

# Independent-Register SHOPPING NEWS

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## Farm Rescue program comes to the rescue

As many farm families know, there are seasons when life is put on the back burner – during planting and harvesting, for example. However, sometimes, life is derailed, and farm work falls to second place. That’s when Farm Rescue is there to step into the picture.

“The premise of Farm Rescue is based on neighbors helping neighbors,” said Terry Johnston, development officer for Farm Rescue. “We support farm families in any way we can to get them through whatever rough patch they’re facing.”

Beginning in July 2024, farmers across the state of Wisconsin will have access to Farm Rescue services when they experience a major illness, injury or natural disaster. A nonprofit organization, Farm Rescue provides free planting, haying, harvesting, commodity hauling and livestock feeding assistance.

“Wisconsin farmers – soybean growers included – are fortunate to now have access to Farm Rescue’s assistance when life throws a curveball their way,” Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board President Patrick Mullooly said.

Founded in 2005 by Bill Gross, a North Dakota native

who wasn’t able to return to his family farm and went on to become a Boeing 747 captain for UPS, Farm Rescue has assisted more than 1,000 farm and ranch families since its inception. With the addition of Wisconsin, the organization serves farm families in nine states – Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

“Farm Rescue is very thankful for the unwavering support from our family of supporters in helping us grow our service area,” said Gross. “We look forward to extending a helping hand to farm families in crisis within the state of Wisconsin.”

In his role as development officer, Johnston encourages organizations and individuals to financially support Farm Rescue, recruits volunteers and helps identify families that need assistance.

“We have over 600 volunteers from 49 states with all different skill levels,” Johnston said. “They show up when the work needs to be done, running the equipment and supporting the family in need.”

For more information about Farm Rescue’s mission, or to learn how you can support the



PHOTO COURTESY FARM RESCUE Rock Valley Publishing

Beginning in July 2024, farmers across the state of Wisconsin will have access to Farm Rescue services when they experience a major illness, injury or natural disaster.

organization, whether that be through volunteering or financial assistance, please visit <https://farmrescue.org/>.

“We ask for and appreciate the support of the folks in Wisconsin,” Johnston said. “We want to keep farm families earning their living through a tough period. So, supporting Farm Rescue any way you can helps make sure that we keep those farm families going and help the next generation have access to that legacy.”

## Junior Achievement program impacts state students

Junior Achievement of Wisconsin announced on April 9 that the We Energies Foundation donated \$265,000 since March 2023 to support financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career readiness programs for Wisconsin students. The gift focuses on three key aspects of the work Junior Achievement does to inspire and prepare students for a successful future.

Half of the gift is earmarked for a high school program being piloted in Milwaukee called 3DE.

3DE presents real-life business problems to high school students who work together with community volunteers to research and develop solutions. The case studies are incorporated into all core high school classes and give students the skills, mindset, and behaviors to be competitive in a rapidly changing economy.

During the 2023-24 school year, all freshmen at Milwaukee Marshall and Bay View High Schools will participate in 3DE. Based on results in other US cities, 3DE reduces absenteeism and discipline issues, while increasing student enthusiasm for staying in school, achieving high academic goals, and advancing to postsecondary education.

We Energies is also sponsoring Storefronts in the unique business simulation labs implemented at Junior Achievement facilities in Milwaukee and Appleton. Students in 5th through 9th grade visit the storefronts in the

“It’s never too early for students to start envisioning a bright future for themselves, and for their communities.”

– President Beth Straka

simulation labs and learn how to run businesses, understand how to live within a monthly budget, and develop leadership, critical thinking and collaboration skills needed for success in the workplace.

Classroom learning for K-12 students across Wisconsin is the final area supported by the WeEnergies Foundation gift. Local volunteers serve as role models in thousands of Wisconsin school classrooms and teach students how to become productive employees, successful business owners, effective managers of their personal finances, and engaged citizens of their communities. The goal for the 2023-24 school year is to impact over 127,000 Wisconsin students.

The We Energies Foundation has been supporting communities across Wisconsin for more than 40 years. Since its inception in 1982, the We Energies Foundation has provided over \$200 million in contributions to support non-profit organizations

in the communities served by We Energies. During the last 5 years, the We Energies Foundation has donated more than \$50 million to thousands of nonprofits and charitable organizations.

“We are pleased to be long-time supporters of Junior Achievement and help the next generation of leaders discover the opportunities that await them after graduation,” said Beth Straka, president – We Energies Foundation. “It’s never too early for students to start envisioning a bright future for themselves, and for their communities.”

The We Energies Foundation supports initiatives for enhanced educational opportunities, community and neighborhood development, health and human services, arts and culture, and the environment. Learn more at [we-energies.com](http://we-energies.com).

Junior Achievement is the world’s largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA programs are delivered by corporate and community volunteers and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. If interested, visit [www.wisconsin.ja.org](http://www.wisconsin.ja.org) for more information.

## Crash in Rock County leads to three deaths

On Saturday, April 13, at approximately 12:04 p.m., Rock County deputies, Jefferson County deputies, Whitewater Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol along with several fire/EMS agencies responded to a three-vehicle crash at Hwy 12 and E. County Line Road in Lima Township, Rock County.

Through investigation this is believed to be what occurred: A passenger van was eastbound on E. County Line Road approaching Hwy 12. The driver of the passenger van did not adhere to the stop sign entering the intersection. There was a passenger SUV, with the right of way, southbound on Hwy 11. The front of the SUV collided with the driver side of the van in the intersection. As they collided a truck pulling a fifth wheel trailer hauling hay was northbound on Hwy 12. The driver side of the trailer collided with the front of the van. During the crash two

adult females and one adult male were ejected from the van. Those three subjects were later declared deceased on scene.

The female adult driver of the van sustained non-life-threatening injuries as did the adult male driver of the SUV. The driver of the truck was uninjured. There were four additional passengers from the van that were transported to nearby hospitals. One of them, an adult female, was transported via Med Flight with life threatening injuries. The other three, two adult males and an adult female, have severe but non-life-threatening injuries.

