

Beloit, Edgerton receive funding from tree grant.....	3
Applications for USDA ag grants due April 9	5
Gov. Evers signs worker's compensation bill	8

**GCMWSS
Postal
Customer
PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
The
Independent-
Register

Gov. Evers signs bill dedicating memorial highway in Orfordville

On March 25, Governor Tony Evers signed into law 2023 Act 215 which designates Highway 11 between Orfordville and Footville as the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway. After graduating from Parkview High School in 2009, Corporal Benjamin H. Neal joined the U.S. Army and was on his second deployment when he was killed in



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Rock Valley Publishing

U.S. Army photograph of Corporal Benjamin H. Neal.

Footville and Orfordville will display his name to honor his service and sacrifice.”

Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit):

“I thank Governor Evers for signing Act 215 here in Orfordville with Corporal Neal’s parents Don and Trisha and the Orfordville community. I am grateful to the bipartisan coalition of legislators and advocates who worked together to make today a reality. I would particularly like to thank Post Commander Kurt Stuvengen, the members of Wells-Davis-Young-Neal American Legion Post 209 in Orfordville, Bill Fitters and the American Legion Riders, and the American Legion Department of Wisconsin for their longtime and dedicated advocacy.”

Representative Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit):

“It was great to have Governor Evers in Orfordville to sign Act 215 into law. Renaming a section of Highway 11 after Corporal Benjamin Neal is long overdue. Corporal Neal paid the ultimate sac-

Representative Ellen Schutt (R-Canton):

“Corporal Benjamin H. Neal was a true American hero, giving up his life to serve his country. I am grateful that Highway 11 between



Governor Tony Evers signs 2023 Act 215, designating the Corporal Benjamin H. Neal Memorial Highway.

rice defending our country. His military honors include the Purple Heart, NATO Medal, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. I sincerely appreciate everyone who worked hard to get this done.”

Kurt Stuvengen, Post Commander of American Legion Post 209:

“It has been a long emotional road to get this accomplished. I watched Ben grow from a young boy to the warrior and hero he became. He is highly deserving to be remembered in this way by his fellow Wisconsinites. Regardless of how you feel about the military or their missions around the globe, ‘Remember the warrior if not the war.’”

Bill Fitters, Officer of the American Legion Riders of District 1:

“The American Legion

Riders of District 1 from Post 209 wanted to ensure that no one ever forgot Corporal

Benjamin H. Neal’s sacrifice for our country. For the Riders, seeing Ben’s name as we

are heading out or returning reminds us of the importance of our mission.”



Don Neal, father of Corporal Benjamin H. Neal, speaks at the signing ceremony for 2023 Act 215.



Bill Fitters, Officer of the American Legion Riders of District 1, speaks at the signing ceremony for 2023 Act 215.

STATELINE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
HUGE 3 DAY AUCTION!!
 101 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522 – Mike Powers (608) 214-5761
FRIDAY APRIL 19TH - SATURDAY APRIL 20TH - SUNDAY APRIL 21ST
Friday April 19th – LIVE & ONLINE - Large Equipment, Construction & Farm Equipment
Saturday April 20th – LIVE & ONLINE - Support Equipment
Sunday April 21st – ONLINE ONLY - Signs, Toys, Yard Art, & MORE!
ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS!!
 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM or By Appointment

Powers Auction Service
 110 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522
 Office: (608) 439-5761

Online Bidding Provided By
LIVE Equipmentfacts

451779

George Auction Service & Real Estate, LLC

Truck – Trailers – Camper Trailers – Truck Storage Boxes – Tools
 Snow Plows – Shop Equipment – Pallet Jack – Farm Related
 Lawn & Garden – Toys – Antiques & Collectibles – Household

JOHN & KATHLEEN WOODWORTH
 Tuesday, April 9 • 10 a.m.
 10428 West Hwy. 81, Beloit, WI 53511

DIRECTIONS: 8 miles west of Beloit or 9 miles east of Brodhead on Hwy. 81. Watch for George Auction signs. **LUNCH:** Steve’s Deli Dog House.
TRUCK: 1999 GMC 6500, Low Profile, 454, Automatic, w/12’ Aluminum Bed, (209,000 miles).
TRAILERS; TRUCK STORAGE BOXES; CAMPER TRAILERS; SNOW PLOWS; SHOP EQUIPMENT & TOOLS; POWER PALLET JACK; FARM RELATED; SPORTING GOODS; TOYS; LAWN & GARDEN; ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES; HOUSEHOLD.
TERMS: 5% buyer’s fee. Check or cash. 4% courtesy charge for purchases using credit card. All sales final. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents or losses.

Reg. WI Auctioneers: Dean George #486 (cell 608-751-5703), Kale George #2811 (608-882-6123)
 Reg. IL Auctioneer: Kale George #441002280
 11211 North Union Road, Evansville, WI 53536 • 608-882-6123
 For complete listing and photos log on to www.georgeauction.com

NRB to discuss land sale, rules, donations

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) will meet in-person for the April board meeting to consider several proposed rulemaking documents, a proposed land sale and donations.

The meeting will begin at

8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, originating from public meeting room G09, State Natural Resources Building (GEF2), 101 S. Webster Street, in Madison. The Board will act on items 1-4 and 7 as listed on the agenda.

The public is encouraged to watch the April board meeting on the DNR's YouTube channel.

Remote testimony from the public via Zoom may be accepted. In-person public appearances are also welcome.

During the April meeting, several items the Board will be considering include:

- Request that the Board approve the statement of scope for Board Order WM-18-23, and conditionally approve the public hearing notice for

Board Order number WM-18-23 and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 10 related to the Deer Management Assistance Program.

- Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order FH-03-24 (E) for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to Minocqua Chain walleye harvest regulations.
- Request approval of department recommendations for the FY 2025 Laboratory Accreditation Program Fee

Adjustment.

- Request approval of the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Plan 2024.

The complete April NRB meeting agenda is available on the DNR website.

In addition to being encouraged to watch the upcoming meeting, there are opportunities for the public to testify and to submit written comments about issues that come before the NRB. More information regarding public participation at Board meetings is available on the DNR website.

Police briefs

Spring hunter safety education courses

Sheriff Fell is pleased to announce that the Rock County Sheriff's Office will offer their first 2024 Hunter Safety Education Course on April 9, from 6 to 7 p.m., April 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and April 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Edgerton Conservation Club, 900 Stoughton Road, Edgerton. Students will need to attend all sessions to graduate.

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1973, is required to complete a Hunter Safety Education Course to legally hunt in Wisconsin. Students must be at least 12 years of age or turn 12 shortly after the class.

Registration is now open. Complete the online enrollment form to reserve a seat at <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/department/>

Officer involved death investigation update

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is investigating an officer involved death incident (OID) in Janesville, that occurred on the evening of Friday, March 1.

The Janesville Police Department responded to a 911 call regarding an armed subject in the 1200 block of N. Parker Street in the City of Janesville. When they arrived, officers made contact with Andrew Zigler, age 52. Zigler refused to exit the residence and there were two other subjects who were unable to safely exit the residence. Sergeant Jimmy Holford III, who has over 16 years of law enforcement service, discharged his weapon striking the armed subject. Zigler died on the scene due to his injuries. A firearm was located at the scene.

No law enforcement officers were physically injured, and no

Other individuals were physically injured during the incident.

Sergeant Holford is on administrative leave, per department policy.

The involved officer was wearing a body camera during the incident.

DCI is leading this investigation and are assisted by the Wisconsin State Patrol, a DCI Crime Response Specialist, and members of the DCI 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.

Board Order number WM-18-23 and notice of submittal of proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 10 related to the Deer Management Assistance Program.

Request that the Board approve the Statement of Scope for Emergency Board Order FH-03-24 (E) for proposed rules affecting chapter NR 20 related to Minocqua Chain walleye harvest regulations.

- Request approval of department recommendations for the FY 2025 Laboratory Accreditation Program Fee

News briefs

Pancake breakfast for Footville Fire and EMS

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

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

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

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

Rock County has open plots for garden season

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

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

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

BTC student nurses hosting blood drive

Blackhawk Technical College's Student Nurses Association is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 9, in partnership with the American Red Cross. Blood donors can schedule a time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at redcross.org. The drive will be held in Blackhawk's Conference Center at 6004 S. County Road G, Janesville.

