that appreciates and values an increasingly diverse student body; to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation of a diverse student body; and to develop student interest, involvement, and leadership in diversity, inclusion, equity, and accessibility initiatives at the College. The scholarship is, in part, funded by the proceeds of the annual Soul Food Luncheon held every year in February. Scholarship amounts from \$250 to \$1,000 are awarded to multiple students each semester. Students can be enrolled (or will be enrolling) in any program at Blackhawk and are a member of an underrepresented or marginalized group. Students can either be enrolled as parttime (minimum six credits) or full-time students and must be in good academic standing. This scholarship is available

News briefs Ballots cast for county supervisor, trustee Six hundred seventy-seven voters cast ballots in the Spring Primary in Rock County for two county supervisor races and Village of Footville Trustee.

The unofficial results can be found at: https://www. co.rock.wi.us/departments/ county-clerk/election-information/election-results-february-20-2024

The Spring General Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2. Offices will include: The Presidential Preference, Court of Appeals, Rock County Circuit Court Branch 3 and 7, County Board Supervisors, Municipal Judges, Town/Village/City Boards, and School Board Members, along with referendums.

Birds and Blooms Art Show in Janesville

The 2024 Birds and Blooms art exhibition celebrates the

coming of Spring. The Janesville Art League's annual show is a favorite with artists and art lovers

The art exhibition runs from Tuesday, March 5 through Sunday, April 14 at the Janesville Performing Arts Center Gallery, located at 408 S. Main St. in Janesville.

Come celebrate the charm of the season. The gallery is open on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., as well as before and during JPAC performances. The artwork is also for sale for those that wish to bring a bit of that charm to their home.

As always, the art show is free and open to the communi-

Visit them online at www. janesvilleartleague.org or on Facebook at www.facebook. com/JanesvilleArtLeague.

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





PHOTO COURTESY AMANDA URISH OF BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE Rock Valley Publishing Helpers serve food on Feb. 20 for Blackhawk Technical College's Soul Food Luncheon, a tradition that started 40 years ago to raise money for the college's Diversity Scholarship Fund.

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THE INDEPENDENT-REGISTER Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 Dairy Business Association hosts annual advocacy day

The Dairy Business Association, Wisconsin's leading dairy advocacy group, held its sixth annual Dairy Day at the Capitol event in Madison this Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Over 30 DBA members, both farmers and other corporate professionals, gathered at the Wisconsin State Capitol to advocate for the state's dairy community.

The event started with a Farmer-to-Farmer Legal Series presentation by Ruder Ware attorneys Sam Moheban and Amy Ebeling. During the discussion, they spoke about the immigration process and its impact on dairy farms in Wisconsin, emphasizing immigration as a solution to the labor and skills shortages faced by many businesses today.

Chad Zuleger, DBA director of government affairs, spoke with the group about current priorities and key issues impacting Wisconsin dairy farmers, including bills that would develop a Tran-

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Rock Valley Publishing **Dairy Business Associ**ation members, both farmers and other corporate professionals, gathered at the Wisconsin State Capitol to advocate for the state's dairy community.



Chad Zuleger Lee Kinnard sition to Grass program and carbon calculator at DATCP, the Protect Our Farms Act,

expanding eligibility of the Program, dairy product laWith dairy being such a prominent piece of Wisconsin's culture, it's critical for our state's dairy leaders to engage with lawmakers."

> - DBA Director of Government Affairs Chad Zuleger

beling and others.

"With dairy being such a prominent piece of Wiscon-DNR's Well Compensation sin's culture, it's critical for leger. "Few lawmakers today our state's dairy leaders to have direct ties to production

engage with lawmakers, said DBA Director of Government Affairs Chad Zu-

agriculture; providing them Kinnard of Kinnard Farms opportunities to engage directly with farmers is paramount to drive success for Wisconsin dairy and the rural in Madison. communities it supports."

Attendees also got a chance to visit the offices of legislators, giving them an opportunity to share their help show our lawmakers stories and let their voices be heard.

Organizations honored with President's Volunteer Service Awards

Junior Achievement USA Council) to recognize the is pleased to announce that it will honor 69 organizations across the United States with the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award for their support during the 2022-23 school year.