The Rock County Sheriff’s Office will be the primary investigating agency for the crash. At this time no criminal charges have been filed as a result of the crash and the investigation is ongoing.

The names of the deceased will be later released by the Medical Examiner’s Office.

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# Petco helps area humane society

The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin is set to receive a \$20,000 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for animals in Southern Wisconsin.

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested \$375 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partner-

ship with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations across North America, with 6.75 million pets adopted and counting.

"Our investment in the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin is part of more than \$15M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized," said Susanne Kutah, president of Petco Love. "Our local investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to

drive lifesaving change right alongside us. We launched Petco Love Lost, a national lost and found database that uses patented image-recognition technology to simplify the search for lost pets."

"This lifesaving investment from Petco Love means that we will not only be able to continue helping pets go home, but we will also be able to help pets stay home. This investment will allow us to be proactive rather than reactive to pet-related concerns in our community. And we are ecstatic to get to work!" said Kaitie Swedlund, Business Development

Director, Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin.

The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping pets go home again and serving the southern Wisconsin area. Since 2021, the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin has helped over 170 pets remain in their safe and loving homes through our Better Together Program.

For more information about the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin, visit [petsgohome.org](https://petsgohome.org). Learn more about Petco Love at [petco-love.org](https://petco-love.org).

# News briefs

## Pancake breakfast for Footville Fire and EMS

There will be a pancake breakfast for Footville Fire and EMS on Saturday, April 27, from 6:30 to 11 a.m.

Come out and enjoy some hot pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links, milk and coffee served up by the members of the Footville Fire Department and EMS at 252 N. Gilbert St., Footville.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and basket raffles too. Winners do not need to be present to win.

Cost for adults is \$8 and cost for kids is \$5.

## Orfordville rummage sales coming in May

Orfordville Village Wide rummage sales will be Saturday, May 4.

A lot of people also are open on Friday, May 3. Those that are having sales are responsible for their own ads. Bathrooms will be open at Purdy Park for the event.

## Elder benefit specialist schedule for ADRC

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County announces its elder benefit specialist schedule for April.

- Wednesday, April 17, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Edgerly Library, and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Elm Drive Apartments
- Tuesday, April 23, 11 a.m. to noon, The Gathering Place in Milton
- Wednesday, April 24, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Riverview Heights Apartments in Janesville
- Thursday, April 25, 8 a.m. to noon, Grinnell Senior Center.

The ADRC of Rock County/Aging Unit, in partnership with Mercy Health System of Janesville, is pleased to offer Stepping On, a falls prevention workshop for adults ages 60+, from April 18 to May 30.

Stepping On graduates have a 31% reduced rate of falls.

Stepping On is a seven-week series. In Stepping On workshops, attendees will learn how to build and maintain the physical strength and balance they need to walk confidently. From footwear to prescriptions, they'll learn what increases their risk of a fall, how to avoid it, and make an individualized action plan to stay on their feet and live life the way they want.

A Stepping On workshop will be held on seven Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Mercy Health Mall from April 18 to May 30. Mercy Mall is located at 1010 N. Washington Street, Janesville.

A suggested donation of \$15 is asked to cover the cost of class materials. Space is limited to 12 participants. Advanced registration is required to reserve a seat.

For questions, or to register by April 4, call the Health Promotion Coordinator for ADRC of Rock County/Aging Unit at 608-757-5309 or email at [Lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:Lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us).

The program was developed by Dr. Lindy Clemson of Sydney, Australia, to help older adults learn ways to prevent falls. It was brought to the United States by Dr. Jane Mahoney, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging.

# Police news

## Last chance for boater safety education course

Sheriff Fell is pleased to announce that the Rock County Sheriff's Office will offer their second and final 2024 Boater Safety Education Course on April 30, from 6 to 7 p.m., and May 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Rock County Fairgrounds at Craig Center, 1301 Craig Ave., Janesville.

Students will need to attend both sessions to graduate.

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989, is required to complete a Boater Safety Education Course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters. It is recommended that participants are at least 12 years of age or turn 12 shortly after the class.

Registration is now open. Complete the online enrollment form to reserve a seat at <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/recreational-patrol/boater-education>.

Class size is limited to thirty students. Upon submission of the registration form, the submitter will see an onscreen confirmation message with

course information.

The course fee of \$10 per student will be collected at the first session. If the student is under 18 years old, a parent/guardian will need to attend the first session with the student. Students will receive course materials at the first session. Please direct any questions to Deputy Trevor Lund at [trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us).

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## Rock County has open plots for garden season

The Rock County Land Conservation Department has open plots for the 2024 garden season.

Plots are \$35 each; or 2 for \$60. Rental fee includes initial tillage, as well as water for the season. Gardens are open May 1, weather dependent, to Oct. 31. Plots are approx. 20 feet by 25 feet.

Please visit the garden website for more information and a list of garden rules: <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/community-gardens>. Feel free to email Ashley Roscoe at [ashley.roscoe@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:ashley.roscoe@co.rock.wi.us) for renting a plot, or call 608-931-5135.

## Stepping On program reduces risk for falls

One in four people aged 65 and older has a fall each year.

## Beloit area looking for retired teachers

Calling all retired educators - the Beloit Area Retired Educators Association is inviting area retired teachers to join their group, BAREA.

BAREA usually meets on the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, located at 749 Bluff St. in Beloit. The meeting starts with social time, then a program followed by a business meeting.

Their next meeting will be on Thursday, April 18, and will have a special Spring Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the church, with Beloit policemen as their guest speakers.

Please call Kathy McNamee at 608-365-5934 for more information.

Also check out their group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/498636174068506](http://www.facebook.com/groups/498636174068506).