Stepping On program reduces risk for falls

One in four people aged 65 and older has a fall each year. The ADRC of Rock County/Aging Unit, in partnership with Mercy Health System of Janesville, is pleased to offer Stepping On, a falls prevention workshop for adults ages 60+, from April 18 to May 30.

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

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

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

Elder benefit specialist schedule for ADRC

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

- Monday, April 8, 11 a.m. to noon, Janesville Senior Center
- Tuesday, April 9, 11 a.m. to noon, Clinton Senior Center
- Thursday, April 11, noon to 4 p.m., Grinnell Senior Center
- Wednesday, April 17, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Edgerton Library, and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Elm Drive Apartments
- Tuesday, April 23, 11 a.m. to noon, The Gathering Place in Milton
- Wednesday, April 24, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Riverview Heights Apartments in Janesville
- Thursday, April 25, 8 a.m. to noon, Grinnell Senior Center.

Beloit area looking for retired teachers

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

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

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

Best of the Best
AT YOUR SERVICE!

LOCAL BUSINESSES YOU KNOW & TRUST!
Potential to reach over 12,000 weekly readers!
Available everywhere - 24/7 - online at www.indreg.com

To be included in this section call 608-558-1909 or email ads2@indreg.com

The Station

Orfordville

On the corner of Hwy 11 & 213
616 W. Beloit St., Orfordville, WI • 608-879-3238

- Quality Customer Service
- Hot Food
- Fresh Baked Goods
- Beer & Liquor

- One Stop Shop
- Seasonal Apparel
- Call or stop in to place cookie orders

Find us on Facebook: The Station Orfordville 448355

Ryan Farm Quarries
608-289-2891
WHOLESALE & RETAIL LIMESTONE
3/4", 1 1/2", 3" Breaker Rock
421476

Don't Forget...
Our deadline is
FRIDAY at Noon!

Murray's Auto Salvage, Inc.

Buy Junked & Wrecked Vehicles • Sell Used Parts

Open: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,
Closed Sundays and Holidays

6821 S. Nelson Road, Brodhead, WI
608-879-2525

430183

Brodhead Dental Clinic

Dr. Dan Branson DDS
dentist.brodhead@outlook.com

436165

Phone: (608) 897-8645
www.brodheaddental.com

702 23rd St.
Brodhead, WI 53520
Mon. & Wed. 8am-5pm • Tues. 8am-6pm • Thurs. 8am-3pm • Closed Fri.

BODY CRAFTERS
AUTO BODY REPAIR INC.

Brodhead, WI • Across from Subway

When you need body work call us first.
608-897-8447

425221

SEAMLESS GUTTERS
Since 1986

UNLIMITED

NOW OFFERING SEAMLESS CUSTOM-MADE, ON SITE, METAL STANDING SEAM ROOFING AND SEAMLESS GUTTERS

FREE ESTIMATES

www.sgullc.com

New Glarus, WI • 608-527-5699

421390

Broadband Internet

LiteWire

Do You Live in the Country?
Get Rural High-Speed Internet Service:

- No Phone Line Required!
- Local Technical Support!
- No Monthly Data Limits!

For more info call toll free 888-825-2005 or visit us at
565 E. Main St, Evansville, or on the web at WWW.LITEWIRE.NET

392333

Beloit, Edgerton receive funding from tree grant

12 communities receive grants to plant nearly 500 trees across state

Alliant Energy named 12 Wisconsin communities, including Beloit, Edgerton and Poynette, to receive grants totaling nearly \$60,000 from the Alliant Energy Foundation's Community Tree Planting program, part of the One Million Trees initiative.

"Our commitment to improving the environment and supporting the communities we serve is unwavering," said David de Leon, president of Alliant Energy's Wisconsin energy company. "The Community Tree Planting program grants awarded will help these Wisconsin communities achieve tree restoration goals, improve energy efficiency and provide environmental benefits for generations to come."

Alliant Energy partners with Trees Forever to help communities develop, select and plant a diverse mix of trees. A tree expert helps communities select the best species for their areas and create care and maintenance plans to make sure the new trees have long, healthy lives.

"Our partnership with Alliant Energy is bringing new tree planting opportunities to communities across the state of Wisconsin," said Deb Powers, Trees Forever interim CEO. "Trees provide so many benefits to these towns and that's reflected in the energy and excitement of the volunteer

groups to partner with Trees Forever and Alliant Energy."

Across Wisconsin, communities are eligible to apply for grants up to \$5,000 to fund new trees.

Below is a list of the communities awarded grants this year and their project plans. Some communities will begin to plant trees this spring, while others will wait until fall.

- Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo, \$5,000; Arbor Day planting at the campgrounds, shelter houses and picnic areas with volunteers.

- Town of Beloit, \$5,000; Community tree planting around public buildings and city parks.

- City of Berlin, \$5,000; Community tree planting in city parks with volunteers from Friends of the Park.

- City of Boscobel, \$4,476.54; Community tree planting in Kronshage Park with local volunteers.

- City of Edgerton, \$5,000; Community tree planting with volunteers at Racetrack Park and the ball diamond.

- City of Fitchburg, \$5,000; Planting trees throughout Fitchburg parks.

- City of Milton, \$5,000; Community tree planting with volunteers from local schools at the City Park, library and public works building.

- Village of Poynette, \$5,000; Community tree plant-

ing with student volunteers at the school and in the City Park.

- City of Ripon, \$4,989; Community tree planting in four town parks.

- City of Sheboygan \$5,000; County Park tree planting with volunteers.

- Village of Vesper, \$4,985.14; Community tree planting in Vesper City Park.

- Windsor-Token Creek Conservancy in Windsor; \$5,000, Arbor Day planting with volunteers to replace ash trees removed due to the emerald ash borer at Old Mill Site.

To learn more about Alliant Energy's Community Tree Planting program, visit alliantenergy.com/onemilliontrees.

Trees Forever is a nonprofit charitable organization headquartered in Marion, Iowa. Its mission – to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship – is fulfilled through cutting-edge programs and innovative practices. Trained and experienced staff have assisted community leaders and landowners across Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and beyond with thousands of planting projects. Each year, on average, Trees Forever works with and engages more than 7,000 volunteers who give generously of their time and talents. To date, they've helped plant more than 3 million trees.

Blackhawk Dean Greg Phillips honored as educator of the year

The Milton Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Greg Phillips, Blackhawk Dean of Manufacturing, Apprenticeship, Training and Technology (MATT), as Educator of the Year on Thursday during the chamber's annual dinner and awards event.

As the Dean of Blackhawk's MATT Division, Phillips has been a driving force behind forging vital partnerships between industry, community and K-12 institutions. His efforts have ensured the alignment and provision of crucial training and educational resources essential for workforce development.

Phillips's leadership played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Stateline Manufacturing Alliance (SMA), a collaborative initiative aimed at addressing talent pipeline development needs within the manufacturing sector. Under his guidance, the SMA has facilitated programs like the Accelerated Industrial Maintenance (AIM) program, providing paid summer training opportunities for participants and exposing them to manufacturing careers.

Phillips's commitment to community engagement is evident through his involvement in events like the Milton Maker Market where he and his team were part of the planning team and offered hands-

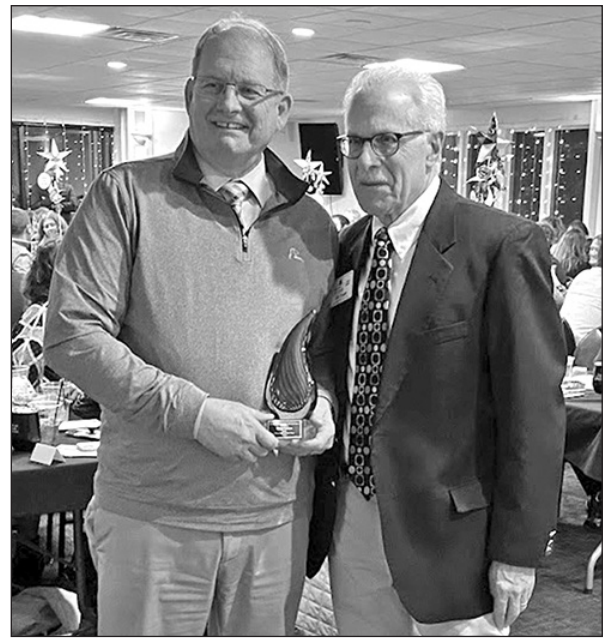


PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

Greg Phillips, left, is pictured with Milton Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Jon Cruzan.

on activities at the event, including welding and robotics. Phillips also does volunteer work at Milton High School for the Academic Career Planning presentations.