Seven companies earned Gold Status, meaning their employees donated 10,000 hours or more to teach Junior Achievement financial entrepreneurship, literacy, and career readiness classes across the country. Twelve businesses are honored with Silver Status because their employees spent more than 5,000 hours as JA volunteers. Bronze status was achieved by 51 companies whose employees donated 1,500 hours or more to teach JA life lessons.

Two dozen of the honorees have employees in Wisconsin who contributed their time as JA volunteers around the state.

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- RSM US LLP
- Ernst and Young LLP SAP America
- FedEx
- State Farm
- GE
- U.S. Bancorp
- HP Inc.
- Wells Fargo

"Community volunteers are the reason JA programs have such an impact on Wisconsin students," said Julie Granger, President of Junior Achievement of Wisconsin. and country. Junior Achieve-"By serving as role models ment's programs – in the and connecting students with critical pathways of career businesses in their own com- readiness, entrepreneurship, munities. JA volunteers open and financial literacy – ignite the world to students, helping the spark in young people them make smart academic and economic choices and pursue their dreams." In 2003, President George W. Bush established the Pres- offices reached 121,606 stuident's Council on Service dents across the state in the and Civic Participation (the

says this event is a powerful way for members to get involved and make an impact

"Wisconsin is synonymous with dairy for a reason," said DBA President Lee Kinnard. "Advocacy efforts like today why they must support programs to keep Wisconsin as a DBA board president Lee global leader in innovation."

valuable contributions vol-

unteers make in communities

and to encourage more peo-

ple to serve. The Council cre-

ated the President's Volun-

teer Service Award program

to thank and honor individu-

als who, by their demonstrat-

ed commitment and example, inspire others to engage in

volunteer service. In 2006,

Junior Achievement became

an official certifying organi-

zation for this award, which

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a U.S. presence that provide volunteers to teach JA programs anywhere in the world. The mission of Junior Achievement of Wisconsin is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed. JA teaches students how to begin building financial capability and career exploration early in elementary school by examining needs and wants, basic economic concepts, techniques for saving, basic budgeting, and the ways local businesses support their community. Early JA lessons instill habits of smart money management and career planning. JA helps older students dive deeper into the complexities of life planning such as living within one's means, student debt, investment

strategies, risk management, inflation, credit, and career goals. Anyone interested in becoming a Junior Achieve-

ment supporter or volunteering to teach JA lessons can find information on the organization's website at https:// wisconsin.ja.org.

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to providing young people with the skills and confidence to own their economic future and contribute to the economic viability of their families, communities, to realize the opportunities and realities of tomorrow's workplace. The eleven Junior Achievement of Wisconsin 2022-23 school year.

FROM THE LEGENDARY LADY COW FAMILY

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Police news

Thefts from vehicles in **Rock County**

The Rock County Sheriff's Office is investigating theft from vehicle complaints that occurred in early and mid February. The thefts were reported throughout the county. The RCSO is seeking the public's assistance. Please contact the Rock County Sheriff's Office Tips Line at 608-757-7911 with any information.

The RCSO would like to

remind citizens to always lock their vehicles and to not leave valuables unattended in their vehicles. Citizens should take valuables with them or secure them in their trunk or otherwise out of sight. Citizens are encouraged to notify law enforcement of any suspicious activity by dialing 911 in an emergency or calling the Rock County 911 Communications Center's non-emergency line at 608-757-2244.

Team 2x4 robotics advances to post-season competition for third year in a row

For the third year in a row Team 2x4, a middle school robotics team made up of local students, has returned from the Wisconsin State Championship with a bid to a post-season tournament, the American Robotics Open

This year's team is made up of Evan Schneider, Bethany Walton, Timothy Walton, Halee Williams, and Mason Williams. Three of the members are rookies and they were so excited to make it to through

every level of competition in Wisconsin. Less than 10% of teams were represented at the State Championship and only the top 25 got to advance to post season opportunities. Team 2x4 is the only team in the state to be invited to travel three years in a row.

