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# Remembering Our Veterans on Memorial Day May 27



*Today we honor the memory of the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation and our way of life. Their dedication to country and freedom makes us proud to be Americans, and we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. On Memorial Day, we salute our nation's fallen and the families who carry on without them. Their heroic spirit and sacrifice will never be forgotten.  
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# Heartland Dental launches scholarship for students at BTC

Heartland Dental has established a new scholarship to support aspiring dental hygienists through a \$11,550 gift to the Blackhawk Technical College Foundation.

One \$500 scholarship will be granted annually each fall to a student who is enrolled in Blackhawk's Dental Hygienist program, which launched in the fall of 2022 in direct response to a declining oral health workforce.

After the new program launched, Blackhawk and Heartland Dental formed a partnership that provides students with the opportunity to shadow a dental hygienist for a day. Heartland Dental team members also visit Blackhawk to present a resume-building seminar to the graduating Dental Hygienist class followed by individual mock interviews.

"There are numerous costs — beyond tuition and books — associated with dental hygiene education and licensure. This scholarship will alleviate some of that financial burden for a student every year, for years to come. It has the potential to open doors and may be life-changing for some students," said Lisa Johnson, Dental Hygienist Program Director.

## About the Heartland Dental Scholarship

- Eligibility: Open to students enrolled in the dental hygiene program at Blackhawk Technical College.
- Academic Standing: Recipient(s) must maintain good



Dental hygienist program students and Heartland Dental associates pose for a photo. Holding the check is Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk. Lisa Johnson, Dental Hygienist Program Director, is eighth from the left in front.

academic standing.

- Academic Achievement: Minimum GPA requirement of 2.5.
- Enrollment Status: Minimum enrollment of six credits.

• Financial Need: Preference given to applicants demonstrating financial need.

• Community Service: Preference given to candidates exhibiting community service.

Learn more about Blackhawk Technical College Foundation Scholarships, including application information, at [blackhawk.edu/scholarships](http://blackhawk.edu/scholarships).

Learn more about Blackhawk's Dental Hygienist program at [blackhawk.edu/DentalHygienist](http://blackhawk.edu/DentalHygienist).

## Blackhawk student awards ceremony highlights student achievement

Blackhawk Technical College honored its students who have made an impact through academics, involvement in student organizations and leadership at its annual Student Awards Ceremony on the evening of Tuesday, April 30.

"You continue to make us all proud, and I sincerely hope you feel the same — proud of yourselves, your accomplishments and also proud to call Blackhawk Technical College your college and soon-to-be alma

mater," said Dr. Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk President.

Passion Tann, a Business Management student, was named Student of the Year. Tann is the parliamentarian of the Student Government Association and an active member of Business Professionals of America.

"Blackhawk has given me so many opportunities to grow as a person — emotionally, mentally and professionally as well. I came to Blackhawk as one person, and I'm coming out completely different. Thank you for everything that you've given me," Tann said.

The Criminal Justice Association was honored with the Student Organization of the Year, and students who received the Outstanding Student Workers award were Rebecca Barnett, Natalia Gonzalo, Lee Haralson, Ashley Hissong, Jason Hunt, Cassi Jean Weldy, Hal Kerr, Leslie Lavariega, Kaylee Meade-Huges, Celeste Salazar, Cheyenne Spade, Passion Tann and Zach Tuma.

Derek Ping was honored with the Student Tutor award, and Celeste Salazar and Sierra Vogel were recognized as Outstanding Student Interns.

The Student Leadership Awards were given to students who have participated in Blackhawk student organizations. Students who received this award have gone above and beyond by providing exemplary leadership within their organizations through a variety of roles, projects, events and competitions. The winners were as follows:

- Business Professionals of America: Darios Hayes and Tierra Hayes
- Monroe Activities: Jason Hunt
- Multi-Cultural Alliance: Rebecca Barnett and Cheyenne Spade
- Professional Agricultural



Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk, poses for a photo with Passion Tann, the 2024 Student of the Year.