"I am humbled and honored to receive the Educator of the Year Award," said Phillips. "It has been a privilege to serve the Milton community and work alongside dedicated partners and colleagues. I look forward to continuing our efforts in advancing education and workforce development."

Upon graduation from Parker High School, Phillips joined the Marine Corps, training in diesel and gasoline engine

troubleshooting and repair. He then worked at Simmons Bedding Company as a maintenance technician before becoming a construction electrical apprentice instructor for Blackhawk in 2010. In July 2020, Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk, appointed Phillips as the Dean of the MATT Division.

"Greg Phillips embodies the spirit of dedication and leadership in education," said Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk. "His pursuit of excellence in all that he does and his commitment to partnership-building make him a deserving recipient of this award."

Farmer-driven project opportunities open up through USDA grant

Farmers throughout the Upper Midwest will have an opportunity to participate in a multi-year climate-smart sustainability program that uses data to inform new farming practices and potentially generate added value for the food the farms produce.

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative and partner Farmers for Sustainable Food announced that the groups today will begin accepting farmer enrollment in the program, called the Farmers for Sustainable Food Climate-Smart Project. The announcement comes at the culmination of recent on-farm pilot testing of the program and after years of the organizations helping farmers successfully establish on-farm environmental sustainability projects and working collectively in local farmer-led watershed conservation groups.

Projects in the program, with initial funding from a U.S. Department of Agriculture Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grant, are grounded in FSF's Framework for Farm-Level Sustainability Projects, a nationally recognized, proven model. The grant will allow for farmers to receive a stipend as an added incentive.

"We are excited to present this opportunity to more farmers and organizations as we continue to roll out our sustainability efforts," Tim Trotter, CEO of Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, said. "We have developed a program we believe gives our farmers a competitive advantage. Much like the work we have accomplished over the years with farmer-led conservation groups, this program is farmer-driven. That is so very important."

Farmers can enroll in the FSF program through one of three channels:

- Member of Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
- Membership in a local farmer-led watershed group that participates in FSF
- Dairy processor or another organization-led project

Financial compensation is based on the farm's participation level:

- Contributor: Participants complete a simple greenhouse gas and carbon assessment based on current on-farm practices. No additional requirements. Contributors receive \$1,500 per year of participation.

- Cultivator: Participants take a deeper dive into their farm data through more in-depth assessments of farming practices using tools such as the Fieldprint Platform, COM-ET-Farm or other approved assessment tools. Cultivators receive an additional \$3,000 for a total of \$4,500 per year.

- Collaborator: Farmers who help connect the supply chain by sharing data with downstream partners, such as processors, to help generate added value for commodities. Collaborators receive an additional \$4,500 for a total of \$9,000 per year.

Two pilot projects in the program were launched earlier this year. The first farmer payment was issued in early 2024.

"Our programs differentiate from many others because we are not requiring farmers to implement any specific practices," Lauren Brey, FSF's managing director, said. "Rather, we let the farmers determine the critical environmental concerns in their area and then, by using technical tools and resources

available through our program, they can evaluate the impact their changes are making. Our program goal is to help farmers learn to use tools to make management decisions that are right for their farm when incorporating new sustainability practices."

FSF is partnering with Hous-ton Engineering Inc. to provide technical data assistance to farmers.

Brey said the program takes farmer involvement to the next level by incorporating other entities in the supply chain, including dairy processors. Those processors have the opportunity to spearhead projects through the program. Likewise, FSF and Edge will support farmers in sharing their outcomes with processors to help realize value at the end-user stage.

"We are fortunate to have an established membership and board of directors, from across the value chain, already engaged with FSF since our inception in 2016," Brey said. "These individuals have been instrumental in developing this program to ensure that the work being done on the farm has value downstream in the supply chain. We see this as a true added value to those who enroll in our program."

Trotter said he is encouraged by the initial interest and participation in the program.

"This is another leg of our progressive, impactful and measurable sustainability journey," he said. "We look forward to continuing to expand our work in this important area."

Enrollment: Farmers interested in enrolling should send an email to climate-smart@voiceofmilk.com.

Share your strength: Give blood or platelets with the Red Cross

This spring, the American Red Cross asks donors to help defend the blood supply by giving blood or platelets now to combat a monstrous fact: only 3 out of 100 people donate blood. That's why the Red Cross is teaming up with Warner Bros. Pictures and Legendary Pictures to celebrate the epic new film, *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*, and inviting donors to rise together and give blood. When donors share their strength by coming to give before April 7, they'll get an exclusive *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* and Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

In recent weeks, the Red Cross has seen an encouraging increase in the blood supply, but blood and platelet donation appointments remain vital this month. People of all blood types – especially those with type O blood – are critical to ensuring hospital shelves can be replenished as soon as possible.

To book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Additionally, all who come to give April 8 to 28 will get a \$10 e-gift card to a mer-

chant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. Visit the website online at RedCrossBlood.org/Spring for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Dane County Stoughton

- Thursday, April 4: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Stoughton High School, 600 Lincoln Ave.

Verona

- Monday, April 8: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wisconsin Brewing Company, 1079 American Way
- Saturday, April 20: 8 a.m. to noon, St. James Lutheran Church, 427 S. Main St.

Green County Brodhead

- Tuesday, April 16: Noon to 5 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Ave.

Monroe

- Thursday, April 18: Noon to 6 p.m., Monroe Bible Church, 2613 8th Ave.

Rock County Edgerton

- Wednesday, April 17: 1 to 6 p.m., Edgerton Public Library, 101 Albion St.

Janesville

- Thursday, April 4: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., United Alloy Inc Janesville, 4100 Kennedy Road
- Tuesday, April 9: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Blackhawk Technical College, 6004 S. Cty Rd G

- Monday, April 15: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Janesville Masonic Center, 2322 E. Milwaukee St.

- Monday, April 15: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Marian Hall, 1236 E. Racine St.

- Tuesday, April 16: 1 to 6 p.m., Marian Hall, 1236 E. Racine St.

- Wednesday, April 17: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., PremierBank, 1400 Black Bridge Road

Milton

- Friday, April 16: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Parker YMCA, 1360 N. Parkview Dr.

ADAMS

Since 1941

• Roofing • Siding
• Insulation

800-887-3385

Janesville, WI

BURLINGTON SHOES
QUALITY FOOTWEAR FOR YOU

Summer Shoes and Sandals

Arriving Daily!

1013 16th Avenue
Monroe, WI

608-325-4464
Hours: M-T 10-5; F 10-6, Sat 10-4

Spreitzer goes to the White House



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

On March 17, Sen. Mark Spreitzer (left) joined President Joe Biden for a St. Patrick's Day celebration at the White House with Sen. Dianne Hesselbein (right). They were proud to help welcome the Taoiseach of Ireland, Leo Varadkar, and other Irish leaders to Washington D.C.

JPAC hosts tales of our heritage

"Tales of our Heritage," a multi-media stage show about the people and history of Rock County, will be at the Janesville Performing Arts Center between April 12 and 14.

"Tales of our Heritage," a locally written onstage documentary, tells the stories of seven diverse groups that have made Rock County home.

The 90-minute show on the Janesville Performing Arts Center's main stage moves quickly from narrated stories to video interviews, songs, skits and dances, starting with the story of the original, native inhabitants and continuing through the Asian immigrants of the 21st century.

The show is set for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at the Janesville Performing Arts Center at 408 S. Main St.

The tickets are \$12. Tickets can be purchased online at www.janesvillepac.org, in person at the JPAC Box Office at 408 S. Main St., or by calling 608-758-0297.

The stories include:

- The Native Americans

who have lived on the land for thousands of years.

- The original Yankee settlers who came from the Northeast to settle in Rock County.

- Two examples from European immigration in the late 19th century, which transformed the whole country.

- The Great Migration of the 20th century, when 6 million Black people left the persecutions of the Jim Crow South to seek better lives in the North, including Beloit.

- The Latino immigration to this area in recent decades.

- The Asians, who came from diverse cultures to make

their homes here.

The show is the fifth in the "Tales of..." series at the Janesville Performing Arts Center, which have included Tales of Old Marshall, Tales of Downtown, Tales of our Farms, and last year's Tales of Adventure.

"Tales of Our Heritage" was written and produced through the collaborative efforts of Teresa Nguyen of Janesville Area Stories, Alan Luckett of JATV Media Services, the JPAC production team and retired journalist Frank Schultz. It is directed by Steve Saliby with choreography by Callie Schouten.