The team was honored to win the second place Innovation Project trophy at state for "The Custom Carver," an athome custom moldable handle that allows beginner carvers to

learn to carve with much less chance of injury. Team 2x4 developed this handle for beginner carvers as a way to spread the hobby of carving with more kids. Their idea was published in Chip Chats, the National Woodcarving Association's magazine.

The students also designed, built, and coded a LEGO robot to autonomously solve a board of missions. Their robot finished in 10th place and they finished sixth place overall.

They will now be traveling to the American Robotics Open in the Meadowlands in New Jersey, from May 17-19 to compete against 54 other top teams.

Overall this season, Team 2x4 did a great job representing the stateline area and had an amazing time learning from other teams at the Wisconsin State Championship. They want to offer a big thanks to all the community members and businesses who supported their

excited to have the opportunity to move forward and represent Wisconsin at the American Robotics Open come May.

Team 2x4 is currently working to raise the funds needed for their registration fees, lodging, team shirts, and other expenses for the upcoming tournament. They need to raise \$7,000 and are looking for corporate and personal sponsorships. Anyone donating \$100 or more will be featured on their team

team this season. They are very banner, with other benefit levels also available. The team is happy to do presentations for community groups as they work towards this goal. To sponsor them, checks can be made out and sent to: Stateline Homeschool Robotics, PO Box 126, Clinton, WI 53525. Direct donations can be made through PayPal @team2x4, or GoFundMe at tinyurl.com/ mr9j6fh3. Contact them at fllteam2x4@gmail.com or 608-676-7329 with any questions.



Team 2x4 won the second place Innovation Project trophy at the Wisconsin State Championship. The team is, from left: Timmy Walton, Bethany Walton, Mason Williams, Evan Schneider, and Halee Williams.



The team visited with Mr. Lesch, the Wandering Woodcarver. He has been a big help in providing feedback about "The Custom Carver." From left: Halee Williams, Mr. Lesch, Bethany Walton, Mason Williams, Mrs. Lesch, Evan Schneider, and Timmy Walton.



Team 2x4 during the Robot Game. From left: Mason Williams, Timmy Walton, Evan Schneider, and Bethany Walton.



Showing off awards from their successful season are Team 2x4 members (back row, from left) Timmy Walton, Evan Schneider, Halee Williams, (front row) Bethany Walton and Mason Williams. Bethany and Mason are holding the team-designed robots Giant and Gigantica.

CROP Hunger Walk set for April 28

Janesville area walkers will help end hunger one step at a time on Sunday, April 28, during the 47th annual Janesville Area CROP Hunger Walk.

Organizers hope to raise \$50,000, and ECHO again will receive 25 percent of the total amount donated.

The remaining funds will help the efforts of Church World Service (CWS), a faithbased organization that fights hunger and poverty in communities around the globe.

The local theme for this year's walk is "Take Your Kid to Walk Day."

"We hope the theme will encourage multi-generational families to walk together," said Kathy Holcombe, event coordinator. "What a great way to pass on the joys of service and a heart for justice to our children.3

walk raised more than \$48,300 with more than \$12,000 going to ECHO, a Janesville-based organization that helps provide temporary housing, food, and transportation to people in need. Through the years, the Janesville area walk has raised more than \$1.32 million.

Walkers can sign up online individually or as a team at the website www.crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi. Just click on "Register," fill in details, and find lots of tools to help get started. There is no registration fee to participate, but walkers are encouraged to collect donations to support the cause.

Fourteen teams participated in the 2023 walk, and organizers hope that number will increase this year.

Holcombe encourages area the world.

Last year's Janesville area congregations, businesses, and other groups to get involved in the fight to end hunger. For more information, contact Holcombe at 608-752-8117 or cropjanesville@charter.net.

A breakfast meeting for team captains is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at St. John Lutheran Church, 302 N. Parker Drive, Janesville. Team captains will receive materials and ideas to help them encourage people to join the walk and collect donations. Refreshments will be available from 8 to 8:30 a.m.