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# Soil health group accepting farmer enrollment for 2024

The Soil and Water Outcomes Fund (SWOF), a leading agricultural ecosystem services program, is now accepting farmer enrollment for 2024 across 28 states, with new areas of cropland eligibility in 23 states. The Soil and Water Outcomes Fund provides payment to farmers for environmental outcomes that result from implementing

conservation practices. As an inset program, SWOF continues to grow its opportunities for farmers and environmental impact through supply chain partnerships. The program enrolled over 300,000 acres and paid more than \$10.5 million to farmers in 2023. Farmers enrolled in the program implemented conservation practices such as reduced

tillage, cover crops, extended crop rotations, and fertilization management to improve soil health, reduce erosion and more. "We are proud to kick off our fifth year of enrollment for the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund and expand opportunities for farmers yet again," said Adam Kiel co-managing director of the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund. "SWOF started with a pilot of 10,000 acres in 2020. Last year we enrolled over 300,000 acres and our farmer reenrollment rate was over 92% from 2022 to 2023. These metrics underscore the value our program provides and the confidence placed in us by U.S. farmers."

Farmers or landowners interested in enrolling in the program can do so by visiting the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund website at [www.theoutcomesfund.com](http://www.theoutcomesfund.com). A map of cropland areas eligible for 2024 enrollment is available on its website. Those interested can also contact their field team with enrollment questions by sending an email to [contactus@theoutcomesfund.com](mailto:contactus@theoutcomesfund.com). "The more tools that Wisconsin soybean growers have in their toolbox, the better," Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board Executive Director Adam Kask said. "The Soil and Water Outcomes Fund is just one example of a tool growers can use to further implement sustainable production practices."



PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN SOYBEAN MARKETING BOARD  
Rock Valley Publishing

**Farmers enrolled in the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund, a leading agricultural ecosystem services program, implemented conservation practices such as reduced tillage, cover crops, extended crop rotations, and fertilization management to improve soil health, reduce erosion and more.**

## Public invited to Rock County conversations

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) invites all Rock County residents to make their voices heard at a series of Community Conversations. Two more Community Conversations are planned: April 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rock County Historical Society's Tallman Carriage House; and May 2 at 6 p.m. at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center in Janesville. Through these meetings, HEAR hopes to better understand the current health needs of those who live, work, and play here. This will help HEAR to identify how and where they can improve the health of

the community. The events are no charge and include dinner and childcare. The April 23 meeting at the Rock County Historical Society (RCHS) will also include a presentation by RCHS Board Member Kathy Boguszewski titled Honoring Those Who Came Before Us: A Brief Glimpse at Local Change Makers. Reservations are required. To make a reservation for the RCHS meeting, visit [www.rchs.us/event/community-conversation](http://www.rchs.us/event/community-conversation). For questions or reservations on any of the community conversations, call 608-290-3721 or email [hearcoordinator@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:hearcoordinator@co.rock.wi.us).

## Paper discusses the ROI of a UW-Madison bachelor's degree

The Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy (CROWE) is pleased to present a multi-part white paper series on issues of salience to UW-Madison and the state of Wisconsin. "The Economics of UW-Madison" series will cover a range of topics including the ROI of a UW-Madison bachelor's degree, the ROI of various majors, and a critical look at what more UW-Madison could do to better serve the state of Wisconsin and what more the state of Wisconsin could do to better poise UW-Madison for success. "We are delighted to present this series of papers that addresses a host of critical issues related to UW-Madison's value to students and the state," says CROWE co-director Ananth Seshadri, who also holds the Mary Sue and Mike Shannon Distinguished Chair at

UW-Madison's Department of Economics. The first white paper in the series, "The Return to A Bachelor's Degree from UW-Madison" estimates the value of a UW-Madison bachelor's degree. Estimates using U.S. Census Bureau data reveal substantial gains from a UW-Madison bachelor's degree. The median lifetime return to a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison is about \$760,000 for Wisconsin residents relative to a high school diploma. And this calculation only accounts for the earnings benefit associated with graduating from UW-Madison. "It does not account for the consumption value of college. College is fun – think Badger athletics," says CROWE co-director Kim Ruhl, who also holds the Curt and Sue Culver Professorship in Economics at the UW-Madison Department of Economics. Estimates from

the literature suggest that the consumption value of attending UW-Madison is likely higher than instate tuition. "If anything, the \$760,000 lifetime benefit figure underestimates the value of a UW-Madison bachelor's degree," Ruhl adds. CROWE research economist Junjie Guo notes that the set of college enrollees is not randomly drawn from the population. He adds, "Even when compared with the 90th percentile of the discounted value of lifetime earnings of high school graduates, the net return to a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison is about \$340,000 for Wisconsin residents." The next white paper in "The Economics of UW-Madison" series will cover the distributional aspects of these returns and how ROI varies by major.

The Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy (CROWE) was established in 2017 within the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. CROWE's mission is to support and disseminate economic policy research from a market perspective, with a particular focus on the Wisconsin economy and state-level economic policy issues. CROWE is an integral part of both the campus and the broader business and policy community in the state. The work at CROWE spans three main areas: research, student engagement, and public outreach. For more information on CROWE, visit online at [crowe.wisc.edu](http://crowe.wisc.edu). For questions on the report, email Ananth Seshadri [ananth.seshadri@wisc.edu](mailto:ananth.seshadri@wisc.edu) or Kim Ruhl at [ruhl2@wisc.edu](mailto:ruhl2@wisc.edu). To download the report, visit [crowe.wisc.edu/the-economics-of-uw-madison](http://crowe.wisc.edu/the-economics-of-uw-madison).

## Red Cross: Spring into action to give blood

During National Volunteer Month in April, the American Red Cross asks donors to help protect the blood supply by making and keeping blood or platelet donation appointments in the weeks ahead. Donors of all blood types – especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets – are needed now to keep the blood supply strong enough to support critical patient care this spring.

The Red Cross depends on thousands of volunteer blood donors to collect about 12,000 blood donations every single day. With no substitute for blood and no way to manufacture it, volunteer donors are essential in transfusion care. Blood drives and donation centers also depend on the generosity and valuable time of those who make it possible for the Red Cross to help people in need.

Spring into action – book a time to give lifesaving blood or platelets now by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who come to give before April 28 will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered to win a \$7,000 gift card. There will be two lucky winners. See [RedCrossBlood.org/Spring](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Spring) for details. Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Station, 117 Spring St.

**Stoughton**  
• Monday, April 29: 1 to 6 p.m., Covenant Lutheran, 1525 N. Van Buren St.  
• Friday, May 3: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Nazareth Health and Rehabilitation Center, 814 Jackson St.