Hotovy receives young physician leadership award

The Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation will recognize Sarah Hotovy, MD, with the Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD, Young Physician Leadership Award during its annual Health and Harmony event in Madison on April 5. The Viste Award is presented each year to a young physician who demonstrates commitment to patients, the medical profession and the community.



Sarah Hotovy

Dr. Hotovy is a family medicine and prenatal care physician with Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire. She is a well-respected physician recognized for her leadership, advocacy and professionalism as an outstanding young physician. She is a caring community member who promotes health education and professional policy advancement. Dr. Hotovy received multiple nominations that noted her advocacy leadership at the local, state and national level.

"We are extremely proud to see Dr. Sarah Hotovy honored with the prestigious 2024 Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD, Young Physician Leadership Award," says Richard Helmers, MD, regional vice president of Mayo Clinic Health System in Northwest Wisconsin. "As a former resident physician in the Mayo Clinic Family Medicine Residency in Eau Claire, and now a permanent member of our Family Medicine staff, Dr. Hotovy's dedication to patient care exemplifies the qualities we seek in our young physician leaders. Her passion, expertise and compassionate approach set an excellent example of living out Mayo Clinic's primary value, 'The needs of the patient come first.'"

Dr. Hotovy, upon learning of her award commented, "I am truly humbled and honored by

this recognition. I pursued a career in medicine because I was inspired by physicians like Dr. Viste, who demonstrated the importance of both delivering

compassionate care to their patients and advocating on their behalf." Dr. Hotovy added, "As physicians, we are uniquely positioned to be forces of positive change for the betterment of the populations we serve; it is a privilege I do not take for granted. I am grateful for the countless mentors in my life who model the selfless servant leadership it takes to achieve the transformation that our health care system needs and our patients deserve."

In addition to presenting an engraved award to Dr. Hotovy, the Foundation will contribute a donation in her honor to the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic, whose mission is to provide quality health care and advocacy for those in their community who have no reasonable health care alternative. "The Chippewa Valley Free Clinic appreciates the donation and recognition as a result of Dr. Sarah Hotovy's Leadership Award," stated Maribeth Woodford, Chippewa Valley Free Clinic Executive Director. "This generous gift will be used to fund patient services and medications ensuring access to health care for uninsured, low-income families in western Wisconsin."

The Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation, chartered in 1955 as a charitable organization, works to advance the health of the people of Wisconsin by supporting medical education and public health initiatives across the state.

The Wisconsin Medical Society is the largest association of medical doctors in the state and a trusted source for health policy leadership since 1841.

Tickets available for Beloit fundraiser during Packers' tailgate tour

Current players and alumni to participate in event program, Q&A

A limited number of tickets remain available for the Green Bay Packers Tailgate Tour visit in Beloit on Wednesday, April 10, which will raise funds for NeighborWorks Blackhawk Region in Beloit.

The fundraising event will be hosted at the Eclipse Center, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and will include food, activities, a live auction and a Q&A session with the Packers. General admission tickets are \$75 and limited to the first 300 fans. For more information about the event and to purchase tickets, visit nwblackhawkregion.org/gbp-tour/.

The proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit NeighborWorks Blackhawk Region in Beloit, a nonprofit that helps promote and preserve

home ownership and helps those in need gain access to housing resources. They also build and renovate homes, offer down payment assistance, provide foreclosure assistance and counsel new homeowners.

As a reminder to fans, this year's fan-favorite Tailgate Tour will return in the same "road trip" format as last year, stopping at a variety of locations and appearing at nonprofit fundraising events each day. To allow for further opportunities for players and alumni to interact with more fans while raising money for the nonprofits, fans should note that there will once again be no formal autograph sessions.

The annual Packers Tailgate Tour, set for April 9 to

13, will travel from Green Bay to Southern Wisconsin to visit with fans and thank them in person for their support, stopping in Kenosha on April 9, Beloit on April 10, Platteville on April 11 and Sun Prairie on April 12 before returning to Green Bay on April 13, with a variety of surprise and planned visits to be held in each area.

The event will feature current and alumni Packers players, with current players Elgton Jenkins, Kenny Clark and Rasheed Walker and alumni players Bryan Bulaga, Mike Daniels and Alex Green scheduled to board the bus, along with Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy.

In addition to the Beloit stop, the tour will visit the below ticketed events:

- The Shalom Center in Kenosha will be hosting a fundraising event at The Club at Strawberry Creek on Tuesday, April 9, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The annual celebration event will include hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, live music, a silent auction, raffles and more. Tickets are \$100 each and are available at shalomcenter.org/events. All proceeds will benefit the center's ongoing food, shelter and community resource programs.

- Platteville Dairy Days will be hosting a fundraising event at Broske Center on Thursday, April 11, from 5 until 8 p.m. featuring a Mac and Cheese Cook-Off. General admission tickets are \$25 each and will include participation in Dairy-Oke, music and a Q&A session with the Packers. General admission tickets are available at dairydaysmacandcheese2024.eventbrite.com. Raffles, food and beverages require additional purchases.

- Sunshine Place will be hosting a fundraising event at The Pavilion at Angell Park on Friday, April 12, from 5 to 9:30 p.m. The evening will include a Q&A with the Packers, food and drink, live music, a live and silent auction and more. Tickets for the event are \$100 per person, with only 250 available in total. More info and tickets are available at sunshineplace.org/tailgate/.

The tour will take place aboard a customized Green Bay Packers-themed motor coach. In addition to stopping in the designated locations and cities, tour celebrities will make surprise stops along the way as the schedule allows.

Gamblers Anonymous coming soon to Beloit

The First Congregational Church of Beloit at 801 Bushnell is planning to hold Gamblers Anonymous meetings on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

There had been no Gamblers Anonymous meeting between Rockton and Janesville.

Gamblers Anonymous (GA) is open to all those who either know they have problems associated with compulsive gambling or who wish to understand and stop compulsive gambling patterns. There is currently no GA meeting in Beloit, so this new group will offer an avenue to regain a sense of control over gambling that may be causing problems in a person's life.

In the past a person would have to travel to casinos or off-track betting facilities to engage in gambling. Now it's likely that many can find gaming machines in every gas station, bar,

or restaurant, and gambling parlors on seemingly every corner of a community. On-line and phone gambling has proliferated. There is hardly an hour of television that goes by without advertisement of on-line betting by simply picking up a phone. An October 2023 article from the Harvard Medical School estimates that internet/on-line gaming is a \$9.5 billion dollar industry at this time. It's estimated that approximately 1% (2 million) Americans have a severe gambling problem, and another 2 to 3% (4 to 6 million people) have mild or moderate issues with gambling.

What questions should one be asking about their gambling patterns?

- 1) Do I experience restlessness, anxiety, or irritability when trying to control my gambling?;
- 2) Do I hide my gambling

losses from family or friends?;

- 3) Have my losses affected money available to my household or life goals?

Information is cited from Debi LaPlante, director of the Division on Addiction at Harvard-affiliated Cambridge Health Alliance.

Gamblers Anonymous is based on the traditional Alcoholics Anonymous 12-Step program of recovery. The 12-Step recovery model covers nearly any type of addiction and has been the most effective peer led program for regaining control over issues of addiction. It is a self-help program of individuals who have similar issues and want to offer their support in change.

For more information contact Mike H. at 815-608-2619 or Pastor Dan Herman at 815-540-4558.

NEW OWNERSHIP, SAME GREAT STAFF!

Hours M-F 8am-5pm

451800

SERVICE (608) 897-4889 DETAILING

- Foreign & Domestic
- Vehicle Repairs
- Sched. Maintenance
- We Do Diesels!
- Interiors / Exteriors
- Headlight Restorations
- Ceramic Coating
- Utility Vehicles / Boats

Courtesy Car & Shuttle

W896 Ten Eyck Rd. Brodhead, Wisconsin 53520

451832

M6 Painting & Wallcovering

House Painting - Interior - Exterior - Wallcovering - Quality Assured

Samuel Martinez • Lena, IL • 608-214-4662

smartinez@m6paintingwallcovering.com

Scan the QR code to see our Facebook page!

BELVIDERE COLLECTIBLE COINS

NEED CASH? Turn your Gold and Silver into CASH!

10% MORE for jewelry with this ad!