If not available to walk on April 28, consider making a tax-deductible online contribution at the website at www. crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi. Regardless of its size, the gift will help people in local neighborhoods and around



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450954

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDWARD WILLIAM CROOKS Deceased

> Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24PR11

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth September 22, 1947 and date of death June 08, 2023, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mail-ing address of WI948 County Rd. OK, Brodhead, Wisconsin 53520.

interested persons 3. All waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a

claim against the decedent's estate is May 20, 2024. 5. A claim may be filed at the

Green County Justice Center, County Courthouse, 2841 6th St., Monroe, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

> /s/ Jennifer Prien Probate Registrar 2-12-24

Atty. Robb E. Leach P.O. Box 710 Monroe, WI 53566 (608) 325-2191 Bar Number 1082487

The Independent Register 2/21, 2/28, 3/6/2024 WNÁXLP 451292

TYPE A NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION April 2, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN. that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of Green County, on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law: STATE OF WISCONSIN REFERENDA

QUESTION 1: "Use of private funds in election ad*ministration*. Shall section 7 (1) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that private donations and grants may not be applied for, accepted, expended, or used in connection with the conduct of any primary, election, or

referendum? QUESTION 2: "Election officials. Shall section 7 (2) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that only election officials designated by law may perform tasks in the conduct of primaries, elections, and referendums?"

result of 2023 Enrolled Joint Resolution 78, a copy of which can be viewed or downloaded from the Wisconsin Elections Commission website at https://elections.wi.gov/memo/ certification-referendum-question-and-type-notice-referen-dum-april-2-2024-spring-election and also on the Legislature's website at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/reg/

sen/joint_resolution. A copy also can be obtained from the office of the county clerk, or the Legislative Doc-uments Room at 1 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin. GREEN COUNTY

REFERENDUM:

QUESTION: Under state law, the increase in the levy of the County of Green for the tax to be imposed for the fiscal year 2025, is limited to 1.124%, which re-sults in a levy of \$14,375,715. Shall the County of Green be allowed to exceed this limit and

increase the levy for the next six fiscal years, 2025 through 2030, for the exclusive purpose of paving for a portion of the cost of the operational and capital expens-es of the county-owned Pleasant View Nursing Home, by a total of 5.495%, which amounts to a levy increase of \$790,000 per year, which results in an approximate total of county levy of \$15,165,715 starting 2025.

This referendum ballot is a result of 2023 Resolution 11-3-23: Resolution Authorizing a Referendum to Exceed State Imposed Tax Levy Limits in 2025 through 2030 for the Benefit of Pleasant View Nursing Home, a copy of which can be obtained from the office of the county clerk located 1016 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566

DONE in the City of Monroe this 29th day of January, 2024. /s/ Arianna L. Voegeli_____ Arianna L. Voegeli, Green County Clerk

The Independent Register

2/28/2024 WNAXI P 450588

EXHIBIT A

(Type A Notice) NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION

NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JUDA RELATING TO A REFERENDUM ELECTION

TAKE NOTICE that a referendum election shall be held on April 2, 2024 in the School District of Juda for the purpose of approving or rejecting a Reve-nue Cap Resolution adopted by the School Board of said School District on January 10, 2024

The Revenue Cap Resolution reads as follows: RESOLUTION TO EXCEED

REVENUE CAP COMMENCING WITH

THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of Juda, Green County, Wisconsin, that the final school district budget shall include an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in excess of the revenue limits imposed by Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes each year beginning with the 2024-25 school year on a recurring basis for the purpose of paying District operating costs including, but not limited to, maintaining cur-rent staff and offering insurance for support staff and costs of capital projects including boilers, parking lot improvements, building maintenance and repairs and upgrades to the Career and Technical Education services area.

Said resolution authorizes the School Board of the District to exceed the so-called "revenue cap" imposed on the District's school budget beginning with the 2024-25 school year under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes by an amount of \$500,000 on a recurring basis for the purpose of paying District operating costs including, but not limited to, maintaining current staff and offering insurance for support staff and costs of capital projects including boilers, parking lot improvements, building maintenance and repairs and upgrades to the Career and Technical Education services area.

