

# Independent-Register SHOPPING NEWS

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## More than 300 alpacas return to Madison



The Great Midwest Alpaca Festival and the Wisconsin Alpaca and Fiber Fest returns to Madison for a double halter show weekend. More than 300 alpacas are expected to converge on the Alliant Energy Center in Madison on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28 to compete against some of the best alpacas in the country.

This show is free and open to the public. Parking is \$8. Hours for Saturday are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and for Sunday are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information and a full schedule of events, go to the website at [www.wisconsinalpacaandfiberfest.com](http://www.wisconsinalpacaandfiberfest.com).

The New Holland Pavil-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH SKOGEN/GREAT MIDWEST ALPACA FESTIVAL *Rock Valley Publishing*

Watch alpacas in action April 27 to 28 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison for the Great Midwest Alpaca Festival and the Wisconsin Alpaca and Fiber Fest. As demonstrated by this photo from a past year's show, there will be two Alpaca Owners Association-certified halter shows running simultaneously.

ion 1 will house alpacas, two show rings, seminars, fiber classes and more than 40 vendors under one roof. Alpaca breeders from throughout the country will be available all weekend to answer questions about their alpacas and the business of breeding al-

pacas. Seminars on business planning, marketing, fiber processing and animal husbandry will be led by industry experts. Classes on weaving and felting will be offered by fiber artists and fiber fanatics will find everything from raw fleece and roving to

yarn, socks, sweaters, teddy bears, jewelry, soaps, wooden bowls, baskets, pottery and even fudge in the vendor area.

Help support alpaca research by bidding on items in the silent auction. All proceeds benefit the Alpaca Research Foundation, online at [alpaca-research.org](http://alpaca-research.org), which is dedicated to funding medical and scientific research by improving the health and vitality of North American alpacas. Their mission is to encourage

and support scientific research to benefit the North American alpaca industry, primarily in the areas of alpaca health, husbandry, genetics, and fiber.

There will be two Alpaca Owners Association-certified shows running simultaneously. This double-header format allows exhibitors to have their breeding program evaluated by two different judges. Alpaca shows offer breeders an opportunity to get together, see progeny from different

herdsires, market alpacas for sale, show off the products of their breeding programs, and find out how experienced judges view and place the alpacas.

Alpaca shows usually consist of four sections: halter, production classes, performance classes and fleece/fiber arts. New this year will be a walking fleece class. In all halter classes, group and

See ALPACAS, Page 4

## Awards ceremony honored local heroes

Sheriff Fell was pleased to announce that the 17th Annual Rock County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 17, at 6 p.m., at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center in the Beckman Mill Room, located at 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville. This event was open to the public. All were welcome to attend.

This ceremony recognizes Sheriff's Office staff and a citizen for exceptional public safety achievements in the past year. Below are details on the 2023 Awards.

### Deputy of the Year Deputy Matthew Michalski

Matthew Michalski started at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 2, 2020, as a Deputy Sheriff. He previously served as a Police Officer for the Town of Beloit Police Department and the City of Beloit Police Department. He completed a 520-hour Law Enforcement Academy at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College on Aug. 29, 2008. Deputy Michalski currently works in the Bureau of Identification as an Evidence Custodian. In this capacity, he conducts crime scene investigations for complicated, large, or otherwise unusual incidents. He also acts as a trained Evidence Technician locating, documenting, collecting, processing, and preserving evidence. Deputy Michalski serves on the SWAT Team, the Sniper Team, and the Peer Support Team. He is certified as a General Law Enforcement Instructor and a Handgun and Rifle Instructor through the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards



Matthew Michalski

Board. He is also a GLOCK Armorer and a National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Technician. He previously received a Unit Citation for processing the crime scene of a multiple victim shooting that occurred on Dec. 9, 2021. Deputy Michalski is a Beloit native who resides in Janesville with his family. He volunteers his time as a local Den Leader for Boy Scouts of America and has coached YMCA youth basketball. He participates in the Rock County Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Wisconsin. He graduated from F.J. Turner High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville.

Deputy Michalski's supervisor nominated him for this recognition for his dedication and expertise in evidentiary concerns. His supervisor cited his vast knowledge of specialized equipment and advanced techniques for the recovery of both physical and digital evidence. As a NIBIN Technician, Deputy Michalski submits images of cartridge cases from crime scenes and test fires of recovered crime guns for ballistic comparison to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms. Deputy Michalski conducted crime scene investigation, evidence collection, and evidentiary follow-through efforts for multiple major incidents in 2023. He instructed a block of training on evidentiary procedures during Fall 2023 Sworn Staff In-Service. He also played a significant role in preparing for the transition to the new Sheriff's Office building. His supervisor noted his commitment in responding to many activations outside of his regular work hours. Dep-

uty Michalski consistently goes above-and-beyond the normal call-of-duty making personal sacrifices and continued contributions to the agency and community.

### Correctional Officer of the Year Correctional Officer Craig Weberg

Craig Weberg began employment at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on March 1, 1995, as a Correctional Officer. He completed a 120-hour Jail Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on March 24, 1995. Correctional Officer Weberg currently works in the Community Corrections Bureau as a Diversion Officer and the only Huber Officer. He first assumed this role on May 19, 2003. He assisted with the Workender Program until it ended in 2023.

Correctional Officer Weberg routinely covers the jail when additional staff are needed. He previously received Correctional Officer of the Year in 2002. He graduated from Beloit Memorial High School and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice - Corrections from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh.

Correctional Officer Weberg's supervisor nominated him for this award for his exceptional job performance as evidenced by exceeding expectations in several areas on his yearly performance evaluations. Correctional Officer Weberg holds the most seniority of any Correctional Officer. His supervisor highlighted his knowledge of the



Craig Weberg

See AWARDS, Page 4

## Sunday, April 28 Auctions



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# College news

## UWW students take part in production of a play

The following Beloit students are members of UW-Whitewater's production of "The Sweet Science of Bruising." Performances of the show are scheduled for April 25 to 27 in Hicklin Studio Theatre in the Greenhill Center of the Arts.

Anna Olson, who is studying Theatre, is a member of the Cast, serving in the role of Anna Lamb.

Noah Ward, who is studying Music, is a member of the cast, serving in the role of understudy for Paul Stokes and Gabriel Lamb.

David Froeber, who is studying Media Arts and Game Development, is a member of the cast, serving in the role of understudy for Dr. Forster, Dr. James, referee.

After an academic year full of presentations of performative talent, the Department of Theatre/Dance is setting the stage in Greenhill Center of the Arts for their

rendition of this enthralling Joy Wilkinson play.

Set in 1865, "The Sweet Science of Bruising" is a story of four women's fights for control over their own lives through the outlet of boxing. Whether it be the inability to make a career out of their interests, the constant battle for equality and freedom, the struggle to enter a male-dominated field, or an abusive marriage, Matty, Violet, Polly, and Anna are all drawn to the escapism from the oppression of the real world that underground boxing can provide them. When a prize of enough money to grant their freedom places them on opposing sides of the ring, it becomes a test of the lengths they would go to and the hits they would take, all to achieve a stable life in a world stacked against them.

Students acting in the production recognized the intensity of the physicality that the show requires of its principal roles as it is unlike

any show they have been involved in before. Emma Dutcher, a senior music major from Oregon, will play the role of Violet Hunter, one of the four leading characters who box for their freedom.

"I have learned so much about the process of theatrical fight choreography over the course of this show. We spent an entire week training to learn boxing from a professional guest artist who has been boxing since he was 12, and he had a wealth of information to share with us," said Dutcher.

She then spoke on how the strenuous fight choreography rehearsals allowed for reflection on the everyday fights of many women in the 1860s.

"There is so much revealed through the show about the darker history of women's rights; how much we had to fight for over centuries, and the things women had to go through during the 1800s. However, even

though the play is set in the Victorian era, it's important to keep in mind that the messages of this show are still extremely relevant today."

UW-Whitewater's Department of Theatre/Dance produces five shows per academic year. For more information, visit the website at [www.edu/theatre](http://www.edu/theatre).

## Janesville student inducted into UA Mortar Board Honor Society

The University of Alabama honored the achievement of numerous students, faculty and staff during the annual Tapping on the Mound ceremony April 5.

As a part of the ceremony, several students were inducted into the Mortar Board National Honor Society.

Mortar Board, a national honor society for men and women, is based on leadership, scholarship and service. It is one of the highest honors that can be granted to seniors. Members must display outstanding dedication to ser-

vice and leadership.

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for superior achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. UA's Hypatia Chapter is one of the oldest chapters in the nation.

Inductees include: Preston Ewing, Reese Grau, Dillon Cook, Meghan Drane, Chad Wright Jr., Lilly Noble, Catherine Gray, Ethan Abbott, Lily Creel, Jada Burroughs, Matthew Savas, Briana Ratay, Addie Grace Pyron, Joleigh Underwood, Jules Webb, Ansley Greer, Anna Moorman, Mamie Patton, Savannah Ichikawa, Kateri Smith, Hannah Morgan, Jenna Daniel, Lena Seyfarth, Joshua Rodriguez, Cate Brownlee, Kathryn Kilgore, Chandni Bhat, Cassie Childress, Madeleine Ricks, Abigail Yarbrough, Brianna Singleton, Anna Davidson, Madelyn Buhl, Elena Giorgi, William Robinson, Peyton Keen, Katia Watkins, Claire Tumlin, Kate Herndon, Sydney Showalter, Caleb Buell, Thomas Ashton, Caroline Long, Mims Williams, Kait-

lyn Johnson, Oliver Sinclair, Ella Kate Brooks, Sophie Anderson, Mairead Lowry, Madison Wiltshire, Makayla Maxwell, Grace Murphy, Matthew Preston, Avery Goecks, Piper Minick, Trenton Hoaglin, Makayla Jordan, Cole Mazingo, Emma Tong, Elise Powis, Nikolett Shockey, Alice Terry, Teegan Mathey, Hayden Phillips, Joseph Rodriguez, Jackson Owen, Rhodes Reddick, Will Christopher, Kendall Smith, Alexandra Holley, Morgan Cunningham, Megan Neville, Carson Ryan, Erin Hidalgo, Chase Cowart, Josephine Gillette, Bryce Schottekotte, Braden Hopkins, Allison Pope, GG Hackett, Kenneth Kelly, Jackson Maxwell, Nate Smith, Bailey Weaver, Isabella Torres, Hannah Adams, Alison Reed, Ally Szymanski, Mary Alan Ousley, Marie Kaine, Briana Jackson, Sarah Kate Smalley, Kyla Collins, Skylar Billings, Yonathan Janka, Sarah Shepherd, Anna Claire Kinsey and Katie Grace Bollinger.

Honorary members: Dr. Morgan Luttig and Harold Wright.

## Police news

### Slow-No-Wake lifted on portion of the Rock River

According to U.S. Geological Survey Gauges, the water level for the Rock River in Afton is 8.49 feet. County Ordinance requires a slow-no-wake speed restriction be placed on the Rock River in Beloit when the water level exceeds 8.5 feet; therefore, the slow-no-wake is lifted from W B R Townline Road Bridge south to the Stalentine.