Gold • Silver • Jewelry • Coins Flatware • Diamonds • Sterling

BUYING ALL: U.S. Rare Coins • World Coins • Proof Sets • Mint Sets • BU Rolls • Gold • Silver • Platinum • Dental Gold • Jewelry • Sterling Silver • Scrap Gold Bullion • Currency • Pocket Watches • Diamonds • .999 Fine Silver/Gold Plate Costume Jewelry • Silverware • Foreign Exchange

815.547.7111 | www.GoldSilverJewelryCoin.com

880 Belvidere Rd. (Logan Square), Belvidere, IL • bcoins80@yahoo.com

M-F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Applications for USDA ag grants due April 9

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for grants to support urban agriculture and innovative production. Applications for USDA's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grants are due April 9, via grants.gov.

"This grant program has proven very popular and impactful in recent years, and we look forward to partnering with more communities nationwide to strengthen local food systems and increase access to healthy foods," said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which leads USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). "These projects will add to the important work communities are doing to build food security in underserved areas."

Since 2020, UAIP grants have invested more than \$46.8 million in 186 projects across the country, and they're part of USDA's broad support for urban and innovative producers. UAIP grants are available to a wide range of individuals and entities, including local and Tribal governments, nonprofits, and schools. OUAIP provides grants for two types of projects, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects.

Planning Projects

Planning Projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers and the development of plans related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

For example, the May James Urban Agriculture Park Planning project in Charlotte, N.C. will address significant issues including food deserts, socio-economic disparities, physical inactivity and nutrition-related health problems by planning an urban agriculture park in an underserved area. In Flagstaff, Ariz. the County of Coconino and partners will develop, implement, and refine a model for community and culturally connected agriculture education to increase engagement in the local food system and increase food security for resident populations in need.

Implementation Projects

Implementation Projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve farmers and communities. Projects may improve local food access, include collaboration with partner organizations, and support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, and educational endeavors. For example, Flint River Fresh in Albany, Ga. will bring fresh, healthy food directly to the community and guide residents to self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship through urban agriculture including a new hydroponic greenhouse, a grocery space in a low food-access location and expanded outreach and educational opportunities. Grow It Forward in Manitowoc, Wis. will increase food production and improve access to local healthy food, establish an urban agriculture training program, and expand the capacity of the existing hydroponic farm, community garden, and greenhouse.

More Information

OUAIP was established

through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. Other efforts include:

- Administering the People's Garden Initiative, which celebrates collaborative gardens across the country and worldwide that benefit their communities by growing fresh, healthy food and supporting resilient, local food systems using sustainable practices and providing greenspace.
- Creating and managing a Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production to advise the Secretary on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban agriculture.
- Providing cooperative agreements that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.
- Investing in risk management education to broaden reach of crop insurance among urban and innovative producers.
- Organizing 27 FSA urban county committees to make important decisions about how FSA farm programs are administered locally. Urban farmers who participate in USDA programs in the areas selected are encouraged to participate by nominating and voting for county committee members.
- Establishing 17 new Urban Service Centers staffed by FSA and NRCS employees where urban producers can access farm loan, conservation, disaster assistance and risk management programs.
- Partnering with the Vermont Law and Graduate

School Center for Agriculture and Food Systems to develop resources that help growers understand and

work through local policies. Learn more at usda.gov/urban. For additional resources available to pro-

ducers, download the Urban Agriculture at a Glance brochure or visit farmers.gov/urban.

DNR: Share turkey season with family and friends this spring

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages hunters to invite friends and family members to join the hunt this spring turkey hunting season.

Turkey hunting in Wisconsin is a wildlife management success story. Once absent from the state, turkey populations are stable after increasing steadily for decades. Because of this, Wisconsin offers more than 245,000 spring turkey harvest authorizations in all seven time periods of the season, along with bonus harvest authorizations.

Hunting in Wisconsin provides a meaningful connection to wildlife and the outdoors. Many hunters enjoy that turkey hunting connects them directly to a food source. Spending a day in the woods during the season provides an excellent opportunity to view Wisconsin's wildlife and understand and appreciate the hunters' passion for pursuing the wild turkey. Taking a friend or family member along on your hunt, even if just to watch the process, is a great way to help get a new hunter interested in the sport.

Knowing turkey hunting techniques, season dates, regulations and safety standards can help foster safe practices while enjoying Wisconsin's wild places this spring.



PHOTO COURTESY ISTOCK/ROBERT WINKLER Rock Valley Publishing

The DNR encourages hunters to share their turkey hunting experience with friends and family members this season.

If you plan to introduce someone to hunting, urge the importance of completing a hunter safety education class. Early spring is the ideal time to find local courses. New hunters can also participate in the Learn to Hunt Turkey program, which includes classroom portions focused on safety, scouting and biology and ends with a one-on-one mentored hunt.

If a new hunter is not able to complete a hunter safety course before the season, the Mentored Hunting program allows novices to hunt within arm's reach of a mentor. Mentors must be over the age of 18, hold a valid safety certificate or be exempt from needing one and have a valid hunting approval.

New hunters not participating in the DNR's Mentored Hunting program will need to complete a hunter safety education class before heading to the field alone.

The DNR has a variety of resources for new and returning turkey hunters:

- Read about turkey hunting season dates, regulations and more at the DNR's Turkey Hunting and Management webpage.
- Check out the Turkey Hunting Access Program.
- See what licenses are required for turkey hunting.
- Find out what remaining turkey harvest authorizations may be available for the 2024 spring turkey seasons.

Learn more about turkey hunting in Wisconsin on the DNR webpage.

DNR: Keep wildlife wild with these tips on baby animals

As warmer spring weather approaches, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds the public that wild animals and their young will be on the move across Wisconsin.

Knowing what to do before finding a baby wild animal can make all the difference to protect its health and keep wildlife wild.

"During the springtime, we receive many inquiries from concerned residents about baby wild animals. Never try to care for a wild animal yourself. If you find a wild animal that appears sick or injured, leave it alone. Do not provide food or water, as improper care and handling may put the health of both animals and people at risk," said Jenna Fastner, DNR Captive Wildlife Health Specialist. "Additionally, people should remember that it is against the law in Wisconsin to possess a wild animal without the proper license."

With most species, it is perfectly natural for mothers to leave their young alone for long periods of time. While alone, young animals will often lie quietly and still to avoid attracting predators. Drawing attention to a baby animal's location can tip-off predators or keep its mother away longer than she would like. You can help by keeping people and pets away from the area. If you have interested children, they can learn to keep wildlife wild by observing from a safe dis-



PHOTO COURTESY ISTOCK/LAVIN PHOTOGRAPHY Rock Valley Publishing

Never try to care for a wild animal yourself. If you find a wild animal that appears sick or injured, leave it alone and keep children and pets away to reduce stress on the animal.

tance. Young wild animals will often wander on their own as they grow. If you find a seemingly healthy young animal wandering away from its nest/den or mother, watch from a distance to see if it returns to the den or if its mother retrieves it. It is important to note that this process could take several hours. Always contact the DNR or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for advice before intervening. Visit the DNR's Keep Wildlife Wild webpage for spe-

cies-specific tips on how to decide if a young wild animal is truly orphaned or in need of help.

Helping Sick or Injured Wild Animals

If you find a wild animal that appears sick or injured, leave it alone. Take pictures and make notes about what you're observing. Then, call the DNR or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for guidance. Visit the DNR website for a directory of rehabilitators in your area.

Clean Sweep 2024

for **HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS**



Rock County residents

Beloit - June 22
Janesville - August 24

NO LATEX PAINT
Harden and leave lids off

BRING - Mercury, pesticides, solvents, old fuel, pool chemicals, caustics, acids, more at www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/clean-sweep or call 754-6617 ext. 3	
DO NOT BRING - Latex paint, high-pressure cylinders, Freon gases, infectious & biological wastes, explosives (detonators, blasting caps), radioactive chemicals & devices, ammunition, electronics.	
Registration required in advance Space is limited! Sign up is FAST and EASY! Call 754-6617 ext. 3, M-F, 8 am - 4:30 pm Voicemail anytime 608-754-6617 ext. 3	Homes and farms - rates Businesses must use business program. Box = 12" x 18" x 10" or similar size
Open to all Rock County Residents:	Mercury from homes Call us
Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. City of Beloit Public Works 2351 Springbrook Ct, Beloit, WI 53511	One 5-quart pail of items \$5
Saturday, August 24, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Rock County Public Works 3715 Newville Rd, Janesville, WI 53545	Up to 2 boxes or 5-gallon buckets \$10 each
	3 boxes or 5-gallon buckets \$40
	More than 3 boxes or buckets (send inventory in advance) Call us!
	Crop or Livestock Chemicals
	First 200 lbs / 30 gallons (must send inventory in advance) FREE with inventory while funds available
	Over 200 lbs / 30 gallons (must send inventory in advance) Call us
	Fluorescent bulb/mercury lamp drop-off -- FREE Limit 5 total/vehicle. No incandescent or LED.