The question to be submitted to District electors will be "Shall the School Board of the School District of Juda be authorized to exceed the revenue limit under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes by an amount of \$500,000 beginning with the

2024-25 school vear on a re-

LEGAL NOTICES

including, but not limited to, maintaining current staff and offering insurance for support staff and costs of capital projects including boilers, parking lot im-provements, building mainte-nance and repairs and upgrades to the Career and Technical Education services area as provided in the foregoing resolution?'

A copy of the resolution directing submission of the auestion set forth above to the electorate and information concerning district boundaries may be obtained at the District offices located at N2385 Spring Street, Juda, Wisconsin 53550.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Traci Davis, Superintendent.

School District of Juda Suzanne Trotter District Clerk

The Independent Register 2/28/2024

451422 WNAXLP STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY L. PIERCE

> Amended Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24PR06

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal

administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/28/1927 and date of death 05/29/2023, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing ad-dress of 703 Green Street, Brod-

head, WI 53520. 3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 23, 2024.

5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin, Probate Office.

Electronically signed by JENNIFER PRIEN Probate Registrar 2-13-24 Michael A. Faust

Consigny Law Firm, S.C. 303 East Court Street, Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 755-5050 Bar Number 1024665

The Independent Register 2/28, 3/6, 3/13/2024 WNAXLP 451491

AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 BRODHEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL – CAFETERIA 2100 West 9th Avenue, Brodhead, WI

6:00 P.M.

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public

community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the Agenda.

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: https://meet.google.com/ oiv-jiji-thn

trict of Brodhead on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the following ques tion will be submitted to a vote of the people: City of Brodhead, Green and Rock Counties

"Shall the School District of Brodhead, Green and Rock Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$17,485,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: construction of additions, renovations, including for secure entrances, window replacements, bathroom upgrades capital maintenance, building infrastructure and site improvements at Albrecht Elementary School and Brodhead Middle School; construction of an addition and renovations at Brodhead High School, including for a secure entrance and office. and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?'

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing submission of the question set forth above to the electorate and information concerning District boundaries can be obtained from the District Clerk at the School District offices located at 2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, Wisconsin.

Additional Information

Acceptable photo ID will be re-quired to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Persons with questions regard-ing the referendum election should contact David A. Novy, District Administrator

to vote, the address where the Done in the School District of absentee ballot should be sent, Brodhead on February 28, 2024 if different, and your signature. Michael Oellerich District Clerk You may make application for

The Independent Register

2/28/2024 451586

WNAXLP STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

Plaintiff(s)

Summit Credit Union c/o Turke & Strauss, LLP 613 Williamson Street #201 Madison, WI 53703

If you need help in this matter because of a disability, please

Defendant(s)

VS

Melanie A. Love

1510 6th Avenue Monroe, WI 53566

call: 608 328-9433

Civil Claim Publication Summons and Notice 2024CV000002

Judge Thomas J. Vale

PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the per-son(s) named above as Plaintiff(s)

Within Forty (40) days of receiving this Summons, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Green Courthouse, 2841 6th St. Monroe, WI 53566 and to Turke & Strauss, LLP attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 613 Williamson Street #201, Madi-son, WI 53703. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

608-862-3240

NOTICE TO

RESIDENTS OF:

Town of Decatur,

Green County Town of Spring Grove, Green County Town of Albany,

Green County Town of Avon, Rock County

Town of Spring Valley, Rock County

Town of Magnolia,

Rock County Village of Albany,

Green County

SPRING ELECTION -

APRIL 2, 2024 VOTING BY ABSENTEE

BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is un-

able or unwilling to appear at the

polling place on Election Dav

may request to vote an absen-

tee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Elec-

tion Day, who has resided in the

ward or municipality where he or

she wishes to vote for at least

28 consecutive days before the

election. The elector must also

be registered in order to receive

an absentee ballot. Proof of

identification must be provided

before an absentee ballot may

You must make a request for

an absentee ballot in writing.