The slow-no-wake is still in effect on the Rock River north of the W B R Townline Road Bridge as the water level exceeds 6.5 feet.

The slow-no-wake is still in effect on the Rock River at Lake Koshkonong to the Indianford Dam as the gauges show the water level at 8.99 feet, and the County Ordinance requires a slow-no-wake speed restriction when the water level is above 8 feet.

The Sheriff's Office is providing public notice of the Rock River's current slow-no-wake status.

Deputies placed slow-no-wake signs along the river at all public access points between Lake Koshkonong and the Indianford Dam and the W B R Townline Road Bridge.

### Rock County reveals name of person that died

The Rock County Medical Examiner's Department is confirming the name of the individual that died following an incident on April 5. The incident occurred near the 1300 block of Nelson Avenue, in the City of Beloit. The incident was reported to authorities at and around 1:33 a.m.

The individual has been identified as: Jaiden A. Benitez, 20, of Janesville.

Mr. Benitez was pronounced deceased at a local hospital on April 5. A forensic autopsy was completed on April 6. Cause and manner of death are pending at this time.

Additional testing is underway.

This death remains under investigation by the City of Beloit Police Department and the Rock County Medical Examiner's Department.

### Investigation in officer involved death

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is investigating an officer involved death in Beloit, Wis., that occurred the morning of Saturday, March 16.

At approximately 9:27 a.m., alleged carjacking suspect, Ray Castro, age 19, fled Illinois law enforcement traveling north into the City of Beloit, Wis. Police officers from the City of Beloit assisted in the vehicle pursuit. Officers from the Village of Roscoe, Ill. and City of Beloit attempted a vehicle containment maneuver to stop the vehicle. Castro rammed his vehicle into Roscoe Police Sergeant Robert A. Lewis' squad car. Sergeant Lewis, with 15 years of law enforcement service, fired his weapon striking the subject. Life-saving measures were performed. Castro was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

Sergeant Lewis was transported to an Illinois hospital where he was treated for minor injuries and released. No other officers were injured.

The City of Beloit and Roscoe police officers were wearing body cameras during the incident.

Sergeant Lewis remains on administrative leave, per department policy.

DCI is leading this investigation and is assisted by Rock County Medical Examiner's Office, City of Beloit Fire Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin State Crime Lab, a DCI Crime Response Specialist, and members of DCI's Digital Evidence Unit. All involved law enforcement are fully cooperating with DCI during this investigation.

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

The investigation is ongoing and no further information is currently available. Further information will be released when it becomes available.

Please direct all media inquiries to Wisconsin DOJ.



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# Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce holding job expo

Students and adults looking for a job and businesses looking for help this summer can attend the #HireMeNow Job Expo hosted by the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Going on its third year, this expo will take place at the Heidel House Hotel and Conference Center on Thursday, April 25. The expo is open to all students from eighth grade through collegiate in the morning session, and adults in the afternoon session.

Students will have the opportunity to meet with local businesses that are ready to hire them now. Students can hone their skills to provide the best customer service this summer, get tricks on how to earn tips and manage them, find youth apprenticeship programs, and learn how to understand the new hire and employment forms, work permits and interviewing skills.

Please join for this free morning from 8:30 to 11 a.m. to improve oneself, financially and professionally, for the



best summer of one's life.

Adults, this is an opportunity to meet face to face with recruiters hiring on the spot. A variety of industry trades will be present, from tourism/

hospitality to manufacturing. Freshen up that resume, shine up those shoes, and get ready to land a new job. This adult job expo will take place from 3 to 6 p.m.

For those businesses looking to hire, this is their chance to get in front of local students who want to earn cash this summer and land that year-round full-time employee.

Over 200 area students have attended this expo in the past from the surrounding commu-

nities of Berlin, Green Lake, Princeton, Ripon, and Marke-san. Due to the high demand for the adult job expo, they are happy to be offering the adult job expo in the afternoon. They encourage businesses to bring business cards, job descriptions, marketing materials, or giveaways to promote the business.

For more information or to register, please go to [www.visitgreenlake.com/calendar](http://www.visitgreenlake.com/calendar) or contact the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce at 920-294-3231.

**The job expo will take place at the Heidel House Hotel and Conference Center on Thursday, April 25. The expo is open to all students from eighth grade through collegiate in the morning session, and adults in the afternoon session.**

PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Rock Valley Publishing

## News briefs

### Drug take back day at Orfordville Village Hall

The Orfordville Police Department will host a drug take back day on Saturday, April 27 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Orfordville Village Hall.

The prescription drug disposal box is located behind the Village Hall, near the garage doors.

Chief Burdick and Officer Marquez will be present for the event. Prescriptions and medications will be accepted in pill form only, no liquids.

Please call Chief Burdick at 608-879-9212 with any questions.

### 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.

### Mercyhealth planning golf play day benefit

Mercyhealth Development Foundation invites the public to "Golf for a Good Cause" on Friday, May 17, at its annual

Golf Play Day. This year's event will be held at the Beloit Club, 2327 S. Riverside Dr., Beloit.

Proceeds from this year's Golf Play Day will further the skills of new and current Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals in Illinois and Wisconsin by supporting the purchase of necessary equipment, professional development, scholarships, training and more.

Play Day festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. with registration and breakfast, then a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m., followed by lunch and prizes. Cost is \$150 per individual or \$600 per foursome and includes breakfast, golf, cart and lunch, with several sponsorship opportunities available.

Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis and are encouraged by May 1. Sign up online at [mercyhealthsystem.org/golf](http://mercyhealthsystem.org/golf), or by calling the Mercyhealth Development Foundation at 815-971-4144.

### Small business academy coming to Beloit

The Lieutenant Governor's Small Business Academy "in person" program will be held in several locations throughout Wisconsin. The Beloit event, which is free, will be from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 30, at the Beloit Public Library at 605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore small business topics by choosing from various breakout sessions led by experts in a specific area of business. In addition to these presentations, local resource and economic development organizations will provide information about the small business support services they provide.

On May 1 to 3, the virtual portion of the Small Business Academy will be available online.

To learn more about the virtual portion of the Small Business Academy, visit <http://wedc.org/smallbusiness/small-busi->

ness-academy.

This four-day academy is free to attend. The Small Business Academy is presented by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Wisconsin Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Wisconsin Procurement Institute (WPI), SCORE, the Ethnic and Diverse Business Coalition, and local participating organizations.

### Orfordville reveals election results

Below are the totals for Village Trustee for the Village of Orfordville from the April 2 election:

- Terry Gerber, 234
- David Olsen, 211
- Terry Morris, 207
- Tory Baars, 193
- Nick Howard, 178
- Jason Knox, 4 registered write in votes.

### 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. One more Community Conversation is planned: 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.

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).



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KYLE WINTER, UW-WHITEWATER  
Rock Valley Publishing

**Dylan Caruso, Caitlyn Dickman and Isaac Schroeder celebrate their first, second and third place victories at the Warhawk Business Plan Competition on April 10.**

## Caitlyn Dickman places at UWW competition

Caitlyn Dickman, an entrepreneurship major from Janesville, at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, placed in the university's Warhawk Business Plan Competition held April 10 at the Whitewater Innovation Center.

Dickman's business is called BridgeArt, an online gallery that focuses on supporting impoverished artists all over the world partnering with a non-profit called Kunye Art to support a large group of artists.

The annual competition is supported by UW-Whitewater's Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization, a student-run organization that supports entrepreneurship.

Each of the five finalists must have submitted a three-page executive summary of their business idea and a two-minute video explaining the elements of the summary. After being selected as a finalist, they must have submitted a full business plan for judging prior to last week's in-person pitch.

Contestants were judged on presentation content, presentation delivery, and evaluation of the business idea from their written plan. Place winners earn tuition credit – first place receives \$1,250, second place receives \$1,000, and third place receives \$750.

Judges included local and regional business leaders. For more information on UW-Whitewater's College Entrepreneurs' Association, visit [uwwceo.com](http://uwwceo.com).



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# Awards

(Continued from front page)

jail and his ability to fill in for other staff. Correctional Officer Weberg works well with others and keeps a positive attitude. His supervisor stated that he "has a good sense of humor and is a joy to be around and work with." Correctional Officer Weberg earned and maintains the respect of his peers and ranking staff alike. As programming and staffing changed in 2023, Correctional Officer Weberg worked with his colleagues in Diversion to learn electronic monitoring and take on new responsibilities. His dedication and dependability throughout his tenure have not gone unnoticed.

## Civilian Employee of the Year Evidence Records Specialist Lindsey Bittorf

Lindsey Bittorf resumed employment at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on May 10, 2021, as an Administrative Assistant assigned to the Bureau of Identification. Her position was reclassified to Evidence Records Specialist on Oct. 1, 2023. She previously worked as a Legal Support Specialist for the District Attorney's Office, a Public Safety Utility Clerk for the Sheriff's Office, and a Police Officer. In her current role, she coordinates the proper storage, maintenance, and provision of body, squad, and interview camera videos and systems. Bittorf fulfills requests for digital evidence from the District Attorney's Office as well as open records. She serves on the Real Time Operations Center (ROTC) Committee and the Community Engagement Team. Bittorf resides in Janesville with her husband and son. She earned a Bachelor of Science as a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology with a Mental Health Certificate from the University of Wisconsin - Parkside. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Bittorf's supervisor nominated her for her significant contributions to transitioning the agency's digital evidence storage to new systems, processes, and programs. In 2023, she assisted with several major projects involving transitioning the entire agency to new body cameras, squad cameras, digital

evidence management program/library, body/dash cam management application for deputies' cellphones, and an Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) squad camera program. Bittorf meticulously documents technical issues that she encounters and attends weekly meetings with the digital evidence system vendor. She spearheads communication with the vendor, Information Technology, and Sheriff's Office staff to enhance operational ability and hold parties accountable to fix issues and provide services as intended. She consistently checks videos and other digital evidence to ensure successful importation. When she identifies videos that did not upload, she works with staff to rectify the situation. She often notices service interruptions before anyone else. Her attention to detail has saved the county time and money. She recently transitioned to a new "Judicial Sharing" feature, which allows for the secure remote computerized provision of digital evidence to the District Attorney's Office. Staff frequently seek her out for assistance or clarification with a multitude of digital evidence concerns, or other issues regarding various technologies and programs. She is always ready, prompt, and thorough in her response to these requests. She instructed a training block on digital evidence management systems at a Midwest conference and garnered praise for her informative content.

Her workstation is currently in the Front Office. When the lobby is busy, Bittorf will often help the public with questions or concerns. Bittorf surpasses her job duties and is always willing to assist with any task that arises.