**Green County Monroe**  
• Thursday, April 18: Noon to 6 p.m., Monroe Bible Church, 2613 8th Ave.  
• Friday, May 3: 8 a.m. to noon, St. John's United Church of Christ, 1724 14th St.

**New Glarus**  
• Saturday, May 4: 8 a.m. to noon, New Glarus Area EMS, 401 3rd St.

**Rock County Beloit**  
• Monday, April 29: 1 to 6 p.m., Beloit Public Library, 605 Eclipse Blvd.

**Clinton**  
• Monday, May 6: 1 to 6 p.m., St. Stephens Family Center, 716 Shu Lar Lane

**Edgerton**  
• Tuesday, May 7: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 590 S. St. Joseph Circle

**Evansville**  
• Wednesday, May 1: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Evansville High School, 640 S. Fifth St.

**Janesville**  
• Tuesday, April 30: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 2940 Mineral Point Ave.  
• Friday, May 3: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Uptown Janesville, 2500 Milton Ave.

**Milton**  
• Friday, April 26: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Parker YMCA, 1360 N. Parkview Dr.

**Dane County Belleville**  
• Wednesday, May 1: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Belleville High School, Belleville High School, 635 W. Church St.

**Cambridge**  
• Wednesday, April 24: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cambridge High School, 403 Bluejay Way

**Oregon**  
• Thursday, May 9: 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Oregon Fire

## College news

**Sarah Olin graduating from UW-Whitewater Honors Program**  
Sarah Olin, a human resource management major from Beloit, is one of 34 students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater who graduated or is set to graduate from the University Honors Program (UHP) during the 2023-24 academic year. A total of 25 students are set to receive their degrees this May, while nine students graduated in December. The University Honors

Program is an academic experience for motivated undergraduate students who seek a challenging and intellectually enriched learning environment. The program cultivates students in their academic development by providing small classes and seminars that are led by some of the university's most accomplished teachers and scholars. It supports Honors students to achieve their full potential as students, prospective professionals, and future civic

leaders by engaging them in high-impact practices such as study abroad/travel study, Honors conference participation, special field trips, service learning projects, and scholarship opportunities. Honors Program students are part of the Honors Student Association, which is actively involved in community service and volunteering activities and allows members to enjoy networking opportunities. A total of 419 students are currently active in

UW-Whitewater's Honors Program. To learn more about the program, visit [uww.edu/honors](http://uww.edu/honors). **Beto Patino Luna earns Honors Program award at UW-Whitewater**  
Beto Patino Luna, a Geography major from Janesville, claimed an award at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for their excellence in the University Honors Program (UHP). Patino Luna won the Travel Study Award.

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**COMMUNITY SUPPORT APPRECIATED**

Thank you to everyone in the Brodhead community for electing me and entrusting me to serve you as your mayor. I am deeply humbled by your support. I want to assure you that I am going to work hard to give you a voice, address your concerns and to ensure that we have the services which are needed to keep our city strong, safe and growing.

Whether or not you voted for me in this election, I want you to know that I am dedicated to serving you. When we work together, I know that we can accomplish great things for the city. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I am ready and excited to work for you. I want to be as accessible and responsive to you as possible. I welcome your feedback on all issues. I want to hear both your ideas and the issues you may have concerning the city. Together we can continue to make Brodhead the best place to live, work and play. I can be reached by phone at 608-214-1120 or 608-897-4018 ext. 152 and by email at [simpson@cityofbrodheadwi.us](mailto:simpson@cityofbrodheadwi.us).

**Thank you again, Tom Simpson**

90th BIRTHDAY PARTY  
for **Clinton Zettle**  
May 5 • 2 to 6 p.m.  
**Albany Lions Club**  
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**Congregational UCC**

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**Saturday, April 20 • 4:30-7 p.m.**  
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STOCK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Some home DIY projects just aren't worth it. Do the research before starting any.

## How DIY can be bad for homeowners' bottom lines

Homeowners know it can be tempting to go the do-it-yourself (DIY) route when starting a home improvement project. Home repairs and renovations can be costly, and the notion of saving money on such projects compels many homeowners to try their hand at home improvements. However, the DIY approach can be costly as well, and if things go awry, homeowners may end up with empty pockets and unfinished projects.

Online tutorials and advertisements for home improvement retailers can make DIY seem like a snap. However, there are potential pitfalls to consider that could make the ostensibly less expensive DIY route far more detrimental to the bottom line than homeowners may recognize.

• **Permits:** Permits ensure work is done in accordance with local codes, which are designed to ensure the safety of residents and their neighbors. Licensed contractors know which permits are necessary for projects they're hired to work on, and many even procure permits for their clients (homeowners are urged to read estimates and

contracts to determine who will be responsible for acquiring the appropriate permits). DIYers may not know about local permits, and therefore go ahead with projects without procuring any. That can be harmful in the short- and long-term. In the short-term, a failure to procure the appropriate permits can make a home less safe and potentially lead to costly fines and necessitate a complete do-over of the project. In the long-term, homeowners who did not secure the appropriate permits may not be given a certificate of occupancy (CO) when putting their homes on the market, which can make it very difficult to sell the home.

• **Ancillary costs:** The ancillary costs of DIY are not often noted in online tutorials. However, such costs can dramatically increase the amount of money DIYers shell out in order to complete projects on their own. Ancillary costs include but are not limited to the price of tools and equipment; disposal fees for materials that will need to be discarded; and the cost of permits. These costs are often included in estimates provid-

ed by contractors, but they're easily overlooked by novice DIYers.

• **Repairs:** Even experienced contractors make mistakes, so DIYers, particularly novices, can anticipate making a few errors along the way. Minor mistakes may not prove too costly, but more significant mishaps can quickly negate any cost savings associated with DIY renovations. The cost to fix DIY mistakes varies depending on the project, but a 2019 survey from Porch.com found that the average DIY mistake cost homeowners \$310 and added five and a half hours

to the overall time spent to complete a project. It's worth noting the Porch.com survey was conducted prior to the dramatic increase in materials costs related to inflation in recent years. So it's reasonable to assume that fixing DIY mistakes in 2024 could end up costing considerably more than a few hundred dollars.