Contact your municipal clerk

and request that an application

for an absentee ballot be sent to

you for the primary or election

or both. You may also submit a

written request in the form of a

letter. Your written request must

list your voting address within

the municipality where you wish

an absentee ballot by mail or in

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

The deadline for making

application to receive an

absentee ballot by mail is: Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Note: Special absentee voting

application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely

confined to home or a care facili-

ty, in the military, hospitalized, or

serving as a sequestered juror.

If this applies to you, contact the

municipal clerk regarding dead-

lines for requesting and submit-

Voting an absentee ballot in

You may also request and vote

an absentee ballot in the clerk's

office or other specified location

during the days and hours spec-

ified for casting an absentee bal-

absentee ballot in the clerk's

office is: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

The last day to vote an

absentee ballot in the

clerk's office:

Friday, March 29, 2024

at 5:00 p.m.

No in-person absentee voting

may occur on a weekend or le-

gal holiday or on the day before

The municipal clerk will deliver

voted ballots returned on or be-

fore Election Day to the proper

the election.

lot in person. The first day to vote an

ting an absentee ballot.

person

be issued.

person.

Town of Avon Stephanie Schwartzlow 15444 W Skinner Rd Brodhead, WI 53520 608-921-3656

Town of Magnolia. Graceann Toberman 13343 W. County B Brodhead, WI 53520 608-751-6743

Town of Spring Valley, Dela Ends 17310 Footville Brodhead Rd Brodhead, WI 53520 608-897-4288

The Independent Register 2/28/2024 WNAXI P 451621

CLASSIFIED AD:

Green County will have for sale on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 1:00 PM the following:

Town of Jefferson: TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-016

0710.0000 - Minimum proposal is \$1.600

TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-016 0808.0000 - Minimum proposal is \$3.550

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

Sealed proposals for this prop-erty will be accepted until 12:00 p.m., Thursday, March 28, 2023 at the Green County Clerk's Of-fice, Green County Courthouse, 1016 16th Avenue, Monroe, Wis-consin 53566, telephone 608-328-9430. Additional informa-tion for this property is available tion for this property is available at the Clerk's office. A bid form can be found at the county's website, www.greencountywi. org under "Government" and Tax Deed Property Sales".

The Independent Register 2/28, 3/6, 3/13/2024 WNAXLP 45 451686

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF ELECTION EVANSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT APRIL 2, 2024

Referendum Details

At an election in the Evansville Community School District on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

"Shall the Evansville Com-

munity School District, Rock.

Green and Dane Counties,

Wisconsin be authorized

to exceed the revenue limit

specified in Section 121.91,

Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,700,000 for the 2024-2025

school year, by \$3,900,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, by \$4,600,000 for the 2026-2027

school year, by \$5,200,000 for the 2027-2028 school

year, and by \$5,900,000 for

the 2028-2029 school year,

for non-recurring purposes

and maintenance expenses,

including to maintain current

class sizes, to provide student

resources, to maintain educa-

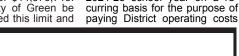
tional programming, salaries, and benefits, and to address

A copy of the entire text of the

resolution directing submission of the question set forth above

facility maintenance?

consisting of operational





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AGENDA I. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ABOUT THE **APRIL 2 REFERENDUM**

II. QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

III. BUILDING TOURS

Persons needing special ac-commodations should call (608) 897-2141 at least twenty-four [24] hours prior to the meeting.

The Independent Register 2/28/2024 WNAXLP 451585

> EXHIBIT B NOTICE OF ELECTION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD APRIL 2, 2024

Referendum Details At an election in the School Dis-

425142

If you do not demand a copy within the 40 days, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 22nd day of February 2024

Turke & Strauss, LLP Attorney Mary C. Turke 613 Williamson Street #201 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 237-1775

The Independent Register 2/28, 3/6, 3/13/2024 WNAXLP 45 451603 polling place or counting loca-tion before the polls close on **April 2, 2024**. Any ballots re-ceived after the polls close will not be counted.