## Retired Sheriffs Leadership Award Sergeant Jay Williams

Jay Williams began his career at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on March 2, 1998, as a Deputy Sheriff. He was integral in establishing the Diversion and Electronic Monitoring Programs. He received a promotion to Sergeant on April 18, 2011. For the past 12 years, Sergeant Williams has worked in the Commu-

nity Corrections Bureau as the Rock County Education and Criminal Addictions Program (RECAP) Supervisor and Drug Court Administrator/Coordinator. He also oversees the Jail Treatment and Re-Entry Programs and coordinates with adjunct instructors from Blackhawk Technical College. Sergeant Williams organizes the annual RECAP Farm to Table Dinner. He is a certified Handgun and Rifle Instructor and a GLOCK Armorer. He also teaches ATV Safety, Boater Safety, and Snowmobile Safety. He previously instructed Defense and Arrest Tactics. He was on the Recreational Safety Team for 18 years. Sergeant Williams serves on the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals Board of Directors, belongs to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, is a Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change (JM4C) Board Member, volunteers on the Edgerton Teen Center Board of Directors, sits on the Leadership Committee for the Rock County Substance Misuse Taskforce, and is part of the Risk Reduction Subcommittee for Rock County's Evidence Based Decision Making Project. He earned an Associate Degree in Police Science from Blackhawk Technical College. He resides in Edgerton with his family.

Sergeant Williams received this award for his instrumental role in building the Community Corrections Programs throughout his tenure. His expertise is invaluable, and he will be greatly missed upon his upcoming retirement. Captain Josh Lund nominated Sergeant Williams for his leadership, dedication, passion, and the energy he puts into his work which allows those around him the opportunity to succeed. In her nomination, Deputy Emily Miller cited Sergeant Williams as displaying the leadership qualities of empathy, integrity, flexibility, commitment, and passion.

## Lifesaving Award Correctional Officer Nicholas Simler

On March 16, 2023, Correctional Officer Simler was assigned as a Booking Officer with Correctional Officer Sime. While Correctional Officer Sime processed the property of a fresh arrestee and known narcotics facilitator, he encountered an unknown powdery substance hidden in a wrapped dollar bill. The substance caused

Correctional Officer Sime to lose consciousness.

Correctional Officer Simler observed this and immediately retrieved Narcan and radioed for additional Correctional Officers and Medical staff. Correctional Officer Simler administered a dose of Narcan to Correctional Officer Sime and maintained care of him until others arrived.

Correctional Officer Simler stayed with Correctional Officer Sime until he was safely evacuated to a hospital via ambulance.

## Sheriff's Award Treatment Coordinator Verenice Sandoval

Verenice Sandoval started on March 7, 2022, as the Jail Treatment Coordinator. Sandoval oversees jail programming and treatment for pending inmates to include Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, church services, pastoral visits, Houses of Healing, Creative Writing, an illustration contest, AODA Services, and more. She is also in charge of the Narcan Vending Machine Program and assists with Re-Entry Services and Mental Health Services. Her work is invaluable to the inmates housed at the Rock County Jail. Since November of 2023, Sandoval has filled in as the acting counselor for the Rock County Education and Criminal Addictions Program (RECAP). In this capacity, she provides individual and group counseling, teaches Seeking Safety for AODA programming, and instructs Thinking 4 Change for cognitive intervention programming. This is her second time as the acting RECAP Counselor. Additionally, Sandoval was instrumental in securing funds for the Narcan Vending Machine, obtaining an Opioid Abatement Grant through the Department of Human Services, and utilizing Opioid Settlement Funds for training and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the jail. Sandoval motivates others, works diligently, and is a true professional in her field. This award recognizes her hard work, perseverance, and dedication.

## Unit Citation Detective Ross Wenger, Deputy Margaret Albeck, Deputy Zachary Anacker, Deputy Ryan Bittorf, Deputy Kyle Hathorn, and Deputy Garrett Whitehead

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) achieved more drug seizures and arrests in 2023 than any prior year. SIU seized over \$365,000 in street value of drugs, including 9,420 grams of cocaine/cocaine base, 34,613 grams of THC, 211 grams of methamphetamine, 89 Oxycodone pills, 116 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, 262 grams of fentanyl, 5,794 grams of THC edibles, and 34 grams of THC wax. SIU arrested a total of 55 individuals and charged over 221 criminal offenses to those arrestees. A majority of those arrests were felony charges which disrupted the drug trade in Rock County and surrounding areas.

## Commendations Financial Office Supervisor Michelle Wilson and Payroll Specialist Lucia Esquivel

On May 8, 2023, the Sheriff's Office began tran-

sitioning to the new payroll software selected by Rock County. Learning and setting up the new software while continuing to complete payroll within the old software placed a substantial amount of additional work on Payroll Specialist Lucia Esquivel and Financial Office Supervisor Michelle Wilson. Getting the new payroll software to accurately calculate wages for the 219 employees at the Sheriff's Office, who work a variety of shifts and represent multiple contracts, presented significant challenges. Their dedication and hard work ensured that staff continued to be paid throughout the transition. On June 11, 2023, the new payroll software went live. The cutover came with numerous issues as the nuances of payroll for the Sheriff's Office had to be input in the new system. Esquivel and Wilson have worked tirelessly since the implementation to facilitate the completion of payroll functions.

## Deputy Logan Shelby

On March 9, 2024, at approximately 6:13 p.m., Deputy Logan Shelby responded to a rural Rock County address for a report of a missing child. As the first on scene, Deputy Shelby interviewed several subjects. He obtained consent to search the residence from the homeowner. The search by patrol personnel did not locate the missing child. Deputy Shelby determined that an adult subject on scene was not forthcoming with information and was displaying deceptive behavior.

Deputy Shelby stayed with this subject and assessed the individual for possible injuries and any signs of evidentiary value. Deputy Shelby coordinated a group of civilians to search the neighborhood. The search party did not locate the missing child. Deputy Shelby detained the subject. The Detective Bureau responded and determined that a homicide occurred. The subject Deputy Shelby detained was later arrested for 1st Degree Intentional Homicide, Hiding a Corpse, Neglecting a Child Causing Death, Bail Jumping, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Deputy Shelby's actions with initially taking command of the scene and detaining the subject contributed to the resolution of this case.

## Captain Mark Thompson and Sergeant Allen Peters

On Feb. 8, 2024, a historic EF2 tornado touched down several times in the northwest section of Rock County causing substantial damage to over thirty different properties and knocking out power to over 3,200 customers.

Captain Mark Thompson was off duty in his personal vehicle when he noticed the storm front coming in. He then witnessed a tornado form and touch down three times. Captain Thompson immediately traveled north trailing the tornado towards his subdivision. He stopped at his residence to check on his family and immediately donned his badge and weapon. Captain Thompson checked on other residences in the area. He found trees and power lines down all over the roads as well as strewn debris from destroyed buildings. Captain Thompson put himself in

danger to render aid if necessary to individuals whose homes were severely damaged. He provided status updates to the Rock County 911 Communications Center to assist in coordinating resources. Captain Thompson assisted these resources as they arrived. He showed courage, resourcefulness, and a commitment to duty during this crisis.

Sergeant Allen Peters was the on-duty patrol supervisor at the time of the incident. Understanding the significant damage and potential for injuries, Sergeant Peters deployed on-duty resources and contacted Command Staff and Emergency Management. As reports of damage and injuries came in, Sergeant Peters quickly realized the affected area was extensive and increasing need for resources. He requested assistance from all the satellite agencies in the northwest part of the county and from Janesville Police Department. Sergeant Peters scouted a recommended Command Post location, determined the site insufficient, and made the decision to utilize the Evansville Piggly Wiggly parking lot. Sergeant Peters remained the Incident Commander for the Sheriff's Office as Unified Command was established with other public safety agencies. Sergeant Peters worked diligently with fire and emergency medical services leaders to isolate the affected area and implement a plan to conduct a door-to-door search. He effectively managed dozens of law enforcement officers to ensure the safety and welfare of citizens during this natural disaster.

Sergeant Peters' calm demeanor led to a positive outcome during this high stress event.

## Citizen Award John Kopecky

On Feb. 8, 2024, a historic EF2 tornado touched down several times in the northwest section of Rock County causing substantial damage to over thirty different properties and knocking out power to over 3,200 customers. As the emergency response progressed, a Command Post was established in the parking lot of the Evansville Piggly Wiggly. Sheriff's Office Command Staff contacted store owner John Kopecky and explained that due to the large emergency response his parking lot worked best. Kopecky was understanding of the needs and informed Command Staff that he planned on staying in the store all night. He offered to keep the building open for emergency responders even though the store was without power. Kopecky provided emergency responders with food and water. He continued to allow the use of his parking lot even after reopening his store once power was restored. Furthermore, Kopecky supplied food and water to victims of the tornado and spent several hours in the affected area assisting with cleanup efforts.

Kopecky displayed tremendous dedication to the community and first responders throughout this natural disaster.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office congratulates these award recipients for their outstanding contributions to public safety.

# Alpacas

(Continued from front page)

fleece classes, suri and huacaya alpacas are shown separately. In the performance ring, they compete together. In the halter classes, males and females are shown separately in their individual color groups. The walking fleece show allows the exhibitor to enter a fleece competition where the prime fleece is evaluated while still on the alpaca.

Alpacas in the halter classes are judged on how well they move, how balanced they are on their feet, and whether there are any conformation faults that might affect the animal's rank in the class. The animals are lined up and the judge begins a close inspection of each alpaca looking for

uniformity of crimp, fineness, density, and color throughout the fleece. The judge chooses the top six animals which are then awarded ribbons. The first and second place winners for each class are then called back into the ring for the championship awards where color and reserve championships are selected.

Production classes focus on the quality and consistency of breeding programs, such as the Get of Sire. The owner enters the sire (who is not shown) and selects three representatives from the available progeny of that sire entered in the show. These three are judged as a group, looking for the qualities the sire stamps on his progeny. Other pro-

duction classes include Produce of Dam, Breeder's Best Three, selected by the breeder from all their entries, and the Bred and Owned Yearling Male and Bred and Owned Yearling Female, products of the owner's breeding program from conception to show.

Everything one ever wanted to know about alpacas can be found online at [www.wisconsinalpacafiberfest.com/about-alpacas](http://www.wisconsinalpacafiberfest.com/about-alpacas).

Find something for everyone at this show. Watch the competition, visit the alpacas, ask questions of the breeders, attend one of the free seminars and visit the vendors throughout the facility. It is the perfect family event.



# WSA holds soybean yield contest

The Wisconsin Soybean Association (WSA) is excited to announce the 2024 Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest. Organized to encourage the development of new and innovative management practices that highlight the importance of using sound cultural practices in Wisconsin soybean production systems, the contest celebrates soybean growers across the state and their dedication to improving their operations.

"It's important to recognize farmers who are pushing the yield envelope in an environmentally and socially responsible manner," said WSA Director Shawn Conley, a professor in the agronomy department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "They're able to maximize yield and profitability while balancing the pillars of sustainability."

Any soybean production system can enter the contest, as long as the contest field is located in Wisconsin and is at least five contiguous acres of one variety, with the actual

**“I want to encourage growers to enter the contest - you can't win if you don't enter. I think the contest helps farmers push themselves and think about how they can drive their soybean yields up further and try some of the new products on the market.”**

**- WSA Director Shawn Conley**



PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN SOYBEAN MARKETING BOARD  
Rock Valley Publishing

**The 2024 Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest celebrates soybean growers across the state and their dedication to improving their operations.**

of the land, employing sustainable practices on their operations to ensure that future generations are able to continue their legacy," said Adam Kask, executive director of the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, which is a sponsor of the contest. "The Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest is

practices and for growers to learn what is working on other farms that they may then be able to implement on their own."