Businesses, schools, agencies
Do you produce less than 2,205 lbs of hazardous waste/year? FREE no-obligation quotes.
NO vendor mobilization fees! Up to 50% off ag chemical disposal while funds available.
Call 608-754-6617 ext. 4758 or see Business Section at www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/clean-sweep
Eligible businesses may use Dane County Business Clean Sweep year-round. Conditions apply.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
DANE COUNTY

TOWN OF SPRING
VALLEY

SHARI SMITH,
Plaintiff
and
GEICO GENERAL
INSURANCE COMPANY and
QUARTZ HEALTH BENEFIT
PLANS CORPORATION,
Involuntary Plaintiffs,

**Monthly Town Board Meeting
Tuesday April 16, 2024
Immediately following Annual
Meeting of the Electors
Orfordville Fire Station
Meeting Room
173 N Wright St.,
Orfordville WI**

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Verification of proper public notice
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Reports
 - A. Supervisors
 - B. Chairman
 - C. Other reports
7. Audience communication
8. Old business
 - A. Rock County Public Works
 - B. Road work
9. New business
 - A. Committee appointments
 - B. Open Book May 6th
9-11am/Board of Review
June 3, 11am-1pm
 - C. Hazard Mitigation
Resolution
10. Future agenda items
11. Payment of bills
12. Adjournment

Dela Ends, Clerk

Recycling drop-off
2nd Saturday of the month
Rock Co. Public Works Bldg.
Hwy 213
Orfordville 9am-noon.
www.townofspringvalley.com

The Independent Register
4/3/2024
WNAXLP 453523

TOWN OF SPRING
VALLEY

**Annual Meeting of the
Electors
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
at 6 PM
Orfordville Fire District
Meeting Room
173 N. Wright St.,
Orfordville, WI**

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
3. 2023 Financial Report
4. Old business
 - A. Historical Society
5. New business
 - A. Set date for 2024 Annual Meeting (4-15-25)
 - B. Elected officials salaries
 - C. Other items interest to electors
6. Adjournment

*Electors of the town vote on
Annual Meeting items as author-
ized in s.60.10 and s.60.11 WI
Statutes

Dela Ends, Clerk

Recycling drop-off
2nd Saturday of the month
Rock Co. Public Works Bldg.
Hwy 213
Orfordville 9am-noon.
www.townofspringvalley.com

The Independent Register
4/3, 4/10/2024
WNAXLP 453524

NOTICE

The Evansville Community School District is requesting proposals for the management of the District's food service operation for the 2024-2025 school year with the option to renew up to 4 additional one-year terms. All proposals must be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to Tom Parsons, Business Manager at 340 Fair St, Evansville, WI 53536 before 10 A.M. CST on May 7th, 2024. They should be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal. Late proposals will not be accepted and the District has the right to reject any proposal for a sound, documented reason. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. at the Evansville Community School District Board Conference Room, 340 Fair St., Evansville, WI 53536. Attendance is required. Submit questions, in writing to Tom Parsons via email: parsonst@evansville.k12.wi.us.

The Independent Register
4/3/2024
Evansville Examiner
4/4/2024
WNAXLP 453610

**Rock Valley Publishing
Can Publish Your Legals.**
Call 608-897-2193
Or email your legals to
legals@rvpublishing.com
425137

Homeless population edges back up in state

WISCONSIN POLICY FORUM

Wisconsin's homeless population increased in 2022 and again in 2023 after years of decline, according to recent counts reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In 2023, local agencies in Wisconsin reported 4,861 homeless individuals, a 1.8% increase from 4,775 the previous year.

The rise in homelessness likely was driven – at least initially – by the layoffs and economic hardships that accompanied the pandemic and, more recently, by rising housing costs that arrived in the wake of COVID-19. This trend reverses years of decreases in the reported homeless population, which fell from the 6,055 individuals registered in 2014 to 4,237 in 2021.

The decline in homeless rates during the 2010s followed the passage of the federal HEARTH Act of 2009, which reorganized programs that serve the homeless by changing their reporting requirements and how they are awarded funding. Though the advent of COVID-19 partially reversed these trends, federal pandemic relief funds have also sought to combat the rise in homelessness. Now this funding is coming to an end, providing another challenge for government agencies and community-based agencies that are charged with addressing homelessness.

Homeless Counts Made by Region

The data on numbers of homeless individuals come from annual point-in-time counts submitted to HUD by planning bodies in Wisconsin that coordinate and oversee the HUD-funded services provided to their region's homeless population. Wisconsin has four of these Continuum of Care (CoC) organizations that serve Milwaukee County, Dane County, Racine County, and the Balance of Wisconsin, which includes the state's remaining 69 counties.

The Balance of Wisconsin region had the largest homeless population of the four care organization regions with 40.8% of the individuals reported in 2023. It also maintains the largest collection of programs that serve homeless residents. Milwaukee County had 30.7% of the state's homeless individuals, while Dane and Racine counties had 24.0% and 4.5% respectively.

These point-in-time counts are made during the last week of January each year but are not published until late in the year. As a result, the latest data we could access reflect the counts made a little more than a year ago. They include unsheltered individuals and those in temporary housing programs such as emergency shelters on the night of the count. They do not include persons staying with friends or relatives or those participating in permanent housing programs. The point-in-time count is an underestimate of the true homeless population, but its consistent methodology allows for useful year-to-year comparisons of the problem.

The pre-pandemic decrease in the state's homeless population was driven by the two largest regions. The Balance of Wisconsin region

reported a net decrease of 629 individuals from 2014 to 2023, while the Milwaukee County Continuum of Care organization reported a decrease of 443 individuals in that same period. The Dane County care organization reported a small proportion of the state's decrease, 153 individuals, though it is significant for that county. The Racine County organization showed a net increase between 2014 and 2023, but its fluctuations between 150 and 250 individuals each year do not follow an overall trend.

Those with shelter and those without it

Public perceptions of homelessness often focus on those with no shelter, but during the winter in Wisconsin when the point-in-time counts are made, such individuals represent a relatively small part of the total.

In the HUD reports over the past decade, the number of reported unsheltered persons statewide has ranged between 200 and 460 with no apparent trend. During this time, their proportion of the state's homeless population ranged between 6% and 9%.

The majority of Wisconsin's point-in-time counts are individuals in temporary shelter programs, as defined by HUD's funding guidelines. Temporary shelter programs include: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven. Emergency Shelter programs are defined as arrangements that do not require a lease with stays that can be as brief as a few days. Transitional Housing programs offer a place to stay and supportive services so that individuals can secure permanent shelter.

Safe Haven programs are similar to Emergency Shelter programs but are focused on individuals with severe mental health issues. After 2009, HUD determined that it would not provide any new funding for Safe Haven programs.

The decrease in Wisconsin's homeless population from 2014 to 2021 was largely driven by individuals reported by Transitional Housing programs. In 2014, those programs reported 2,541 individuals, but by 2023 that number had decreased 68.6% to 797 individuals.

The reduction likely was driven by individuals formerly in such programs who either no longer sought aid or turned to unreported sources of aid such as permanent housing programs, friends, or relatives. Although permanent housing programs are not included in the point-in-time reports, we can get a sense of their impact by their reported available beds and the funding they receive from HUD.

Temporary to Permanent

The decrease in Wisconsin's homeless individuals coincides with a shift in the types of programs addressing homelessness. Following the federal HEARTH Act of 2009, there has been a move away from programs that provide temporary shelter towards those that immediately place individuals in permanent homes without prerequisites such as sobriety. This Housing First approach is based on the premise that a permanent dwelling helps a person focus on the issues that led to their housing in-

stability, such as substance use or unemployment. This differs from temporary housing, which is designed to be an intermediate step that allows individuals to address their challenges in advance of seeking permanent placement.