Before diving in to DIY, homeowners may want to consider the real costs associated with forgoing professional experience in the potentially misplaced hopes of saving a few dollars. (METROCREATIVE)

**Did you know...?**

While home buyers typically take their time to examine each room and space inside and outside a home before making an offer, the real estate experts at Trulia note that two rooms in particular seem to merit the closest inspection among prospective buyers. Kitchens and the bathroom in an owner's suite can dramatically increase the value of a home. Trulia recommends that homeowners consider their neighborhood and identify their target buyers prior to beginning a kitchen or owner's suite renovation, as such variables can provide direction and inspiration when refurbishing these widely valued areas in a home.

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## Outdoor plants toxic to household pets

Pets bring many positive changes to households. Pets can make homes more lively, and the companionship of animals can reduce feelings of loneliness while offering additional health benefits to pet owners.

Individuals who are preparing to adopt or purchase pets need to be mindful that they may need to make changes at home to ensure residences are safe places for pets to reside. Much in the way new parents must assess the environs for potential hazards to babies, pet owners should conduct similar inspections. These safety checks should occur both inside and in the yard if pets will be spending time outdoors. Poisonous plants are a potentially hidden hazard prospective pet owners must address before bringing a new pet home.

People generally do not give much thought to the plants they include in their homes and yards beyond the care instructions and how they can add to the aesthetic appeal. Homeowners may not know if a plant likes the sun or shade, but they may not realize its potential for toxicity. That's because adults in particular are not prone to ingesting the plants in their yard that are inedible, unlike curious pets that may sniff and nibble plants when exploring their environments. For those with dogs and cats that will spend time outdoors, it's best to be aware of these potentially toxic plants, courtesy of the ASPCA, Dr. Buzby's and Garden Design.

**Autumn crocus:** There are various types of crocus plants, but the one most toxic to dogs is autumn crocus. The entire plant is toxic, but the highest concentration of toxic agent is found in the bulbs.

**Sago palm:** People in warm climates may enjoy the look of palm trees on their properties. Despite its tropical and relaxing appearance, the Sago palm is extremely poisonous if ingested by pets, with the seeds being the most toxic part.

**Lily:** Lilies are highly toxic to cats in particular. Even grooming pollen off of their fur or drinking water out of a vase where lilies are kept



SARAH STIERCH/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Autumn crocus**



PIXABAY STOCK PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Sago palm**



METROCREATIVE STOCK PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Hyacinth**



THORKILD POULSEN/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Lily**



JOHN O'NEILL/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Tulip**



ERIN SILVERSMITH/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Aloe vera**



QUADELL/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Begonia**



JIM EVANS/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Azalea**



ALPSDAKE/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Yew (American, Canadian and Japanese)**



MARKTEE1/WIKIPEDIA PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing  
**Dahlia**

may cause kidney failure.

**Tulips and hyacinth:** These early bloomers are beautiful flowers, but each contains a similar alkaloid toxin that is mild to moderately toxic to pets. Again, the highest concentration is found in the bulbs, which dogs or cats may dig up while exploring.

**Aloe vera:** This soothing succulent may be part of an arid climate landscape. Aloe contains saponin, a toxin with foaming properties that can harm pets if ingested and cause severe dehydration.

**Begonia:** A popular outdoor and houseplant, begonia

has decorative flowers and attractive leaves. However, the plant can be toxic to cats and dogs if ingested, particularly the underground tubers.

**Azalea:** This flowering shrub produces flowers in many colors, so it's often present in household landscapes. It's important to note that azaleas can be toxic to dogs and cats.

**Yew:** American, Canadian and Japanese yew may be found around properties. These shrubs produce small red berries with green centers (almost looking like the reverse of a Spanish olive with pimento). Yew is toxic to cats and dogs.

**Dahlia:** Dahlia produce flowers in different colors, so they are common in flower beds. However, these plants also are mildly toxic to pets.

Many toxic plants can irritate the gastrointestinal system in pets, potentially resulting in vomiting, diarrhea or lethargy. Those who suspect a pet has ingested a poisonous plant should contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 or their local veterinarian to learn about how to respond to possible exposure. (METROCREATIVE)



METROCREATIVE STOCK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Be aware of the types of outdoor plants you keep if you're a pet owner - some of them can be toxic to them.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## AGENDA

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.

### BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2024  
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM  
2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI  
7:00 P.M.

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET:  
<https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-thn>  
JOIN BY TELEPHONE:  
+1 727-325-2066  
(PIN: 996403637)

NEW SCHOOL BOARD

This meeting is a meeting of the

## SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Albrecht Elementary School – Multipurpose Room

Wednesday February 21, 2024  
Minutes

The meeting agenda was published in the Wednesday, February 14, 2024 edition of the Independent Register.

### AGENDA

**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ABOUT THE APRIL 2 REFERENDUM** PRESENTATION ITEM  
District Administrator David Novy reviewed a slide deck presentation about the referendum including:

- the process used for determining the scope and overall dollar amount.
- the presentation of needs (safety and security, student spaces, and overdue maintenance).
- the estimated tax impact.
- frequently asked questions.

**QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION** DISCUSSION ITEM  
Representation was available from the School Board, Nexus Solutions, and Baird Financial to answer any questions.

**BUILDING TOURS**  
A tour was conducted of the Elementary School.

The Independent Register  
4/17/2024  
WNAXLP

454126

## SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brodhead High School - Auditoria

Wednesday February 19, 2024  
Minutes

The meeting agenda was published in the Wednesday, March 13, 2024 edition of the Independent Register.

### AGENDA

**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ABOUT THE APRIL 2 REFERENDUM** PRESENTATION ITEM  
District Administrator David Novy reviewed a slide deck presentation about the referendum including:

- the process used for determining the scope and overall dollar amount.
- the presentation of needs (safety and security, student spaces, and overdue maintenance).
- the estimated tax impact.
- frequently asked questions.

**QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION** DISCUSSION ITEM  
Representation was available from the School Board, Nexus Solutions, and Baird Financial to answer any questions.

**BUILDING TOURS**  
A tour was conducted of the High School.

The Independent Register  
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## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office Board Room

Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Board Clerk Michael Oellerich at 7:00 p.m. The meeting agenda was published in the Wednesday, March 13, 2024 edition of the Independent Register and properly building posted on March 19, 2024.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Krupke [virtual], Michael Oellerich, Al Schneider, Don Buchanan, Jodi Kail, and Jenny Flory

Absent: Elizabeth Kempel

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Al Schneider, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 6-0.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**  
The Administrative Team presented information reports on their respective buildings and departments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**  
No one was present to give public comments.

### AGENDA ITEMS

**CONSENT AGENDA** ACTION ITEM  
**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
a. Regular Meeting: February 28, 2024  
b. Special Meeting: March 6, 2024

## MEMBERS SHALL TAKE AND FILE THE OFFICIAL OATH 5 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- CALL TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

### AGENDA

- CONSENT AGENDA
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- ACCEPT DONATION(S)
- RESIGNATION(S)
- EMPLOYMENT

### 2. APPROVAL OF BILLS

### 3. ACCEPT DONATION(S)

- \$400.00 monetary donation from Heather and Josh Fenwick of Cardinal Car Wash to help with travel expenses for the Spanish trip.

### 4. RESIGNATION(S)

- None at this time

### 5. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

- None at this time

### 6. VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)

- None at this time

Motion by Al Schneider, second by Jenny Flory, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried, 6-0.

**PROGRAM PRESENTATION – HIGH SCHOOL** PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM  
Jillian Malkow, the High School Agriculture Teacher, lead the Board on a walking tour of the greenhouse and provided information about the plant sale in the early Spring.

**REFERENDUM UPDATE** PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM  
ITEM District Administrator Novy presented an update on communications, resources, and future meeting dates for the upcoming April 2 referendum.

**APPOINT BOARD OF CANVASSERS** ACTION ITEM  
The Board shall select three members to be on the Board of Canvassers:

- 1) Al Schneider
- 2) Dave Novy
- 3) Michael Oellerich

Motion by Jenny Flory, second by Jodi Kail, to approve the selected Board of Canvassers for the April 2, 2024 School Board Election. Motion carried, 6-0.

Canvassers will meet in the District Office Monday, April 8, 2024 at 4 p.m.

**COLLEGE/TECH CREDIT APPROVALS** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Jenny Flory, second by Jodi Kail, to approve the early college credit application[s] as presented. Motion carried, 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COACH JOB DESCRIPTION** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Al Schneider, to approve the Middle School/High School Learning Coach job description as presented. Motion carried, 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM JOB DESCRIPTION** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Jodi Kail, to approve the Director of Curriculum job description as presented. Motion carried, 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACTED & VOLUNTEER COACHES** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Jodi Kail, second by Don Buchanan, to approve the lists of contracted and volunteer coaches as presented. Motion carried, 5-0-1 [M. Oellerich abstained].

**APPROVAL OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ELA CURRICULUM** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Jenny Flory, to approve the Elementary School ELA Curriculum as presented. Motion carried, 6-0.

### FUTURE AGENDA [April 10, 2024]

- Approval of the Minutes
- Approval of Bills
- Accept Donation(s)
- Resignation(s)
- Employment Recommendation(s)
- Volunteer Recommendation(s)
- Report on Election Results
- Oath of Office/Swear in Newly Elected Members
- Program Presentation – Middle School
- Referendum Update
- Approval of Student Handbooks

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(f)** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Al Schneider, second by Jenny Flory, to go into Closed Session under WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(f) at 7:47 p.m. for the discussion of:  
a. Staff Reports  
b. Teacher Negotiations  
c. Middle School Principal Contract

Roll Call vote: All ayes (6-0)

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Jodi Kail, to return to open session at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

**ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS (if any)** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Al Schneider, second by Don Buchanan, to approve the hire of Adam Ferger at a salary of \$112,000 with the addition of 25 accrued paid leave days from Beloit carried over to the 2024-25 Brodhead contract. Motion carried, 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT** ACTION ITEM  
Motion by Jenny Flory, second by Don Buchanan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

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## RECOMMENDATION(S) 5. VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)

### VII. BOARD REORGANIZATION

- Election of School Board Officials
- Board Meeting Dates and Times for 2024-25
- Declaration of Official School Newspaper
- Official Depository
- Approval of Authorized Signatures
- Appointment of Board Member Representative

for 2024 CESA 2 Delegate Assembly  
G. Discuss Board Committees

### VIII. APPROVAL OF TEACHER CONTRACTS

### IX. APPROVAL OF CESA 2 SERVICE CONTRACTS

### X. APPROVAL OF ANY HEALTH PLAN CHANGES

### XI. APPROVAL OF STUDENT HANDBOOKS

### XII. FUTURE AGENDA

### XIII. ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(e)(f)

- Considering Compensation of an Employee
- Teacher Negotiations
- Support Staff/Administrator Negotiations

### XIV. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

### XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

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4/17/2024  
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## TOWN OF CENTER-ROCK COUNTY

**TOWN PLAN COMMISSION HEARING CENTER TOWN HALL 9119 W. County Rd. A, Evansville, WI Monday, April 29, 2024 7:00 PM**

### 1. Open Hearing

### 2. Roll Call

3. Plan Commission to consider an application for a Land Division, Zoning/Land Use Change to create 4 new lots on an existing 195.98-acre parcel, parcel #6-4-63. Lot 1 will be 7.156 acres changing the zoning to A-3 from A-1, Lot 2 will be 4.00 acres changing the zoning to A-3 from A-1, Lot 3 will be 93.631 acres with the zoning remaining at A-1, and Lot 4 will be 91.19 with the zoning remaining at A-1. The property owner is Purkapile Revocable Living Trust, 7909 N. Fellows Rd., Evansville, WI 53536 The 195-98-acre property is located at 4709 N. Fellows Rd., Section 9-3-11 in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4.