Students: Jason Hunt and Leslie Reinke

- Student Government Association: Rebecca Barnett
- Student Nurses Association: Charnetha Bell-Johnson

Students also were honored for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Those who received this award have demonstrated academic excellence in their credit program and were nominated by their instructors. Students were selected based on leadership qualities, academic performance and participation in coursework.

Those honored were as follows: Lisa Anderson, Haley Bain, Harminder Bhatoya, Haileigh Bosin, Breanna Brooks, Abe Clark, Kylie Cole, Caylinn Cooley, Bridget Deltgen, Amanda Draeving, Nancy Espana, Sara Gibson, Natalia Gonzalo, Tara Greely, Veronica Hatch, Owen Heussner, Gavin Jensen, Rylee Kerl, Lauren Liva, Kristin Luchsinger, Caleb Manthei, Tyler Mathias, Maria Mielke, Elizabeth Nguyen, Brian Nunn, Derek Pin, Nick Risseuw, Emily Roessler, Sarah Rogalla, Bjorn Unseth, Julianna Verduzco, Sierra Vogel, Travis Vogel and Tove Westermeyer.

Students also honored Patricia Aronson, Nursing instructor and advisor of the Student Nurses Association, as Faculty of the Year. Devon Timblin, an academic advisor, was named Staff of the Year.

The ceremony included a new award — Student Organization Advisor of the Year. This inaugural award went to Ann Forbeck, a Career Coach on Blackhawk's Recruitment Team, who advises the Phi Theta Kappa student organization.

Accolades were also given to Business Professional Association members who competed in BPA's state competition. These students will go on to compete at the national competition next week. Students involved in the Professional Agricultural Society who won state awards and qualified for national competitions were also recognized.

- Business Professionals of America State Competition winner: Marcus Evans, Passion Tann, Cheyenne Spade, Darios Hayes and Tierra Hayes.
- Professional Agricultural Society award winners: Abe Clark, Leslie Reinke, Jason Hunt, Jason Carpenter, Jadah Wegmuller.

## Police news



Aidán Emerich

### Sex offender relocation to Janesville

According to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Aidán Emerich relocated to Rock Valley Community Programs, 203 W. Sunny Lane, Janesville, on May 20.

Emerich was convicted on Dec. 20, 2017 of 3rd Degree Sexual Assault, 17CF879 and on Jan. 14, 2020 of 3rd Degree Sexual Assault, 19CF1039, both in Marathon County.

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

The Rock County Sheriff's Office is not responsible for the placement of this sex offender in any manner; however, by law, they are required to provide public notice. For further information regarding the placement of this offender, please contact the Department of Community Corrections at 608-758-6075 or refer to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry website online at [www.WISTAYSAFE.gov](http://www.WISTAYSAFE.gov).

### Investigation into officer involved death in Beloit

The Wisconsin Department

of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is investigating an officer involved death in the City of Beloit, Wis. that occurred on the afternoon of Thursday, May 16.

At approximately 3:26 p.m., officers with the Beloit Police Department responded to a 911 call for a reported stabbing near the 2000 block of Frederick Street in the City of Beloit. When they arrived, officers located an adult female, who had been stabbed. Officers then observed a subject who was armed with an edged weapon making violent threats to harm a second individual believed to be in the residence. One officer utilized a less lethal option, but it was ineffective. A second officer discharged their firearm, striking the subject. Life-saving measures were performed but the subject was pronounced deceased at the scene. The female victim was transported to a local hospital then transferred to a trauma center and is in stable condition. It was later determined that no other persons were in the residence. Edged weapons were recovered at the scene.

A law enforcement officer was treated for minor injuries sustained during the incident.

Involved officers are on administrative leave, per agency policy.

Involved law enforcement

were wearing body cameras during the incident.