Over the last decade, housing facilities used by agencies and programs in the state to address homelessness have grown and shifted their focus from temporary to permanent placement. This development is reflected in reporting on the number of available beds. Since 2014, such facilities in Wisconsin saw a reduction of 2,120 temporary beds but an increase of 4,720 permanent beds. This produced a net increase of 2,600 beds of all types (27.1%) to 12,197.

The loss of temporary beds primarily occurred in Transitional Housing programs; the other two types of temporary programs remained relatively flat. In contrast, HUD's three permanent housing categories experienced significant increases in their number of beds. These three categories are: Rapid ReHousing, which quickly finds permanent shelter for individuals and families but limits services to 24 months; Permanent Supportive Housing, which is for participants with disabilities; and Other Permanent Housing. Each of these three categories increased by more than 1,000 beds in Wisconsin from 2014 to 2023. The steady increase in permanent beds indicates that while the number of unsheltered and temporarily sheltered individuals have decreased on the point-in-time reports, the demand for housing services has not.

The shift from temporary to permanent shelter programs in Wisconsin has been swifter than a similar change that occurred nationally. In 2014, 67.8% of beds for Wisconsin's homeless were in temporary shelter programs but by 2023, they represented only 35.9%. Nationally during that time period, the proportion of temporary beds declined from 55.0% to 40.4%. Wisconsin's change is in large part due to Milwaukee's aggressive and early adoption of the Housing First initiative in 2015.

Federal Funding shift Drove Change

The swing in program type was driven by HUD and the direction of its funding, which has grown significantly in the past decade both nationally and in Wisconsin. In 2013, programs addressing homelessness in Wisconsin received \$21.9 million from HUD, but by 2022 that figure had grown to \$32.4 million, an increase of 48.1% that nearly doubled the rate of inflation.

During this time, the distribution of funds also shifted. From 2013 to 2022, HUD awards to Transitional Housing programs in Wisconsin decreased from \$7.4 million to \$100,000. Simultaneously, HUD funding for Rapid Re-Housing programs grew from \$700,000 in 2013 to \$9.7 million in 2022. During this time, some Transitional Housing programs changed their services to offer Rapid Re-Housing instead.

Another key factor in the state's shift to permanent housing programs is Milwaukee County's Housing First Initiative, which was begun

in 2015. Based on a national model, the initiative has united the efforts of care partners and government agencies towards ending chronic homelessness through permanent housing programs. The county is devoting an estimated \$2 to \$3 million annually to this initiative using both HUD funding and local tax dollars.

COVID-19 brings hardship, Federal Aid

After falling for a number of years, homeless populations once again increased in both 2022 and 2023. Possible explanations include the impacts of inflation in general and the sharp rise in housing costs in particular. Anticipating the effect that the pandemic would have on housing challenges, federal officials directed large amounts of money to housing programs in stimulus legislation. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, for example, allotted \$3.96 billion to housing initiatives nationally and \$90 million to Wisconsin for programs such as emergency shelters and hotel vouchers.

Both local and state governments used federal aid to expand housing services. For example, in 2022 Milwaukee County used \$4.5 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund a Flexible Housing Spending Pool. In its 2021 Recovery plan, the city of Madison outlined how it would use \$15.3 million in pandemic aid for homelessness support and affordable housing initiatives. The state also used \$4 million of its ARPA money to fund the State Shelter Subsidy Grant Program.

However, these pandemic relief funds are now running out at a time when housing costs remain high, as a recent brief from the Forum showed. The median sale price of a home in Wisconsin grew 92.9% from \$147,750 in 2014 to \$285,000 in 2023, according to data from the Wisconsin Realtors Association. Likewise, the median monthly rent in Wisconsin rose from \$782 in 2017 to \$992 in 2022, an increase of 27.8%, U.S. Census Bureau figures show.

Conclusion

Wisconsin's homeless counts indicate that the number of homeless individuals decreased from 2014 to 2021 as permanent housing programs expanded. Now, as the homeless population has edged upward once again, officials may want to evaluate what further steps they can take to make renewed progress on this front. More up to date and accessible data might help them as they seek to evaluate past efforts and pursue new ones.

If permanent housing programs are found to be an effective tool in the current housing environment, then efforts should be considered to expand them further. However, such a step would mean overcoming the obstacles to increasing the supply of permanent housing options for low-income individuals and those with special needs. As we have noted in recent reports, addressing that challenge will not be easy, but its potential to reduce homelessness makes it an important task for policymakers.

NOTICE

The Brodhead Water & Light will be flushing hydrants the week of April 1st through April 12th, 2024

Starting North of the railroad tracks and moving South

If you notice any discoloration of your water, please run cold water for a few minutes to clear it up. If you have any questions or problems, please call Chris at 608-712-2982.

The Independent Register
4/3, 4/10/2024
WNAXLP 452963

**CITY OF BRODHEAD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Brodhead Board of Appeals on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Brodhead City Hall, 1111 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, to consider the following request for variance to the zoning/building codes:

Request by Greg Phillips for a variance to 204 10th St. The applicant is requesting to be able to exceed the maximum number of accessory buildings on a parcel. Legal description is: Original Plat Block 81 LOTS 1 & 2 EXC WEST 12.5 FT LOT 2; ALSO INCLUDING PORTION OF VACATED EAST 8TH AVE

All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard in relation thereto.

Kristin Covert, City Clerk
City of Brodhead

Posted: March 22, 2024
The Independent Register
3/27, 4/3/2024
WNAXLP 453183

Classifieds

AD DEADLINE:
Friday
at 4 pm

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

employment



for sale



rentals & real estate



automotive



services offered



help wanted

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Rock Valley Publishing is looking for a Part-Time Advertising Sales Executive. Approximately 20 hours per week.

We publish newspapers, shoppers, and niche publications throughout the stateline. You have the opportunity to sell into all Rock Valley Publishing. L.L.C. publications, making your paycheck much larger!

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

444841

For details on placing an ad in our
Classified Section
Call 608-897-2193

Privately Serving Green County for 100 Years
The Independent-Register

The Clinton Topper
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Find us online: indreg.com

422794

business & service

Home Improvement

JACK OF ALL TRADES.US Handyman-Honey-do list & repairs. Fruit tree trimming. 608-897-2410

Misc Services

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-948-3442

PREPARE FOR POWER outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-355-6955 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move

Tree Service

HAILE TREE SERVICE licensed and insured, aerial bucket and stump removal. 24 hr. emergency service. 608-879-9014

real estate

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



Time To
Sell Your
Home?

Call
608-897-2193
for details
on placing an ad

422792

for rent

Apartments

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

for sale

Announcements

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

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

Burial Needs

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

**FIND BARGAINS
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

transportation

Automobiles

1990 CADILLAC FLEETWOOD Coral. Florida car no rust. 1 owner. 45k miles. \$20,000. 262-379-4161.

2005 CHRYSLER LIMITED Mint condition mechanically & body. All records included. 140k miles \$13,000. 262-379-4161.

Automobiles Wanted

TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR FULL SIZE JUNK TRUCKS & SUV's. Haul away 7 days a week. 262-758-1807

Bicycles

E-BIKE RAD ROVER 5 Like new. \$750. Call 262-534-6287.

Boats

2003 ALUMACRAFT 175 TROPHY With 2002 Trailer. 90 HP, 9.9HP, Elec. 50lb Troller, Elec Anchor, Helix5 Hummingbird. Call only if interested 815-389-2480.

**FIND YOUR NEXT AUTO
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

The Wheel Deal

Place your car, truck, motorcycle, boat or RV for one price and it runs for up to 16 weeks.

\$19⁹⁵

1st three lines
Extra lines are \$1.95 each
17 Papers

Starts for 4 weeks and if not sold you call us and we will renew at no additional charge!
(Maximum run 16 weeks total)

PRIVATE PARTY ONLY.

Ad must be prepaid.
Deadlines vary.

Call
815-877-4044



422785

For details on placing your
Help Wanted ad in our Classified Section
Call 608-897-2193

422788

FREE

Are you selling a single item for
LESS THAN \$100?

IF SO, WE WILL RUN YOUR AD IN THE

INDEPENDENT REGISTER AND CLINTON TOPPER AT

No Charge!

Private Party Only

Just fill out the coupon below and drop off or mail to:
Independent Register, FREE Ad,
917 W. Exchange St., Brodhead, WI 53520

Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price

Ads will not be accepted without the following information. Only one free ad per month.

YOUR NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

323503

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

Gov. Evers signs worker's compensation bill into law

On Friday, March 22, Gov. Tony Evers signed Assembly Bill 1073, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 213. The act makes several improvements to Wisconsin's worker's compensation system as recommended by the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC).