Like last year, seed dealers who enter their customers in the contest will receive \$100 for entering one grower, \$200 for entering three growers and \$300 for entering five or more growers. To qualify for the incentive, the customer must complete an entry form and harvest form.

"The seed dealer incentive really helped promote many different companies across Wisconsin," Conley said. "Last year, we had a wide range of winners across different company platforms, which really helps with boots on

the ground efforts. And it encourages communication by getting the farmers asking the seed dealers to provide more input on how to really drive yield."

Yield Contest entry forms must be postmarked by Aug. 31, 2024, to be eligible for the contest. No late entries will be accepted. For more information visit [wisoybean.org/wsa/2024-yield-contest/](http://wisoybean.org/wsa/2024-yield-contest/).

"I want to encourage growers to enter the contest - you can't win if you don't enter," Conley said. "I think the contest helps farmers push themselves and think about how they can drive their soybean yields up further and try some of the new products on the market."

## Blackhawk apprentices receive scholarships

Thirty-nine Blackhawk construction and industrial trade apprentices were selected to receive \$2,000 Tools of the Trade scholarships from Ascendium to use toward the purchase of equipment, tools, clothing, tuition and more.

Apprenticeships are training programs that provide learners with on-the-job experience along with classroom instruction. Blackhawk offers eight apprenticeship programs, including in Industrial Electrician, Construction Electrician (JAC), Construction Electrician (ABC), Maintenance Technician, Mechatronics, Machinist, HVAC and Welding. Many apprentices complete their programs and secure employment with businesses in Rock and Green counties.

This year, Ascendium awarded 800 scholarships to apprentices across the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) through its

Tools of the Trade Scholarship Program for a total of \$1,542,000. Apprentices are eligible to apply for a scholarship if they are enrolled and receiving credit for both fall and spring semesters, are enrolled in an eligible construction or industrial trade, and demonstrate a financial need.

"Like Governor Evers, we understand the value of apprenticeships to both learners and employers. Apprentices get to 'earn while they learn,' building a skill set that is required for an in-demand job, and employers get the benefit of recruiting, developing, and training their future workforce," said Ascendium Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Richard D. George. "We're pleased to provide a scholarship that helps apprentices reach their education and career goals while also helping employers fill a workforce need."

Congratulations to the fol-

lowing Blackhawk apprentices: Robert Alba Weisensel, Maddox Anderson, Adrian Arriaga, Edgar Ayala, Trevor Bierman, Lucas Bingham, Justin Blakey, Joseph Brown, Marlon Cruz, Timothy Cunningham, Ethan Dillinger, Zachary Duncan, Michael Easton, Drew Eppihimer, Brady Fry, Thomas Hernandez, Miguel Hernandez, Alexander Hilt, Magnus Jenson, Tyler Kersten, Taylor Kress, Max Madsen, Seth Mansfield, Jacob Miller, Bryce Minor, Tyler Neblock, Ian O'Donnell, Austin Omvig, Dakota Osborne, Skyler Schmuck, Anthony Serrano, Daniel Severson, Vincent-Michael Sherrod, Connor Simonson, Weston Simpson, Ethan Smith, David Steinke, Ian Suer, Luca Vogt.

Learn more about Blackhawk's apprenticeship programs online at [blackhawk.edu/Professional-Training/Apprenticeships](http://blackhawk.edu/Professional-Training/Apprenticeships).

## RCSO reveals one more died from fatal crash

On April 18, the Rock County Sheriff's Office was advised one of the adult female passengers of the van who was medically transported from the crash scene on April 13 had succumbed to her injuries during the early morning hours of April 18.

The adult female's name will be later released by the Rock County Medical Examiner's Office. This investigation is still ongoing and any further updates will be provided later.

On 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 Rd in Lima Township, Rock County.

Through investigation this is believed to be what occurred:

A passenger van was eastbound on East County Line Road approaching U.S. Highway 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, south-bound 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.

These three individuals can be identified as: Jeffrey Turnipseed, 67, of White-water; Ericka Berg, 38, of Whitewater; and Jamie Ranguette, 39, of Whitewater.

Mr. Turnipseed, Mrs. Berg, and Mrs. Ranguette were pronounced deceased at the scene on April 13. Forensic examinations were completed on April 15. Preliminary results of the examinations confirm that all three individuals died from injuries sustained in the crash. Additional testing is underway at this time.

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 Examiners' Office.

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**Preview dates, Saturday, April 27 from 1 - 3 p.m. / Thursday, May 2 from 5 - 7 p.m.**  
**Real Estate; Building approx., 60 x 120**

**Real Estate Terms/Conditions:** Sold As Is, No contingencies, You conduct your own inspection of property, 5% Buyers premium. Closing 30 days M.O.L., Seller/s can Accept/Refuse/Reject any/all bids, See HiBid or website for more detailed info.  
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## \*\*\*HUGE AUCTION\*\*\*

### DAY 2: SATURDAY, MAY 4 • 9 A.M.

#### BENNETT CONSTRUCTION

**LOCATION:** 223 Main Street, Pecatonica, IL 61063.

**ONE TRAILER OF HAND TOOLS AND MISC. TO START THE AUCTION!** Toyota electric forklift, Model 7FBCU18, 36 volt, side shift, 2,900lb. capacity; 4' & 3 1/2' job boxes; cart; Wacker 5600 GP generator; Wacker with Honda motor packer; Slap Saver with water hookup, Honda GX 200 motor; Electric cushman; MK walk behind saw with water, Honda motor; Wacker jumpin jack compactor; Wacker compactor with Kohler motor, 2'; Master power finisher 36"; Multiplex 40-A radial arm saw; edger; Hand compactor; (12) speed stands; 2 wheel cart; 36" fan; (2) 24" fan's; 5 hp. water pump with hose, Briggs motor; Heavy 7' yellow plastic; lot's of 1/2" cable; Wacker generator; Wacker BS60-4; (2) floor stripper's; (2) 50 gallon industrial vacuums; (12) 4' cement chutes; 4'x8' flat rack & gear; (7) poly carts; 58"x21" job box; Jobsite desk; Delta table saw; (2) 30"x50" wood job box; Rockwell drill press; 4x4, 6x6 and various size lumber; Makita miter saw; Rockwell table saw; 4 wheel hand cart; gas cans; steel cement forms; (2) L.P. heaters; 8-36" scaffolding plank'; (9) bottle screw jacks; (2) hand carts; (12) 28" scaffolding; (17) 37" scaffolding; (16) 5' scaffolding; (8) 29" scaffolding; (46) 62" scaffolding; (33) 7"x19" scaffolding; (46) 62" scaffolding; (2) 32' extension fiberglass ladder; 38' fiberglass extension ladder; (2) 24' fiberglass extension ladder; (2) 20' fiberglass extension ladders; (6) 26" scaffolding; Rol-air portable air compressor; Emglo portable air compressor; Porter-Cable portable air compressor; (20) 60" scaffolding; (33) 60" scaffolding, 1/2 height; (3) 6'x29" job cart; (6) wheel barrels; sawhorses; (4) 43"x21" job carts; 2"x12" planking for scaffolding; bracing for scaffolding; wheels for scaffolding; Sky Jack S5111 3219 scissor lift; MEC scissor lift, all wheel, 90"x44" platform, 2015 model, Model 2659ERT, 26' height; (2) Master propane heaters; (3) fans; LB White heater; portable lights; duct work for heaters; 2 wheel cart; Large box of heavy tarps; concrete bucket; Dresser portable air compressor, 4 cylinder gas, 2,100 hours.

**VEHICLES:** 2003 Ford F750, hyd. dump box, 114,393 miles, auto, Cat 3126 diesel motor, Vin # FRXF75314V619246; 2020 Ford 350XL pickup with utility box & ladder rack, auto., 4x2, 68,260 miles, Vin.# 1FDRF3E61LED54293; 2016 Ford F250 pickup with utility box & ladder rack, auto., 107,614 miles, 4x2, Vin # 1FTBF2A60GED45757; 2019 Ford 350XL pickup truck with utility box & ladder rack, auto., 100,707 miles, Vin # 1FDRF3E63KED61955. Trucks are in excellent condition!

**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. 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.

— **FILER AUCTION AND APPRAISAL** —  
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## STORAGE SOLUTIONS

# Simple strategies to create more storage space in the kitchen

If home is where the heart is, then the kitchen is where that heart spends most of its time. Kitchens are where family and friends tend to congregate during holiday celebrations, and many a homework assignment has been completed at a kitchen island while parents prepare dinner.

The popularity of kitchens is reflected in the attention these rooms get from renovation-minded homeowners. Data from the National Association of Home Builders indicates kitchens are the most popular room to remodel. Upgrading kitchen storage is a popular renovation project, and it's also one that has practical appeal. Adding more storage in the kitchen gives the room a more organized feel, which can make preparing meals more enjoyable and create space when hosting and guests inevitably congregate around an island. With those benefits in mind, would-be organizers can consider these strategies to create more storage space in the kitchen.

• Take stock of the spice rack. Creating more storage space does not necessarily have to involve tools like screwdrivers, hammers and nails. Spice racks can easily become overcrowded as amateur cooks expand their culinary repertoire. A crowded spice rack inevitably spills out onto the surrounding counter-



METROCREATIVE STOCK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

**Removing single-use gadgets from kitchen countertops can make food preparation easier and create more storage space.**

top. Take stock of the spice rack and discard any spices or seasonings you haven't used in a while. This can create a more organized look and free up extra counter space.

• Make a digital cookbook. If your go-to recipes are filling a binder or two, those binders are almost certainly taking up precious storage space. Scan printed recipes and convert your physical recipe collection into a digital cookbook you store on a tablet.

• Install roll-out shelving in the pantry. Roll-out shelving puts the entire pantry to use.

Without such shelving, items are destined to be relegated to that nether region known as the back of the pantry. Some items never emerge from this area, as cooks forget they're there and then purchase duplicates, which inevitably contributes to storage issues. Roll-out shelving ensures all items in the pantry can be found and greatly reduces the likelihood that cooks will have lots of duplicate items taking up precious kitchen space.

• Remove single-use gadgets from the kitchen. Much like spices and seasonings vital to the preparation of specialty

meals have a tendency to be used just once, kitchen gadgets that lack versatility have a way of gathering dust and taking up storage space. Whether it's a popcorn maker, a seldom-used but space-needy wok or another gadget that's used infrequently, if at all, store single-use gadgets in the garage or another area of the house where they won't get in the way or contribute to a less-than-organized look in the room.

A handful of simple strategies can help anyone create more storage space in the kitchen. (METROCREATIVE)

# Garage storage solutions



METROCREATIVE STOCK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

**Organizing a garage takes work, but the end result can improve the appearance, free up space, make work more efficient, and make it easier to find and use tools more readily.**

See **GARAGE**, Page 7

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## Choosing the best decking material

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and that notion is as true when renovating a home as it is when studying a piece of art. Therefore, when homeowners are looking for the best building materials for their home remodels – including backyard decks – their own personal preferences may ultimately dictate the direction they go.