Contact your municipal clerk listed below:

City of Brodhead, Kristin Covert 1111W. 2nd Avenue PO Box 168 Brodhead, WI 53520 608-897-4018

Town of Albany, Deb Cline N6065 County Rd E Albany, WI 53502 608-558-4787

Town of Spring Grove, Heidi Czapiewski N2475 County Road GG Brodhead, WI 53520 608-797-3347

Town of Decatur, Emma Brugger 1408 - 14th Street, Town Hall PO Box 333 Brodhead, WI 53520 608-897-4965

Village of Albany, Michelle Brewer 206 North Water Street Albany, WI 53502

to the electorate and information concerning District boundaries can be obtained from the District Clerk at the School District offices located at 340 Fair Street, Evansville, Wisconsin.

Additional Information

Acceptable photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Dr. Steven Lutzke, Interim District Administrator.

> Done in the Evansville Community School District on February 29, 2024 Ellyn T. Paul District Clerk

The Independent Register 2/28/2024 Evansville Examiner 2/29/2024 WNAXLP 451356



City of Evansville Summer Employment Opportunities Lifeguards, Concessions/Admission Employees, & Swim Lesson Instructors

Applications are being accepted for seasonal positions with the City of Evansville Pool. Duties and pay vary depending upon position, certifications and experience. The pool employment season is from late May to early September.

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.

The City of Evansville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Apartments

MEADOW PARK APART-MENTS 703 Meadow Park Drive, Clinton. One bedroom apartment, includes stove, refrigerator, all utilities, laundry room, locked lobby and parking. You pay 30% of income for rent. Equal Housing Opportunity. 608-676-4278.

R B



Announcements

CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

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

Burial Needs

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

Don't wait! Call today to place your classified ads with the Rock Valley Publishing newspapers. Call 608-897-2193.

Crafts

CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR March 2, 9 AM - 2 PM at the American Legion Post #209, 3913 S. State Rd. Hwy 213, Orfordville, WI. Admission is free, door prizes, Lunch available for purchase. We have room for more crafters & vendors. Call 608-295-8100 for more informa-

In Memory Of

GERALD (JERRY) COX, 90 of Pecatonica passed away on January 17th, 2023 after a brief illness. Please join the family and friends to honor and celebrate his life on Sunday, March 3rd, 2-4 pm at Ciminos Restaurant, Pecatonica

Personals

CARETAKER FOR CAT Once a day, everyday, come in for a cou-ple of hours. Call 608-526-2715.

Sporting Goods

GUN SHOW: March 1-3 Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Biders Club Road, Onalaska, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. \$8 (Under 14 FREE) 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com

transportation

Automobiles

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Automobiles Wanted



Trucks & Trailers CARGO TRAILER 5x8 En-

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TRUCK FOR SALE 1992 Ford F-250 XLT Super Cab, 7.5 Liter gas, Four wheel drive with lock-ing hubs, automatic. 123,000 original miles. This California truck is super clean. equipped with power windows, power door locks, power steering, bluetooth stereo, 2-tone paint, excellent tires. This truck is really nice. Must See! Elkhorn, WI. \$13,950 (262) 949-6997.



For immediate consideration send resume/job history to: Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com Fax: (262) 725-6844

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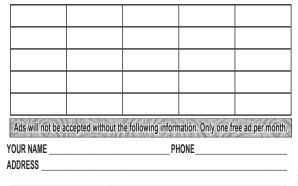






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Reopen for business in Orfordville



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

The Bank of Brodhead reopened for business at their newly remodeled location in Orfordville with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Previously located at the Orfordville Village Hall, the bank is now in the upgraded facility. The new building has a lot of historical pictures of the area included.



The Independent-Register

Please Print:

DOC celebrates correctional officers at graduation Compensation plan, recruitment efforts continue

to reduce security staff vacancies sage of a new compensation

plan included in Governor

Tony Evers' biennial budget

and approved by the State

Legislature. The plan set start-

ing pay at \$33 per hour for

correctional officers. Starting

pay can be as high as \$41 per

hour for some locations and

further decrease the DOC's

vacancy rate among correc-

tional officers and sergeants,

which was as high as 35% in

August of 2023. Currently the

vacancy rate is 26%, which

does not account for the in-

The DOC has used walk-in

hiring events, social media,

television, radio and direct

mail advertising to attract job

seekers statewide. The No-

vember and December grad-

uations each welcomed nearly

150 new recruits. In total, the

DOC graduated more than

600 uniformed staff from the

eight FSTS academies held in

2023 and is on track to surpass

• Kassandra Clint, Envi-

• Cora Hafen, Industrial and

• Paul Keintz, Mechanical

Systems Eng BS, UW-Platte-

ronmental Horticulture BS,

coming recruits.