"For decades, this council has advised state government on how to best support and strengthen the state's worker's compensation system, and we thank the council for its contributions," Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Amy Pechacek said. "The collaborative agreed-upon bill process keeps our worker's compensation system a national model of stability and effectiveness. In addition to recognizing the council, we thank Gov. Evers for signing this bill into law."

The bill received the unanimous approval of labor and management members of the council before being sent to the legislature for passage and then to Gov. Evers for his review.

"I would like to recognize members of the advisory council from both management and labor for the hard work and dedication it took to formulate and present this proposal," said Stephanie Bloomingdale, WCAC caucus co-chair and president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. "Together, we advanced legislation to protect injured workers and safeguard Wisconsin's respected Worker's Compensation Act."

"This legislation reflects good-faith negotiations between representatives of employers and employees in

“In addition to recognizing the council, we thank Gov. Evers for signing this bill into law.”

— DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek

which both sides made substantial compromises," said Rachel Ver Velde, WCAC caucus co-chair and associate vice president of government relations at Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. "The final product makes well-conceived and incremental changes to the system which has been the hallmark of Wisconsin's approach to policymaking in the worker's compensation system."

2023 Wisconsin Act 213 includes language to:

- Increase the permanent partial disability weekly rate by \$8 for injuries occurring in 2024, on and after the effective date from \$430 to \$438, and by an additional \$8 to \$446 for injuries occurring on and after Jan. 1, 2025.

- Allow lump sum payments for permanent partial disability for unaccrued compensation to be paid voluntarily in advance in undisputed claims with no 5% interest credit.

- Incorporate gender neutral language relating to marriage in Wis. Stats. 102.51(1) (a).

- Clarify duties between DWD's Worker's Compensation (WC) Division and the Department of Administration's (DOA) Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA) with respect to closing cases.

- Provide that the statute of limitations begins to run on the date an order is issued

by DHA that approves a compromise agreement, and that subsequent claims will not be time-barred except by the applicable statute of limitations.

- Correct citations to mirror federal rehabilitation law.

- Increase the amount of large Uninsured Employer Fund (UEF) claims that require reimbursement from worker's compensation insurance carriers from \$1 million to \$2 million.

About the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council

A citizen advisory council has existed since 1911 to assist DWD and the Wisconsin Legislature in amending the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Act. The Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council was created by Chapter 327 Laws of 1967 (effective Feb. 18, 1968) to advise the Department and Legislature on policy matters concerning the development and administration of the worker's compensation law. The council strives to maintain the overall stability of the workers compensation system without regard to partisan changes in the legislative or executive branches of government.

One of the main functions of the council is to recommend worker's compensation law changes to the Legislature through the "agreed bill" process. The process begins with the council holding public hearings throughout the state where testimony is taken from all interested sources. Council members agree to support the council's proposed changes in the Legislature and not to individually seek any changes to

those proposals. Likewise, the council members traditionally agree not to support any worker's compensation law changes which have not gone through the "agreed bill" process. By tradition the council only recommends statutory changes that pass without

dissent. When the Legislature approves the council's recommendations and forwards the bill to the governor, the bill traditionally is signed into law.

The statutes prescribe the council's membership as follows:

- Five employee representatives (voting members).
- Five employer representatives (voting members).
- Three insurer representatives (non-voting members).
- One department representative (traditionally serves as chair).

Gov. Evers: State receives federal approval to help feed kids in summer

USDA approves Wisconsin plan to provide benefits for kids and families facing food insecurity

Gov. Tony Evers announced on March 28 that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service has approved Wisconsin's plan for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program to help families feed kids over the summer months.

Wisconsin is the first in the nation to receive this federal approval.

Created by the U.S. Congress, the Summer EBT program is based on similar efforts used during the coronavirus pandemic to address food insecurity for kids.

"Making sure our kids have enough to eat is critical for supporting their success in and out of the classroom. Unfortunately, when school is out, many families lose access to one of their most reliable sources of healthy meals," said Gov. Evers. "This program will be a tremendous asset in helping ensure families can afford quality, nutritious food to fill these gaps, and I am proud of the hard work of our agencies and our administration's leadership in getting these dollars out the door and into the hands of families who need them as soon as possible."

According to the USDA, the Summer EBT program provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with children of school age during the summer months when schools are closed. Based on the USDA's Summer EBT for Children demonstration projects and Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program, Summer EBT benefits will come in the form of pre-loaded cards that families can utilize to buy groceries.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the Wisconsin Department of Public In-

struction (DPI), and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) are working together to get these benefits to families across the state.

Most families eligible for these benefits will receive them automatically, thanks to state agencies collaborating to identify kids who qualify based on their participation in certain other benefit programs, like FoodShare or the free or reduced-price meal program at their school. For each eligible child identified, the state will provide a one-time summer benefit of \$120. This is the standard benefit amount set by the USDA for the 2024 program year. These benefits will be provided to families in late June.

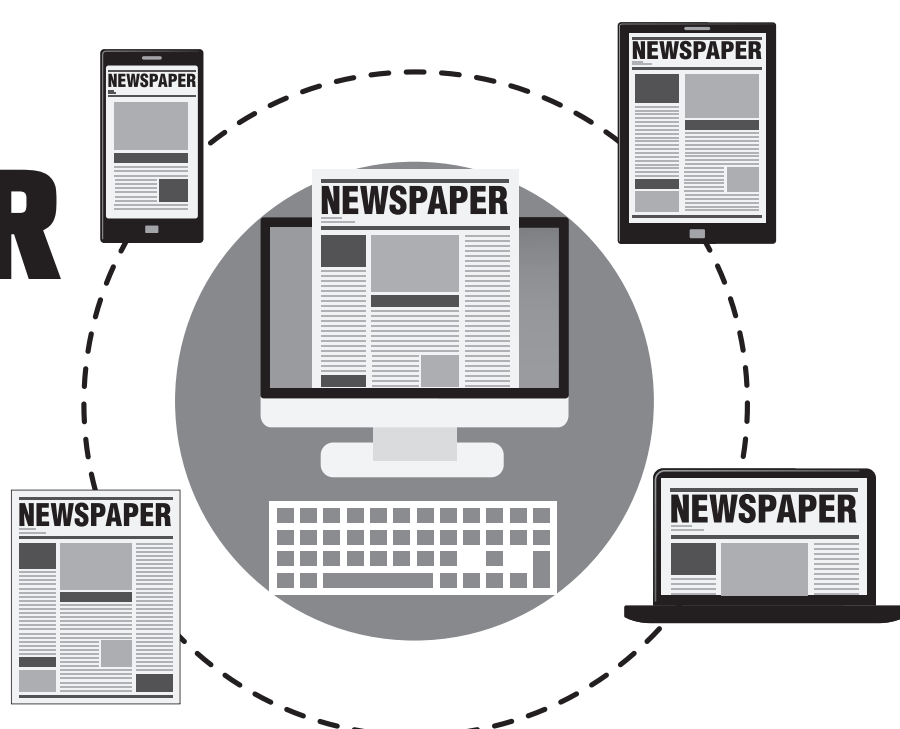
EBT stands for electronic benefit transfer, a reference to how families get the assistance: on a pre-loaded debit card they can use to purchase food at grocery and convenience stores, some farmers markets, and anywhere that accepts FoodShare benefits. Families who already have a QUEST card or a P-EBT card from the pandemic will get the benefits on their existing card. Families who don't already have a card will be sent one in the mail with their benefits pre-loaded. All families will also get a letter in the mail informing them about the benefits they received.

More information about the program will be shared with schools and families in the coming weeks as DHS, DCF, and DPI coordinate to implement the newly approved plan.

To stay up to date on the program, visit the Summer EBT: Food Benefits for Eligible Children During the Summer Months page on the DHS website.

REAL NEWS IS IN THE NEWSPAPER

Subscribe to your hometown newspaper with a **DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION!**



For a digital subscription with a weekly emailed link, just go to

ROCKVALLEYNEWS.COM

Click on "AVAILABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS" in the menu bar at the top of the page to choose your newspaper.

Start your electronic subscription today!

ROCK VALLEY
Publishing LLC

815-877-4044

The Post Journal • The Rockford Journal • The Herald
The Gazette • Tempo • Belvidere Republican • Scoop Today
Shopper's Guide • The Clinton Topper
The Independent-Register