Deck boards and railings can be made from a diverse array of materials, including traditional hardwood, plastic and composite materials. Here's a deep look into some of the more popular decking materials so homeowners can make informed decisions when contracting with a decking professional for the build.



METROCREATIVE STOCK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Deck boards and railings can be made from a diverse array of materials, including traditional hardwood, plastic and composite materials. Therefore, when homeowners are looking for the best building materials for their home remodels – including backyard decks – their own personal preferences may ultimately dictate the direction they go.

### Hardwood, softwood or pressure-treated wood

In the not-so-distant past, decks were primarily built using some type of wood. Wood is widely available and fairly cost-effective. However, as anyone with a wood deck knows, wood requires frequent upkeep and it can be susceptible to rotting or insect damage. Wood decks also may splinter and deteriorate when exposed to the elements or pool water. Pressure-treated boards are infused with chemicals to help them endure, but that does not make them impervious to wear. Still, the traditional look of a wood deck remains appealing to many homeowners.

concerned about the environment and sustainability. Composite decking comes in uncapped and capped varieties. The capped version has an extra layer of protective capping made from high-performance polymers, says TimberTech, a decking and outdoor furniture provider. While composite decks may have similar up-front costs to wood, they will require less maintenance over the years, but they must be scrubbed to avoid mildew growth.

no wood in the mix at all. PVC decks are more durable than composite and can last a lifetime. All PVC decks need is occasional cleaning. A potential disadvantage to PVC is it doesn't always look, sound or feel like wood. Also, complex fastening systems can make the boards move as the temperature changes, resulting in squeaking as people walk on the deck. Generally, PVC is more expensive than wood or composite, but that investment may be worth it for those who never want to worry about deck repair or replacement.

less slippery when wet so it may be great around pools.

### Aluminum

Aluminum may not be as popular as other decking materials, but it is lighter and stronger than wood, composite, and plastic. Aluminum also is resistant to mold, weather and insects, and it can be recycled. An aluminum deck will last for years, which is why it is one of the more costly decking materials.

Homeowners have many choices when picking materials for their decks. If they want a traditional look and moderate cost, wood may be the way to go. Those concerned about looks and durability may like composite. People who want very durable and long-lasting may want to give strong consideration to plastic or aluminum materials.

(METROCREATIVE)

### Plastic

Decks made of polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene or high density polyethylene (HDPE) are collectively referred to as PVC decks. They are made entirely from environmentally safe plastic with

This Old House says there is another plastic decking material made from polystyrene. It is stiff, strong and light, and with the brand Eon, the nonslip surface becomes

### Composite

Composite decking materials are made from a blend of recycled plastic and wood fibers. Since there is so much recycled content, composite decks attract those who are

## • Garage

(Continued from page 6)

your garage.

### Start with cleaning and culling

One of the first steps when organizing a garage is to thoroughly analyze what is needed and what can be removed from the garage. If items belong elsewhere, such as in a shed or the basement, move these items first. Discard damaged or broken items. Next, move on to tools or gear that hasn't been used in some time. Will you use it again? If the item has been collecting dust for years, you likely already know the answer to that question.

Pile all items in the driveway so you have a clean slate with which to start. Measure the room to figure out the dimensions so you'll know how much wall space is available for storage.

### Free up floor space

The ultimate goal of a ga-

rage storage renovation is to make floor space available, according to Stacey Schweiger of Sunshine Organizing. Lifting items off the floor makes access easier, and protects items should there be a flood or leaks.

A combination of wall shelves, overhead shelves, cabinets, and wall hooks can help homeowners create more floor area. Organization becomes easier when everything has a designated space where it can be easily returned to.

### Consider weight

When investing in shelving and racks, remember that many of the items stored in garages tend to be heavy. It's important to ensure that shelves and hooks are heavy-duty and able to withstand the weight of pressure put on them. Verify the maximum weight so that racks will not buckle or tip over

and cause issues.

### Utilize overhead space

Overhead storage can be reserved for items that aren't used frequently, such as seasonal decorations or luggage.

### Out of sight

Some items should be stored out of sight and beyond the reach of children and pets. Cabinets and containers can be used and locked to secure materials, such as fertilizers, paints, solvents, and other chemicals.

### Additional ideas

Magnets, pegboards, organization bins and systems, and similar products can be used to corral small or errant items like hand tools, fasteners and more.

Garage organization will take some planning and time, but the end result can be well worth the effort.

(METROCREATIVE)

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**Left:** In addition to being capable of creating hail and strong wind gusts, thunderstorms can also produce tornadoes and dangerous lightning. State emergency management officials recently issued reminders and tips to help people be prepared for severe weather. **Right:** Severe thunderstorms are defined as storms



RAYCHEL SANNER/UNSPLASH PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph, according to the National Weather Service. They said hail this size can damage property and wind this strong is able to break off large branches, knock over trees or cause structural damage to trees.

# Be prepared for severe weather

## State averages 23 tornadoes each year, officials say

By Heather Ruenz  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Storms can develop quickly in Wisconsin, and knowing what to do when a severe weather warning is issued can help keep you and others safe. To help encourage everyone to be prepared for tornadoes, thunderstorms and flooding, Wisconsin recently observed Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week.

“Wisconsin made history this year when two tornadoes touched down in early February, which were the first confirmed tornadoes in the state during that month since record keeping began,” said Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Greg Engle. “Tornadoes and severe weather can develop at any time, which is why we are asking everyone to take a few minutes during Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week to review their emergency plans and identify where the nearest safe place to take shelter is located,” he added.

Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. In 2023, the National Weather Service confirmed 21 tornadoes in the state. That includes 15 tornadoes that touched down in a single day, when storms moved across southern Wisconsin on March 31 of last year.

To stay safe during severe



COURTESY READYWISCONSIN.WI.GOV Southern Lakes Newspapers

**ReadyWisconsin offers a variety of information for residents, schools and businesses related to emergency preparedness. To learn more, visit [readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov) or follow the group on various social media sites.**

weather, ReadyWisconsin encourages people to do the following:

- Create an emergency plan and practice it.
- Know where designated shelters are located at home, work, and school. Be ready to go there when a tornado warning is issued.
- Have multiple ways to receive alerts about approaching severe weather. Outdoor warning sirens, NOAA Weather Radios, local media, and mobile devices are all important tools. Don't rely on any single source for important life-saving information.
- If you have a mobile device, make sure it is enabled to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts, that option is available on many devices, including smartphones.
- Stay weather aware by

checking the daily forecast for your area.

- Put together an emergency kit for your home.
- State officials encourage the practice of tornado sheltering plans – in schools, homes and businesses – when people go to their nearest tornado shelter as if there were an actual tornado warning in effect.

“Ideal tornado shelters can include a basement, a ground floor interior room of a building, or a specially constructed safe room designed to withstand high winds and falling debris,” they said.

During statewide drills, Wisconsin's NWS offices conducted NOAA Weather Radio tests that could be heard by those actively listening to those devices or if they have one programmed to activate on test alerts.

“Staying safe from severe

weather is everyone's responsibility,” Engle said, adding that spending just a few minutes in tornado drills “could save your life by helping you know how to get to safety faster if a real warning is issued later on.”

For more information on emergency preparedness and advice visit [readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov). You can also follow ReadyWisconsin on Facebook, X, Threads, and Instagram for tips throughout the year.

### Types of severe weather

There are several types of severe weather most likely to occur during the spring and summer seasons in Wisconsin, including the following.

#### Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms are officially defined as storms capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

“Hail this size can damage property such as plants, roofs and vehicles. Wind this strong is able to break off large branches, knock over trees or cause structural damage to trees,” NWS officials state.

Some severe thunderstorms can produce hail larger than softballs or winds over 100 mph, so please pay attention to the weather so you know when severe storms are possible. Thunderstorms also produce tornadoes and dangerous lightning; heavy rain can cause flash flooding.

It's important to know the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and warning. Here are descriptions provided by the National Weather Service.

A severe thunderstorm watch means they are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

A severe thunderstorm warning means severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Take shelter



## Students learn emergency preparedness

Wisconsin Emergency Management is celebrating teaching thousands of students about emergency preparedness.

Students across the state will learn the importance of being prepared for emergencies this spring through the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program, which has now reached more than 100,000 fourth and fifth graders in Wisconsin.

“For nearly 13 years, the STEP program has helped kids learn the skills they need to be prepared for when they face a dangerous situation,” said Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Greg Engle. “We are excited that so many teachers have seen the value of making sure their students receive these important lessons and continue to offer STEP in their classrooms.”

This spring, more than 5,700 students in over 100 educational settings will participate in the STEP program. Since it launched in 2011, it's estimated nearly 103,000 students have been enrolled in the program.

The STEP curriculum, designed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, helps students learn about how hazards such as severe weather and fires can impact them. WEM also provides participating educators with free materials for students to build their

own emergency kits at home, including a small backpack and flashlight.

“Making an emergency kit helps students better understand what they may need following a disaster to help keep them and their family safe,” said Wisconsin STEP Program Coordinator Andrew Beckett. “STEP also encourages kids to have a conversation about preparedness with their parents and family, which helps to improve their whole household's ability to be ready during an emergency.”

The program is supported this year in part by a \$10,000 grant from TC Energy, through its “Build Strong” social impact program.

“Safety is, and always will be, our number one value,” said Aaron Thompson, TC Energy's manager of state government and community relations. “Being prepared for the rare cases when something does go wrong is critical. That's why we're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to support Wisconsin Emergency Management with their ongoing effort to prepare, equip, and educate students across the state.”

The STEP program is part of WEM's ReadyWisconsin campaign, which works to create a more prepared Wisconsin. For more information, including how educators can enroll their classrooms, visit [readywisconsin.wi.gov/step](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/step).

in a substantial building and get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds, officials advise.

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, ‘When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors,’ according to the NWS.

“Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately, these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries in the United States,” officials state.

#### Tornadoes

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Tornadoes can destroy well-made structures, uprooting trees, and hurling objects through the air like deadly missiles. They can occur at any time of day or night and at any time of the year.

When a tornado watch is issued it's because tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies and your safe room.

“Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching,” NWS officials advise.

A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows.

If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

#### Other weather concerns

Other alerts issued may include the following:

- Air quality – when poor, air quality can aggravate a host of health problems such as Asthma, heart conditions and other respiratory conditions. Seniors, children and those with compromised immune systems are advised to be particularly careful during these times.
- Heat – a watch related to heat will be issued when conditions are favorable for excessive heat in the next 24 to 72 hours. A warning will be issued within 12 hours of the onset of “extremely dangerous heat conditions,” such as when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105 degrees or higher for at least two days, and nighttime air temperatures will not drop below 75 degrees.