Brodhead

ville

UW-Platteville

The latest influx of staff will

shifts.

More than 200 new correctional officers will soon begin work at Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities statewide as efforts to recruit and train security staff gain momentum.

DOC continues to see record-setting numbers of officers graduate from its sixweek training academy known as the Facility Staff Training and Support (FSTS) Program. The 214 graduates, who are part of one of the department's largest classes, were celebrated at a graduation event held Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Madison College.

'Our staff is the department's greatest asset and the best tool we have to help the persons in our care rehabilitate and to keep our communities safe," said DOC Secretary Kevin Carr. "Graduating more than 200 new officers in our latest class is a historic moment for our agency."

Applications for security staff grew following the pas-

College news UW-Platteville

UW-Platteville reveals Fall 2023 graduates

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville awarded diplomas to nearly 500 students for the fall of 2023

Students from this area who graduated include:

Juda

· Jacob Mahlkuch, Social Science Comprehensive, **UW-Platteville**

• Kerstin Miller, History, UW-Platteville • Natalee Vavra, Agricultur-

al Education, UW-Platteville

UW-Platteville announces Dean's List

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the fall 2023 semester.

College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture and the College of Liberal Arts and Education require grade-point averages of 3.75 and above for Dean's List honors, while the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science requires students to reach at least a 3.50.

Students with an asterisk by their name also received Chancellor's Honors.

Students from this area on the Dean's List include:

ability and Renewable BS,

Albany

Engineering BS, UW-Platteville • Dawson Keller, Criminal Justice BS, UW-Platteville Juda

• Jacob Mahlkuch*, Social Science BA, UW-Platteville

• Natalee Vavra*, Agricultural Education BS, UW-Platteville

UW-Platteville reveals Chancellor's List

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announced its Chancellor's List, honoring those with perfect 4.0 gradepoint averages for the fall 2023 semester.

Students from this area who earned the 4.0 grade-point average include:

Albany

• Caden Maire, Sustainability and Renewable BS, UW-Platteville

Juda

· Jacob Mahlkuch, Social Science BA, UW-Platteville

 Natalee Vavra, Agricultur-• Caden Maire*, Sustain- al Education BS, UW-Platteville

that number in 2024.

The FSTS academy includes a comprehensive curriculum of both classroom education and on-the-job training. Following graduation, the recruits will report to their assigned facilities throughout Wisconsin.

The latest class will add staff to facilities with the highest vacancy rates, including Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution (21 new officers), Waupun Correctional Institution (nine), Fox Lake Correctional Institution (nine) and Green Bay Correctional Institution (six).

Waupun (WCI) continues to receive 33 officers from other facilities through the Supplemental Staffing Plan. The additional staff has helped WCI sustain a more predictable operations schedule while maintaining safety for staff and persons in our care.

Additional staffing data can be found on the DOC's interactive dashboard.

Emma Halverson graduated from MSOE

Emma Halverson, from Brooklyn, graduated from Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in Fall 2023. Halverson received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering with Honors.

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.70 or above are listed as having graduated with "High Honors.² Undergraduate students with a cumulative GPA between 3.20 and 3.69 are listed as having graduated with "Honors."

Milwaukee School of Engineering (www.msoe.edu) is the university of choice for those seeking an inclusive community of experiential learners driven to solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow. The independent, non-profit university has about 2,800 students and was founded in 1903. MSOE offers bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, business and nursing. Faculty are student-focused experts who bring real-world experience into the classroom. This approach to learning makes students ready now as well as prepared for the future. Longstanding partnerships with business and industry leaders enable students to learn alongside professional mentors, and challenge them to go beyond what's possible. MSOE graduates are leaders of character, responsible professionals, passionate learners and value creators.

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