### 4. Finding of Facts

### 5. Adjourn

Devona Udulutch,  
Center Town Clerk

The Independent Register  
4/17/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/18/2024  
WNAXLP

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## JUDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Regular Board Meeting April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

At the board meeting on Wednesday night the Juda School Board:

Prior to the regular meeting, oath of office was administered

Chris Duemler  
Chairman

The Independent Register  
4/17/2024  
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## Town of Decatur- Regular Town Board Tuesday April 16, 2024, Annual Meeting Decatur Town Hall 1408 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Brodhead WI 53520

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6pm.

Emma Brugger Clerk/Treasurer  
**Posted April 5, 2024 at Town Hall, Newspaper, Website, Trackside Mobil, Brodhead Library**

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

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## business & service

### Festivals

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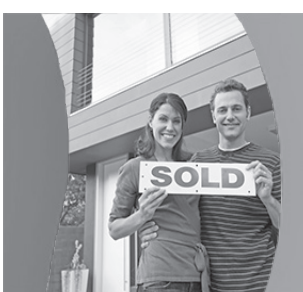
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### Farm Machinery

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### Trucks & Trailers

CARGO TRAILER 5x8 Enclosed, needs cosmetic work. Elkhorn location \$199. 262-949-6997.

TRUCK FOR SALE 1992 Ford F-250 XLT Super Cab, 7.5 Liter gas, Four wheel drive with locking 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. \$12,950. (262) 949-6997.

## real estate

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

## for rent

### Apartments

MEADOW PARK APARTMENTS 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.

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1<sup>st</sup> three lines

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Just fill out the coupon below and drop off or mail to:  
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332503



# Orfordville board discusses water tower interior painting project

The Village of Orfordville held its regular board meeting on Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Orfordville Village Hall.

## Call to Order

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

## Agenda Verification

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

## Minute Approval

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Howard to approve the March 25 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

## Citizens Wishing to be Heard

President Burtness explained that the Parkview Players will be hosting the performance of Grease from April 25 to 28.

Schmidt thanked Nick Howard and Jason Knox for their service as Village Board Members.

## New Business

• **Inspector for the Water Tower Interior Painting Project.** Ben Heidemann was present from Town and Country Engineering to explain the proposals for hiring an inspector for the interior water painting project. Proposals were received from James Orr Coating Inspection LLC, Dixon Engineering and Inspection Services, and KLM Engineering Inc. Heidemann explained that the Village only needs a part-time inspector, rather than a full-time inspector. Heidemann further explained that the loan includes \$35,000 for the inspections. Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Schmidt to accept the proposal from KLM Engineering Co for part-time inspections for \$32,363. Motion carried.

## • Casting Replacements.

DPW Director Todd explained that there are several manhole castings that need replacing and lowered in the Village. DPW Director Todd further explained that some of them can be done by the Public Works Department. DPW Director Todd provided a bid from Neenah Foundry and ESS Brothers from Minnesota. Motion by Knox, seconded by Howard to approve the bid from Neenah Foundry for \$5,326 and an additional cost of \$380.37 for shipping. Motion carried.

• **Social Media Policy.** President Burtness provided a revised Social Media Policy for the employees. Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Howard to add the Social Media Policy supplement to the Employee Handbook. Motion carried.

• **Individual Board Member Responsibilities.** President Burtness provided the board with a draft of Individual Board Member Responsibilities. Tuffree suggested that it be amended to include committees. Clerk Waege explained that there is also an ordinance regarding Board Member ethics. President Burtness explained that it is a rough draft that needs to be

reviewed, and then approved via Resolution upon approval of the final draft. Discussion was held on ethics of Board Members and social media posts and hosting of Orfordville pages. Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Schmidt to table to the April 22 meeting to allow time for review of the draft and the ordinance. Motion carried.

## Department Head Reports

Librarian Strunz explained that all of the LED lights are installed at the library. Librarian Strunz further explained that the lighting upgrades were paid for by the library group.

Motion by Knox, seconded by Schmidt to approve the Department Head reports.

Motion carried.

## Vouchers

Motion by Knox, seconded by Howard to approve the vouchers with a range of 36921-36959. Motion carried.

## Adjourn

Motion by Howard, seconded by Knox to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried.

# Jumpstart marks 5 years



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

On March 29, Sen. Mark Spreitzer (second from left) attended the fifth anniversary of Rock County Jumpstart with Rep. Clinton Anderson (far right). It was wonderful to celebrate this milestone. Spreitzer would like to say thanks to Genia and team for all their work.

# Orfordville committee seeks to draw more businesses to town

The Village of Orfordville held its economic development committee meeting on Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. at the Orfordville Village Hall.

## Call to Order

Chairwoman Beth Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Chairwoman Schmidt, Cami Myers-Alstat, Amy Friend, Heidi Melton, Craig O'Leary, and Stacy Todd. Dennis Burtness arrived at 6:18 p.m. Also present were James Otterstein of Rock County Planning and Development, Vickie Marchant, and Clerk Sherri Waege.

## Minute Approval

Motion by Myers-Alstat, seconded by Friend to approve the March 11, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

## Discussion with James Otterstein

James Otterstein from Rock County Planning and Development was present to discuss current statistics for Rock County. Otterstein provided the committee with a copy of the Rock Ready Index. Discussion was held on workforce, Real Estate, Sales Activity, and Economic Development.

Otterstein suggested that to prosper growth, the Village should be prepared for changes in

broadband. Otterstein also suggested that the Village start the process to purchase more land for future growth in the Business Park.

Discussion was held on what could make the Village more attractive for potential businesses. Otterstein explained that the Village should be prepared for the cycle to swing. Otterstein suggested that the Village focus on "rolling out the red carpet," documentation on interaction with interested parties, treat everyone fairly, and be expeditious.

Todd asked how the Village can be more appealing to draw residents and businesses. Otterstein explained that code enforcement would be beneficial. Otterstein also explained that the county is working on funding for municipalities for multifamily housing.

Vickie Marchant was present and asked if there were any commercial opportunities from the county for small businesses. Otterstein explained that there is nothing available right now, most of the programs were related to the Covid pandemic, and have ended.