For more information, including tips and resources regarding weather, visit [weather.gov](http://weather.gov)







# LEGAL NOTICES

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE RESOLUTION 2024-05

### Commending Joy Morrison for Service to the City of Evansville

WHEREAS, Joy Morrison was appointed to Alderperson for District 4 in 2017, Joy was elected Alderperson for District 4 in 2020 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, Joy served on the Redevelopment Authority from 2017 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Joy served on the Historic Preservation Committee from 2018 to 2021; and

WHEREAS, Joy served on the Finance and Labor Relations Committee from 2019 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Joy served on the Parks and Recreation Board from 2017 to 2022, and served as its chair from 2017 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, Joy oversaw the completion of the 2020-2025 Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan, which facilitated the path to planning for the new Aquatic Center; and

WHEREAS, Joy led the way to form the Grow Our Parks campaign to raise support and funding for the new aquatic facilities at Larson Acres Park; and

WHEREAS, Joy created a partnership between the citizens of Evansville and the City of Evansville Park & Recreation Department through the creation of Evansville's first dog park and creation of the Adopt-A-Park program to create more user-friendly park facilities and community for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Joy served on the Municipal Services Committee from 2022 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Joy served as an advocate for EW&L in Washington DC with APPA; and

WHEREAS, Joy Morrison's admirable qualities of responsiveness, and respect are outpaced only by her tireless advocacy; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Common Council, on behalf of all residents of Evansville, do hereby commend and thank Joy Morrison for her commitment, dedication, and generosity in public service, and wish her much future health and happiness.

Passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

*/s/ Dianne C. Duggan*  
Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor

ATTEST: */s/ Leah L. Hurlley*  
Leah L. Hurlley, Clerk

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP 454294

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE THAT THE ASSESSMENT ROLL IS OPEN FOR EXAMINATION AND OPEN BOOK

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Town of Spring Valley,  
Rock County

Notice of Open Book and Board of Review Pursuant to Wis.Stats. s.70.45, the assessment roll for the year of 2024 assessment will be open for examination starting April 24th to April 30th by appointment in the Treasurer's office. (call 608 290-1626 for an appointment)  
Additionally, the assessor shall be available on Monday the 6th day of May, 2024 at 9 am until 11am.

Open Book is the opportunity to discuss your property's assessed value with the town assessor in an informal setting. Appointments are not necessary for Open Book. Instructional material about the assessment, how to file an objection, and Board of Review procedures under Wisconsin law will be available at Open Book.

Board of Review, The Town of Spring Valley, Rock County, will meet on Monday, June 3, 2024 at the Orfordville Fire Department meeting room, 173 N. Wright Street, Orfordville, WI, for the purpose of calling the Board

of Review into session during the forty-five day period beginning on the 4th Monday of April, pursuant to s.47 (1), Wis. Stats.

Pursuant to s. 70.47 (2), Wis. Stats.:

No person shall be allowed to appear before the board of review, to testify to the board by telephone, or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of such property being assessed.

After the first meeting of the board of review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the board of review may contact, or provide information to, a member of the board about that person's objection except at a session of the board.

No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the board or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under sub. (3) (a), that person provides to the clerk of the board of review notice as to whether the person will ask for removal under sub. (6m) (a) and if so which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time that the hearing will take.

When appearing before the board, the person shall specify in writing, the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and must specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.

No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone or object to a valuation; if the assessor or objector made the valuation using the income method; unless the person supplies to the assessor all of the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under s. 73.03 (2a), Wis. Stats., that the assessor requests. The Town of Spring Valley has an ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses that is provided to the assessor under this paragraph which provides exceptions for persons using the information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determines that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under s. 19.35(1).

Dela Ends, Clerk (608) 897-4288 tsvclerk@gmail.com www.townofspringvalley.com

**If you want to appear before the board of review, you must give the town clerk Notice of Intent to file an appeal no later than the morning of May 31, 2024. More information is available at www.revenue.wi.gov**

The Independent Register  
4/24, 5/1/2024  
WNAXLP 454270

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE RESOLUTION 2024-04

### Commending Ben Ladick for Service to the City of Evansville

WHEREAS, Ben Ladick was elected Alderperson for District 4 in the 2012, 2014, and 2016 Spring Elections, Ben was appointed to the Alderperson District 3 seat in 2018 and was elected Alderperson for District 3 in 2020 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Water & Light Committee from 2012 to 2014, Transitioning the group to the Municipal Services Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ben served as an advocate for EW&L in Madison and Washington DC with MEUW and APPA; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Energy Independence Team in 2013 and 2014, and serve as chair in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Historic Preservation Committee 2012 to 2013 and 2017 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Youth Center Board from 2012 to 2016, serving as chair 2015;

and  
WHEREAS, Ben served on the Municipal Services Committee from 2014 to 2024, and chair from 2016 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Evansville Redevelopment Authority from 2014 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Park and Recreation Committee Board from 2010 to 2013 and chair from 2016 to 2017; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Economic Development Committee from 2018 to 2024, and serve as chair in 2018 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Evansville Fire District Board as an alternate from 2020 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Ben served on the Evansville Housing Authority beginning in 2021 to present; and

WHEREAS, Ben volunteered his time and expertise in IT for the City of Evansville on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, Ben Ladick is one of those certain individuals who warrants special recognition for his devotion, achievements, and attainment of excellence as an advocate for the City of Evansville; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Evansville, on behalf of all residents, do hereby record our recognition and appreciation for Ben Ladick for his commitment, dedication, and generosity in public service, and wish him much future health and happiness.

Passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

*/s/ Dianne C. Duggan*  
Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor

ATTEST: */s/ Leah L. Hurlley*  
Leah L. Hurlley, Clerk

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP 454295

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE RESOLUTION #2024-09

### Adopting the 2023 Rock County Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the City of Evansville recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the City of Evansville; and

WHEREAS, Rock County Emergency Management has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2023 Rock County Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Evansville Common Council participated jointly in the planning process with Rock County and the other local units of government within the County; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Rock County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the City of Evansville from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the City of Evansville Common Council demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2023 Rock County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

WHEREAS, an updated hazard mitigation plan is required by FEMA as a condition of future grant funding for mitigation projects; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF EVANSVILLE WISCONSIN, THAT:**

Section 1. In accordance with the Mayor, and the City of Evansville Common Council adopts the 2023 Rock County Hazard Mitigation Plan as an official countywide mitigation

plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

Passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

*Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor*

ATTEST: Leah L. Hurlley, Clerk  
The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP 454306

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE RESOLUTION #2024-10

### A Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments Under Municipal Police Power Pursuant to §66.0703.

WHEREAS, there is a benefit to the public that sidewalks and curbs are safe and functional; and

WHEREAS, there is a benefit to the public that water services are not lead or galvanized steel, and

WHEREAS, the replacement of such infrastructure can provide a financial and personal benefit to the adjacent property owner or occupant, and

WHEREAS, in favor of the public's interest, that portion of private benefit shall be assessed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Evansville, Wisconsin:

1. The Common Council hereby declares its intention to exercise its police power under §66.0703, Stats., to levy special assessments upon property in the assessment district hereafter described for benefits conferred upon such property by reason of the following public work and improvements: Almeron Street, Walker Street, and South Madison Street.

2. The property to be assessed lies within the following described assessment district: All property fronting the project covered by this assessment report concerns street and utility improvements on Almeron Street from Walker Street to Water Street, as Walker Street from South Madison Street to the terminus, as well as on South Madison Street from Water Street to Garrison Drive.

3. The total amount assessed against the properties in the described assessment district shall not exceed:  
a. 50% of the cost of the improvements to sidewalks and curb.  
b. 100% of the driveway approaches from the street to the sidewalk  
c. 100% voluntarily replaced private water service laterals that are lead or galvanized steel.

4. The Common Council determines that the improvements constitute an exercise of the police power for the health, safety and general welfare of the City of Evansville and its inhabitants.

5. The city engineer shall prepare a report which shall consist of:  
a. Final plans and specifications for the improvements.  
b. An estimate of the entire cost of the proposed improvements.  
c. Schedule of proposed assessments.

6. When the report is completed, the city engineer shall file a copy of the report with the city clerk for public inspection and, if state property is to be assessed, shall mail a copy of the report to the responsible state agency and, for assessments of \$50,000 or more, to the Wisconsin state building commission.

7. Upon receiving the report of the city engineer, the clerk shall cause notice to be given stating the nature of the proposed improvements, the general boundary lines of the proposed assessment district, (including a small map thereof,) the time and place at which the report may be inspected, and the time and place of the public hearing on the matters contained in the

preliminary resolution and the report. This notice shall be published as a class 1 notice under ch. 985, Stats, and a copy shall be mailed, at least 10 days before the hearing, to every interested party whose address is known or can be ascertained with reasonable diligence.

8. The hearing shall be held in the City of Evansville Council Chambers at the following address: 31 S Madison Street, Evansville, WI 53536, at a time set by the clerk in accordance with §66.0703, Stats.

9. Assessments shall be due within 30 days of billing date. Assessments may be paid in cash or in ten (10) annual installments. No such annual installment, except the final one, shall be less than \$50.00. Installments shall be placed on the next tax roll after the due date for collection and shall bear interest at the rate of 5.5% per annum on the unpaid balance (from due date). Installments or assessments not paid when due shall bear additional interest on the amount past due at the rate of 0.8% per annum.

Passed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

By: *Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor*

Attest: *Leah L. Hurlley, City Clerk*

Introduced: 4/9/2024  
Approved: 4/9/2024

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP 454307

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE ORDINANCE # 2024-03

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #2023-11

The Common Council of the City of Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Evansville and the Council approved Ordinance #2023-11 regarding the Annexation and Rezoning Territory from the Town of Union to the City of Evansville, Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, after due investigation, inquiry and consideration by the Wisconsin Election Commission, the City Clerk, and Clerk of Rock County, the desire to amend Ordinance #2023-11 to correct an error;

WHEREAS, based upon the above, the City of Evansville has determined that it is necessary, advisable and in the best interest of the City and its residents to amend Section 6. Election District Designation in Ordinance 2023-11 as set forth herein:

**"SECTION 6. Election District Designation.** The territory annexed by this ordinance is hereby made part of Ward 910, Aldermanic District 4 subject to the ordinances and rules and regulations regarding such wards and districts."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSVILLE, WISCONSIN;**

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

*Dianne Duggan, Mayor*

ATTEST: *Leah Hurlley, City Clerk*

Introduced: 03/12/2024  
Adopted: 04/09/2024

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP 454311

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE THAT THE ASSESSMENT ROLL IS OPEN FOR EXAMINATION, OPEN BOOK AND BOARD OF REVIEW

CITY OF EVANSVILLE,

## ROCK COUNTY

Pursuant to s. 70.45, Wis. Stats., the 2024 Assessment Roll are available for inspection at City Hall, 31 S. Madison Street, Evansville, Wisconsin. If you wish to view the Assessment Roll please contact the City Clerk's Office at 608-882-2266 during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to schedule a time to review. The City Assessor, Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc, will have Open Book over the phone and in person on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM (Via Phone Only). Please schedule an appointment by contacting them at 920-749-1995, by email at info@apraz.com or by mail at:

Associated Appraisal Consultants, Inc.  
PO Box 440  
Greenville, WI 54942

Instructional material will be provided at the open book to persons who wish to object to valuations under s. 70.47, Wis. Stats.