DCI is leading this investigation and are assisted by the Wisconsin State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit, Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, Rock County Sheriff's Office, Beloit Fire Department, Rock County Medical Examiner's Office, Dane County Medical Examiner's Office, 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.

### Decision made over death in Beloit

Recently, Rock County District Attorney David O'Leary issued his decision regarding the death of Ray Castro, which occurred on March 16, in the City of Beloit. The district attorney determined there will be no criminal charges for involved law enforcement.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation investigative files, along with digital photo, video, and audio records, can be viewed online.

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PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN DNR *Rock Valley Publishing*

**Beat the congestion and make the most of the upcoming long weekend outdoors by planning ahead and venturing to some lesser-known natural treasures in the state.**

## DNR: Avoid the crowds on Memorial Day weekend

The unofficial start of summer is quickly approaching, and people will be stopping by Wisconsin's state parks and trails to enjoy the great outdoors.

With over 20 million visitors annually, state parks can be popular destinations on holidays and warm summer weekends. To help avoid congestion during the busy season, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommends planning ahead, purchasing a vehicle admission sticker online and making camping reservations.

If one is worried about congestion at popular designations but doesn't want to spend Memorial Day weekend indoors, here are some suggestions for some "hidden gem" properties in the state:

- Soak up some sun along six miles of sandy Lake Michigan beachfront at Point Beach State Forest. The lighthouse at Beach Point is a great photo opportunity and can be viewed and photographed from the beach.
- Paddle the backwaters of the Mississippi River via the marked canoe trail at Wyalusing State Park. This six-mile canoe

trail starts at the boat landing and continues through the Mississippi River backwaters to the main channel. Watch for the blue and white canoe trail signs. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent at the park concession stand.

- Step back in time at Tower Hill State Park. The park's namesake feature, an 1830s shot tower, is open to the public along with several other historical structures. See how lead shot was made in the mid-1800s, hike bluff trails and enjoy river views at this park outside of Spring Green.

- Spend a day at the Kettle Moraine Northern Unit, the largest unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. With three beaches, four campgrounds and miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails, there are plenty of ways to recreate in the forest. Picnic tables and grills are available for a holiday weekend cookout at several recreation and trail areas.

This will be the first busy weekend of the season, so please be patient with staff and fellow visitors while enjoying everything Wisconsin's outdoors offers.

## DNR: Create an eco-friendly habit this May

WISCONSIN DNR  
The average adult breathes about 20,000 times each day, and the quality of the air we breathe is influenced by decisions about how we each work, travel, play and maintain our homes.

Making a few lifestyle choices may seem small, but even minor changes to energy use, consumption and waste habits can add up and positively impact air quality.

Since May is Clean Air Month, we wanted to share

some simple suggestions on how you can help improve the state's air quality:

- When possible, ditch the car and use your feet. Replacing even one trip to the coffee shop a week with a walk or bike ride can help reduce vehicle emissions – the state's largest source of ozone-forming pollutants.
- Keep your lawnmower blades sharp and don't burn lawn clippings, yard waste or trash. Compost or recycle in-

stead to reduce air pollution.

- Grill without a guilty conscience using an electric grill, sustainably harvested charcoal or a charcoal chimney instead of lighter fluid, which can cause the release of carbon monoxide, particulate matter and soot.
- These changes don't have to stop when Clean Air Month ends – learn how you can reduce your impact on air quality year-round on our Do a Little, Save a Lot webpage.

### ONLINE AUCTION

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## College news

### UW-Whitewater baseball secures WIAC title, NCAA Tournament bid

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater baseball team won the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament title for the eighth time in program history to secure an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

The following student-athletes from this area are part of the team:

#### Beloit

- Jackson Burk, who is majoring in Finance.

#### Brodhead

- Brady Malkow, who is majoring in General Business.

### UW-Whitewater students hired before graduation

A total of 231 students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater were celebrated for landing a job, earning a job promotion, being accepted to graduate school, or starting a company before they graduated from the university on Saturday, May 11.