Chairwoman Schmidt thanked Otterstein for attending.

## Adjourn

Motion by Todd, seconded by Melton to adjourn at 7 p.m. Motion carried.

# Beloit church chaplain honored in Rockton

The First Congregational Church of Beloit is proud to announce that the Rockton Police Department is recognizing their associate pastor, Rev. Dan Herman, for 20 years of continued service to the Rockton Police Department.

Dan Herman will be recognized on Thursday, April 18, at 4 p.m. at the Rockton City Hall, 110 East Main St., Rockton, Ill.

In 2004, Fire Chief Ron Weavel approached Rev. Herman to serve as one of the chaplains to the Rockton Fire and Police Departments. He joined two other chaplains who retired over five years ago, leaving "Pastor Dan" to serve the Rockton and State-line community.

A chaplain's role is not necessarily "religious" in the sense that he/she does not represent a church, denomination, or even a specific faith perspective. The chaplain is called to give emotional and spiritual comfort and support to families in their time of chaos and loss, and serve as a liaison between the family members and the

medical and law enforcement personnel on scene. The scenes can be chaotic, involving fire personnel administering life-saving service, police personnel responding, crime scene responders, investigative personnel, the coroner's office, and possible funeral home response, so the chaplain helps families to understand the processes involved. Pastor Dan responds 24 hours a day to every death in Rockton and South Beloit and every call from police/fire chiefs for special functions.

A chaplain's role also covers ministry to the first responders. The chaplain has an opportunity to understand the stress placed on first responders and minister to them during and after the call. As an ordained minister, and in his role as a law enforcement chaplain, police/fire personnel must know that conversations are kept in strictest confidentiality. In Rockton he serves at the invitation of Rockton Police Chief Matt Hollinger and the chiefs of other departments.

Pastor Dan is certified in

Critical Incident Stress Management techniques and is a member of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. He provides Critical Incident Stress Debriefings to first responders following difficult calls. These debriefings can include police, fire, dispatchers, and coroner's deputies who have responded to difficult calls with the aim of processing the traumas witnessed and experienced by such calls.

Along with serving the Rockton Police Department Chaplain Herman served as a member of the Rockford Police Chaplain's Division for six years, served as the chaplain to the Winnebago County Coroner's office, and continues, since 2018, to serve as the South Beloit Police/Fire Chaplain. He takes his inspiration from Fr. Bill Wentink who long served as chaplain to Rockford Fire and Police and the sacrifices and service he sees with the police/fire personnel which he serves.

Contact Rockton Police Chief Matt Hollinger for additional information: 815-624-0930.



## BADGER STATE AUCTION

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# — ESTATE AUCTION —

*Fred & Elaine Murphy*

## 432 Galena Rd., Footville, WI

## Saturday, April 20 • 9:30 a.m.

**DIRECTIONS:** Hwy. 11 to Cty. Rd. B (Galena Rd.) west (Watch for BSA Signs).

**HOUSEHOLD:** Qty. of Dishware/Cookware/Kitchenware/Glassware, Newer Maytag Washer & Elec. Dryer (Nice), Qty. Of Furniture inc. Commode, Bedroom Sets, Vanity, Sofa, Chairs, Antique Drop Front Desk, Drop Leaf Table, Kitchen Table, Cabinets, Glass Display Cabinets, Elec. Fireplace, Plant Stands, Air Purifiers/Dehumidifiers, Wrought Iron Sewing Table, Qty. of Knick-Knacks, Decorative Chicken Collection, Old Cookie Jar, Table-Top Owl Lamp, 8" Stainless Sink (NIB), Electronics, Qty. of Linens, Hoover Vac., Qty. of VCR Tapes, Holiday Decorations and Much More.

**COLLECTIBLES:** Old Marbles, Qty. of Jewelry & Watches, Old Camera, Old Bread Adv. Tins, Old Cookbooks, Old Game Boards, Vintage Farm Toys, Old 33 Records/Albums, IH 7250 Pedal Tractor and More.

**OUTDOOR/MISC.:** Lg. Qty. of Chainsaws, Weed eaters, Blowers, Small Engines, Lg. Qty. of Shop Supplies, Lg. Qty. of Mower & Chainsaw Parts, Shop Vac, Qty. of Hand/Power Tools, (2) HD Bench Vises, Fishing Poles, Bird Feeders, Qty. of Hardware, Misc. Lumber, Gas Cans, Misc. Ammo., (3) Gnomes and Much More.

**TERMS:** 5% buyer's fee. Cash, checks and credit cards (Mastercard, Visa and Discover) accepted. 4% surcharge when paying by credit card. All sales are final and must be settled on the day of sale. Not responsible for accidents or misprints if any. Once sold, items are your responsibility.

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# \*\*\*HUGE AUCTION\*\*\*

## DAY 1: SATURDAY, APRIL 27 • 9 A.M.

### BENNETT CONSTRUCTION

**LOCATION:** 202 W. Third Street, Pecatonica, IL 61063.

**TOOLS:** 30'x5' metal Bennett Construction sign; (8) Fiberglass step ladders; Dewalt chop saw; (10) bar clamps; Karcher pressure washer; Several lasers; (5) milkhouse heaters; Quest Hi-E Dry dehumidifier; Husquarna chainsaw; Kuschlaw cement mixer; several mitre boxes; 7 hay racks of Hilti, Bosch, Milwaukee, Porter Cable – electric and battery operated drills, right angle drills, saws, Sawzalls; hammer drills, riveter, sabre saw, routers, nailers, drill bits, roto zip, grinders.

*Please check [www.filerauction.com](http://www.filerauction.com) for full list!*

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** With the passing of Rod Bennett, Bennett Construction is discontinuing operations. For those who knew Rod, he maintained his equipment with excellent care. This is a must-attend 2-day auction. Second auction is Saturday, May 4 at 9 a.m. Go to [www.filerauction.com](http://www.filerauction.com) for pictures and information.

**TERMS:** Cash or good check with proper ID.

**AUCTIONEERS:** Randy Filer, 815-871-7936; Mike Zettle, 815-238-4955.

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