## Notice of the Board of Review

Board of Review for the City of Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin will meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of City Hall, 31 S. Madison Street, Evansville, Wisconsin.

Pursuant to s.70.47 (2), Wis. Stats:

1. No person shall be allowed to appear before the board of review, to testify to the board by telephone or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of the real or personal property being assessed.

2. After the first meeting of the board of review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the board of review may contact, or provide information to, a member of the board about that person's objection except at a session of the board.

3. No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the board or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under sub. (3) (a), that person provides to the clerk of the board of review notice as to whether the person will ask for removal under sub. (6m) (a) and if so which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time that the hearing will take.

4. When appearing before the board, the person shall specify, in writing, the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.

5. No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone or object to a valuation; if that valuation was made by the assessor or the objector using the income method; unless no later than 7 days before the first meeting of the board of review the person supplies to the assessor all of the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under s. 73.03 (2a), that the assessor requests. The municipality or county shall provide by ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses that is provided to the assessor under this paragraph and shall provide exceptions for persons using the information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under s. 19.35 (1) unless a court determines before the first meeting of the board of review that the information is inaccurate.

Notice is hereby given this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

*Leah Hurlley*  
City Clerk

The Independent Register  
4/24, 5/1/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25, 5/2/2024  
WNAXLP 454392



# LEGAL NOTICES

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE RESOLUTION #2024-13

### Amending the City of Evansville's Fee Schedule – Chapter 6. Alcohol Beverages

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes §125.04(3)(g) holds, The Municipal Clerk shall publish each application for a Class "A", Class "B", "Class A (cider only)", "Class B (wine only)" or "Class C (wine)" licenses, prior to its issuance in a newspaper according to conditions; and

WHEREAS, the publication shall include the name and address of the applicant, the kind of license applied for and the location of the premises to be licensed; and

WHEREAS, the publication shall be printed in a daily newspaper on 3 successive occasions, or if a weekly newspaper is utilized, it shall be printed at least once; and

WHEREAS, at the time the application is filed, the applicant shall pay to the Clerk's Office the cost of publication; and

WHEREAS, each application shall require a history of the applicant relevant to the applicant's fitness to hold a license or permit, including whether the applicant is a restricted investor requiring disclosure and the basis of this status; and

WHEREAS, per §125.04(8m) any fees incurred by the division under §165.82 (1) (am) for purposes of verifying a permit applicant's eligibility shall be paid by the applicant to the Clerk's Office upon application for the permit; and

WHEREAS, §165.82 (1) (am) allows a cost of \$7 for each record check, except a fingerprint card record check; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends adjusting fees to reflect the current costs of publication charges; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends adding fees to reflect the cost of \$7 for each record check; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Evansville that the City of Evansville's Fee Schedule is amended, effective upon adoption, as follows:

### Chapter 6. Alcohol Beverages

			New
6-32	Alcohol beverage license fees by class of license		
	Fermented malt beverages:		
	(1) Class "A" fermented malt beverages retailer's license	\$100.00	Res 2015-29
	(2) Class "B" fermented malt beverages retailer's license	\$100.00	
	(3) Operator's license		
	a. Regular	\$35.00	Res 2021-02
	b. Provisional	\$15.00	Res 2001-17
	Intoxicating liquor:		
	(1) Retail "Class A" liquor license	\$500.00	Res 2015-29
	(2) Retail "Class B" liquor license:		
	a. Generally (may be prorated)	\$500.00	Res 2015-29
	b. Clubs incorporated more than 6 years (may be prorated)	\$500.00	Res 2015-29
	(3) Transfers	\$10.00	
	(5) Wine: Annual fee for "Class C" license	\$100.00	
	Liquor license publication fee	<del>\$15.00</del>	\$100.00 Res 2009-27
	Background Check (per member)	\$0	\$7.00
6-42	Fee for duplicate licenses	\$5.00	Res 2001-17
6-63(d)	Permit for consumption in public parks	\$10.00	

Passed and adopted this 9th day of April, 2024.

Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leah L. Hurtley, City Clerk

Introduced: 04/9/2024  
Adopted: 04/12/2024  
Published:  
The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP

454310

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE RESOLUTION #2024-12

### Amending the City of Evansville's Fee Schedule – Aquatic Center

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes section 66.0628(2) holds, "Any fee that is imposed by a political subdivision shall bear a reasonable relationship to the service for which the fee is imposed;"

WHEREAS, the costs to maintain pool operations has increased and expanded.

WHEREAS, the City has a priority on providing top notch services and amenities to residents and users.

WHEREAS, the City is excited to welcome the opening of a new and expanded aquatic center and splash pad, creating the widest variety of recreation amenities to date for citizens.

WHEREAS, Staff recommends adjusting fees to reflect feedback from City Officials and facility operating schedules;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Evansville that the City of Evansville's Fee Schedule is amended, effective upon adoption, as follows:

	Old Rate	New Rate
<b>86 Fees - Swimming Pool Rates Aquatic Center</b>		
Seasonal Pass-Resident	\$60.00	\$60.00
Seasonal Pass-Non Resident	\$85.00	\$85.00
Seasonal Household Pass (up to 4)-Resident	\$180.00	\$180.00
Seasonal Household Pass (up to 4)-Non Resident	\$275.00	\$275.00
Additional Household Member-Resident	\$10.00	\$10.00
Additional Household Member-Non Resident	\$15.00	\$15.00
Daily Rate - Resident	\$5.00	\$5.00
Daily Rate - Non Resident	\$6.00	\$10.00
Daily Rate Last 30 minutes	\$2.00	\$2.00
Lap Swim Only - Resident (season pass not honored)	\$3.00	\$3.00
Lap Swim Punch Card - Resident (season pass not honored)	<del>\$20.00</del>	\$20.00
Lap Swim Only - Non Resident (season pass not honored)	\$4.00	\$4.00
Lap Swim Punch Card - Non Resident (season pass not honored)	<del>\$30.00</del>	\$30.00
Splash Day Pass Punch Card - Resident (10 Admissions)	\$45.00	\$45.00
Splash Day Pass Punch Card - Non Resident (10 Admissions)	\$55.00	\$55.00
Swimming Lessons - Resident (1st Lesson per household)	\$50.00	\$50.00
Swimming Lessons - Resident (Additional lessons per household)	\$40.00	\$40.00
Swimming Lessons - Non Resident (1st Lesson per household)		\$65.00
Swimming Lessons - Non Resident (Additional lessons per household)	<del>\$50.00</del>	\$55.00
Private Lessons - Resident (per half hour)	\$20.00	\$20.00
Private Lessons - Non Resident (per half hour)	\$30.00	\$30.00
Swim Team- Resident (per child)	\$80.00	\$80.00
Swim Team- Non-Resident	\$100.00	\$100.00
Group Rate (10 or more)- Resident	\$3.00	\$3.00
Group Rate (10 or more)- Non Resident	\$4.00	\$4.00
Pool Parties (per person) (season pass not honored)	\$5.00	\$5.00
Private Facility Rental Per Hour-Resident	\$200.00	\$200.00
Private Facility Rental Per Hour-Non Resident	\$250.00	\$250.00
Private Facility Rental -Cabana Only	\$50.00	\$50.00
Swim Pass Replacement	\$5.00	\$5.00
Evening Pass-Resident	<del>\$2.50</del>	\$3.00
Evening Pass-Non Resident	<del>\$4.00</del>	\$4.00
Drop in Aquatic Classes and Lessons (season pass not honored)	\$10.00	\$10.00

\*\*Veterans pay no fees during the 2024 season

\*\*Senior Citizen (65+) Seasonal Pass 2024- Resident \$50.00  
\*\*Senior Citizen (65+) Seasonal Pass 2024- Non Resident \$75.00  
\*\*kids 3 and under are free  
\*\*Free 2024 household season passes for Capital Campaign donations \$1,000 or above as part of Recreation for Generations, must show valid certificate

Passed and adopted this 9th day of April, 2024.

Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leah L. Hurtley, City Clerk

Introduced: 04/9/2024  
Adopted: 04/12/2024  
Published:  
The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP

454309

## CITY OF EVANSVILLE ORDINANCE # 2024-02

### An Ordinance Rezoning Territory from Residential District One (R-1) to Local Business District (B-1) (On Parcel 6-27-397)

The Common Council of the City of Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

**SECTION 1. Zoning Classification.** In accordance with Section 130-171 to 130-176, Evansville Municipal Code, Section 62.23(7)(d)2 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and upon recommendation of the Plan Commission and the findings of the Common Council that such zoning district change is in the best interest of the City, and all necessary notices having been given, and the required public hearing having been held, and the Plan Commission having made its recommendation of approval in writing to the Common Council, that the zoning classification of parcels be changed from Residential District One (R-1) to Local Business District (B-1). The areas to be rezoned are indicated on the map below:



**SECTION 2. Zoning Map Amendment.** The official zoning map, City of Evansville, Wisconsin, is hereby amended to show the territory described in Section 1 as Local Business District (B-1).

**SECTION 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance is invalid or unconstitutional, or if the application of the Ordinance to any person or circumstances is invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed and adopted this 9th day of April, 2024.

Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leah L. Hurtley, City Clerk

Introduced: 03/05/2024  
Notices published: 02/19/2024, 02/26/2024  
Public hearing held: 03/05/2024  
Adopted: 04/18/2024  
Published: (within 10 days of adoption)  
The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP

454312

### STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF  
JON KUEHL  
DOD 12/10/2023

### Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24PR32

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 02/01/1954 and date of death 12/10/2023, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 708 15th Street, Brodhead, WI 53520.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 25, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

Electronically signed by  
Jennifer Prien  
Probate Registrar  
4-15-24

Attorney John Koenig  
Elder Advisors Law  
101 S. Main Street  
#100  
Janesville, WI 53545  
608-371-7202  
Bar Number 1030741

The Independent Register  
4/24, 5/1, 5/8/2024  
WNAXLP 454402

### CITY OF BRODHEAD Green & Rock Counties

#### 2024 OPEN BOOK HOURS

Please take notice that the City of Brodhead Assessor will hold Open Book Hours via phone call and in person at City Hall (by appointment only) for the 2024 Assessment Rolls starting:

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Open Book will be held at City Hall by appointment only on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. To set up an Open Book discussion telephone appointment please call Musser Appraisal Services. Please call Musser Appraisal Services at 608-712-0236 to schedule a telephone discussion.

Property Owners may review and examine the 2024 proposed property assessment rolls and discuss their concerns with the city assessor at this time.

Unresolved 2024 assessment matters can be brought to the 2024 Board of Review, which is scheduled on Thursday, May 16, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Objection forms must be completed to appear before the Board of Review at least 48 hours prior to the Board of Review; appointments are requested. Objection forms are available from the city clerk, and are also on our website at www.cityofbrodheadwi.us – click on Residents, Click on City Assessor, click on the link titled "Objection form for Property Owners" on the bottom of the page for an objection form.

For further information, please contact the city clerk, (608) 897-4018 ext 150.

Kristin Covert, Clerk  
City of Brodhead

Posted: April 18, 2024

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
WNAXLP 454436



**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, 4709 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 ¼ NW ¼.

4. Finding of Facts

5. Adjourn

Devona Udulutch,  
Center Town Clerk

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP 454454

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
ELAINE B. STEWART

**Notice to Creditors**  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 24PR34

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/19/1933 and date of death 01/18/2024, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W2001 County Road FF, Brodhead, WI 53520.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 25, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th St., Monroe, WI 53566, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

Electronically signed by  
Jennifer Prien  
Probate Registrar  
4-15-24

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

The Independent Register  
4/24, 5/1, 5/8/2024  
WNAXLP 454497

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE FOR PUBLICATION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Avon, Rock County, Wisconsin, has adopted Ordinance No. 2024-01 on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, adding Temporary Uses and Structures to Town of Avon Zoning Ordinance Section 5 of General Provisions.

This Zoning Ordinance allows for the establishment of certain temporary uses for limited duration, provided that such uses comply with the general and specific standards of the Ordinance.

The full text of the Ordinance may be obtained or viewed at no charge by contacting the Town Clerk, Stephanie Schwartzlow, 15444 W. Skinner Road, Brodhead, Wisconsin 53520, calling telephone number (608) 921-3656 or viewing on town website.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Avon, do hereby certify that the above Ordinance No. 2024-01 was adopted by the Town of Board of the Town of Avon on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024 and the 20 day of April, 2024 copies of the above Ordinance were posted by me in

two places in the Town of Avon, Rock County, Wisconsin as follows:

Avon Town Hall, Brodhead, WI 53520  
Town of Avon Website - townofavonwi.gov

Furthermore, a summary of the above-referenced notice as published as a Class I Notice in the Brodhead Independent Register in compliance with 59.14 (1m), Wis. Stats

/s/Stephanie Schwartzlow  
Stephanie Schwartzlow,  
Town Clerk  
Town of Avon, Rock County, WI

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

/s/Glendolyn Sue Draves  
Notary Public, Rock County, Wisconsin  
My Commission Expires: 12/4/2024

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
WNAXLP 454539

**CITY OF EVANSVILLE RESOLUTION #2024-11**

**WISCONSIN ASSESSMENT MONIES (WAM) PROGRAM APPLICATION**

A RESOLUTION authorizing application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) program for the property at 170 East Church Street ("Property") by the City of Evansville ("City").

WHEREAS, the City considers the Property to meet the definition of "brownfield" due to the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that hinders the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the environmental assessment of brownfields is an important part of protecting Wisconsin's resources; and

WHEREAS, a municipal resolution is required to apply for the WAM program; and

WHEREAS, the City will allow the DNR and its duly authorized representatives, agents or contractors access to inspect the Property and award records should the application be awarded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSVILLE:

**Section 1:** That an application may be submitted to the DNR for contractor services funding under the WAM program.

**Section 2:** That the City will comply with all state and federal rules and requirements of the WAM program.

**Section 3.** That the City Administrator is authorized to act on behalf of the City to submit an application to the DNR for contractor services funding under the WAM program, sign documents and take necessary action to comply with approved award activities.

Passed, approved, and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

By: Dianne C. Duggan, Mayor

Attest: Leah L. Hurlley, City Clerk

Introduced: 4/9/2024  
Approved: 4/9/2024

The Independent Register  
4/24/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
4/25/2024  
WNAXLP 454308

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Legals@rvpublishing.com  
425138

**Wisconsin Healthy Communities Summit coming soon to Madison**

The Wisconsin Bike Fed and Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation are partnering once again to host a one-day Wisconsin Healthy Communities Summit in Madison. Attendees will learn from world-changing thinkers and innovators in the outdoor recreation world about how we build and maintain healthy communities. The summit will be held on Monday, April 29 at UW-Madison's Memorial Union in the Great Hall.

This year's summit will feature experts from state agencies, speakers with industry insights, and the ability to attend hands-on learning sessions that get participants out of their seats and into action. Featured "topic tracks" will guide attendees through the programming at this year's summit, and include: Education Empowerment, Change-maker Inspiration, and Trail Development Toolbox. There will be multiple breakout sessions related to these topics and more, led by local and national experts.

"Outdoor recreation has always been part of Wisconsin's DNA," says Kirsten Finn, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Bike Fed. "Lately, there is a new energy in our state around creating great spaces to be outside: new mountain bike destinations, bike parks for kids, and miles added to our trail network to make active transportation safer and more fun. The Healthy Communities Summit will bring the people at the forefront of this work



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

**The Wisconsin Healthy Communities Summit is coming again to Madison and is sponsored by the Wisconsin Bike Fed and the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation.**

together to share best practices and provide inspiration. It is our hope that attendees from across the state who participate in this full day of presentations, roundtable discussions, and active workshops will take that energy home to their communities."

"One of the Office's strengths," explains Cassie Mordini, Director of the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, "is making cross-sector connections. In 2022, we partnered with the Wisconsin Bike Fed to bring this event to life, drawing attention to the nexus of health, outdoor recreation and economic vitality. We're thrilled to co-host a second edition and are confident the lessons learned and

connections forged at the Summit can lead to lasting change. Together, we'll create healthy communities through expanded and improved outdoor recreation opportunities and drive our economy forward."

Both organizations welcome nationally-recognized speakers Jessie Singer and Jonathon Stalls:

• Jessie Singer is a journalist, keynote speaker, and author of There Are No Accidents: The Deadly Rise of Injury and Disaster – Who Profits and Who Pays the Price, which is a Slate, Fortune Magazine, Mother Jones, and The Economist best book of the year. Her writing appears in the Washington Post, The Atlantic, The Nation, Bloomberg News, New York

magazine, The Guardian, and elsewhere. Jessie is an expert in safe systems, injury prevention, harm reduction, traffic safety, and the ongoing rise in "accidental" death.

• Jonathon Stalls is a multi-disciplinary walking artist who shares his work and stories through Intrinsic Paths, and is the author of WALK – Slow Down, Wake Up, and Connect at 1 to 3 Miles Per Hour with North Atlantic Books.

Tickets for guests to attend the 2024 Wisconsin Healthy Communities Summit are available through the event website. Questions regarding the Summit may be directed to Wisconsin Bike Fed Government Affairs Manager Collin Mead at info@wisconsinbikfed.org.

**Ruth Foundation for the Arts announces special projects recipients**

The Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts) is pleased to announce the recipients of their inaugural Wisconsin Special Project grant, awarding \$950,000 in grants to visual and performing arts and arts education organizations, including Tribal Nations, across the state. The only open application grant at Ruth Arts, this grant is exclusively offered to organizations in Wisconsin with operating budgets under \$2 million.

Over 80 organizations from across the state applied with their ambitious project ideas. Adjudicated by a national panel of esteemed jurors, these 10 successful projects were awarded based on being timely and artist-initiated, their emphasis on public knowledge sharing and uplifting historically underrepresented communities, their commitment to equitable partnerships, and for encouraging creative change within this region.

This program aims to build a robust and equitable arts ecosystem by investing in projects that have long-term cultural and structural impact for their communities. The selected projects bring an expansive range of voices into the artistic discourse, engaging in cultural revitalization, accessibility initiatives, the diversification of craft, interdisciplinary artists-in-residence programs, and the commissioning of new performances. The program congratulates these organizations for contributing to a more complex and abundant understanding of the histories, lived experiences, and futures of this region.

**Academia Bembé Bembé Drum & Dance, Milwaukee**

Academia Bembé is a community-based, public, cultural arts academy that inspires music

and dance performance skills, intergenerational connection and cultural identity exploration through Afro-Latino musical culture.

**Bad River Ojibwe Artist in Residence Program**

**Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Odanah**

The Bad River Ojibwe Artist in Residence Program offers two Ojibwe artists an opportunity to share traditional artistic methods, and two Ojibwe artists an opportunity to share contemporary artistic methods, with the Bad River Ojibwe community, providing cultural enrichment across generations.

**Bizhiki: Unbound Chevelon Music, fiscally sponsored by Create Wisconsin, Eau Claire**

Featuring Dylan Bizhikiins Jennings (Bad River Ojibwe), Joe Rainey Sr. (Red Lake Ojibwe), S. Carey, and Finn Ryan, Bizhiki: Unbound will develop and tour a multidisciplinary music and video performance, engaging audiences throughout Wisconsin about contemporary Ojibwe culture.

**Cactus+ Accessibility Initiative Cactus Plus, Milwaukee**

The Cactus+ Accessibility Initiative centers those they haven't been able to serve or host, braiding infrastructure improvements into artist resourcing and community programming. Think: ramp to the front door, multimedia residency, an expansive understanding of accessibility, skill shares and beyond.

**Disability Theater – Expanding the Canon Pink Umbrella Theater Company, Milwaukee**

This multi-year initiative

will result in the creation of up to 20 new plays focusing on representation, community and a commitment to expanding the theater canon to include Disabled Actors and Artists on and off stage. Essentially, they are creating art that reflects the community.

**GEEEX Shorts GEEEX | Madison**

GEEEX continues Wisconsin's glass art history by broadening and redefining the medium's story through GEEEX Shorts – bite-sized videos of BIPOC and queer artists sharing their knowledge and creative practice – to expand a crucial archive and new paradigm of representation.

**Hmoob Zaj Dab Neeg aka The Hmong Story Hmong American Center, Wausau**

Hmoob Zaj Dab Neeg aka The Hmong Story aims to promote inclusivity within the SEA community by addressing cultural preservation. They will focus on preserving Hmong culture and language through programs, including language classes, traditional dance, and music lessons using cultural experts.

**LAB^4: A Community Curation Project Arts & Literature Laboratory, Madison**

Through LAB^4, interdisciplinary teams of artists, writers, performers, community advisors, and students will each develop eight weeks of cultural programming. Fostering intersectionality and welcoming diverse voices, this initiative restores the role of curators as caretakers.

**Wažook Hosto (Family Gathers)**

**Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls**

Wažook Hosto (Family Gathers), creates new artistic and cultural learning opportunities by offering seasonal arts and traditional skills workshops with Ho-Chunk community members and creates teaching resources that amplify Ho-Chunk ingenuity for multiple audiences.

**(W)here in the World Dance Festival Studio K Flamenco, Milwaukee**

The (W)here in the World Dance Festival invites choreographers from five unique world dance traditions both to present work and to collaborate across genres. Set for spring 2025, the festival presents both work that upholds cultural traditions and traverses those boundaries.

**About the foundation**

The Ruth Foundation for the Arts (Ruth Arts) is dedicated to meeting the evolving needs and lived experiences of artists, communities, and arts organizations whose work is anchored by visual arts, performing arts, and arts education. Ruth Arts honors our benefactor Ruth DeYoung Kohler II (1941–2020) with inventive approaches to philanthropy that are rooted in creativity, experimentation, and access. Ruth Arts currently supports a dynamic cultural landscape in three distinct ways: grant programs for organizations nominated via Artist Choice, continuing Kohler's personal giving through RDK legacy grants, and an invite-only initiatives program designed as multi-year thinking partnerships. The foundation will be opening a new project space in Milwaukee later this year, with the full program launching in fall of 2024.