The following University of Wisconsin-Whitewater students who recently graduated were hired, promoted, accepted to graduate school, or started their own business before graduation:

#### Beloit

- Maggie Barnes, who graduated with a BBA in marketing.
- Julissa Castaneda, who graduated with a BBA in human resource management
- Julissa Donald, who graduated with a BBA in marketing.
- Rosemary Garcia, who graduated with a BSE in elementary education.
- Arianna Haley, who graduated with a BBA in general business.

#### Janesville

- Katrina Badertscher, who graduated with a BSE in early childhood education.
- Olivia Bambach, who graduated with a MSW in social work.
- Aaron Cudzynovic, who graduated with a B.S. in computer science.
- Tina Shelton, who graduated with a B.S. in human performance.
- Mandy Sullivan, who graduated with a BBA in human resource management.

#### Milton

- Kayla Gonsiorowski, who graduated with a B.S. in biology.
- Cassidy Laue, who grad-

uated with a B.S. in communication sciences and disorders.

#### Monroe

- Payton Johnson, who graduated with a BBA in marketing.
- Lizzy Neuenschwander, who graduated with a B.S. in environmental science.

### University of Dubuque Spring Semester 2024 Academic Dean's List

The University of Dubuque congratulates the following students on being appointed to the Spring Semester 2024 Academic Dean's List.

Full-time students in good academic standing (registered for and having earned 12 or more letter grade credits for the term) who earn a term grade point average of 3.5 or above and who do not have any grades of Incomplete for the term are named to the Dean's List. Once grades have been submitted for any Incompletes, the Office of Academic Affairs will review eligibility again for possible placement on the Dean's List for the given term.

Dean's List is awarded for the fall and spring semesters only and may be awarded retroactively.

#### Brodhead

- Alexis Kammerer
- Hannah Shickles

### Rockford University reveals Spring 2024 Distinguished Scholars

The following full-time (12 or more credits) students attending Rockford University were named Distinguished Scholars for the Spring 2024 semester, earning at least a 3.75 with no grades below "C" and having completed all requirements for the semester.

#### Janesville

- Kyra Casalena
- Maverick Attwood
- Jaden Bell

### Area residents make the President's List at Western Tech. College

The following local residents were named to the Western Technical College President's List of High Distinction for the Spring 2024 term. To be included on the President's List, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and carry six or more credits in an associate's degree or technical diploma program.

#### Beloit

- Kade Cook
- Kaylyn Field

- Scarlett Swing

#### Brooklyn

- Alivia Siltman

#### Edgerton

- Shane Kisting

### SNHU announces Winter 2024 Dean's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2024 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

#### Beloit

- Jessica Beyer

#### Edgerton

- Tyler Whitehead

#### Janesville

- Michael Fitzgerald
- Laura Jones

### SNHU announces Winter 2024 President's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2024 President's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

#### Albany

- Heather Dimmel

#### Beloit

- Lawrence Chen
- Amanda Cha
- Alexander Himmelmann
- Crystal Mahlum
- Napoleon Stuckey

#### Brooklyn

- Zachary Miskowicz

#### Janesville

- Debra Jones
- Connor Wright
- Ikki Kogawa

#### Milton

- David Selgren
- Christina Newsome

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# Olbrich Botanical Gardens voted among best Memorial Day destinations

On Memorial Day, families across the U.S. come together to honor those who have served and sacrificed

for their country. Like many other holidays, Memorial Day is often marked by gatherings of multiple gen-

erations – kids, parents, and grandparents – celebrating with backyard barbecues or group activities such as visiting national parks.

trails, educational programs, and well-equipped beaches with restrooms and changing facilities.

Park, Seaside Park, N.J. – Island Beach State Park provides a less developed beach experience with over 10 miles of sandy beaches surrounded by natural dunes and maritime forests.

fers stunning views of iconic landmarks and extensive amenities for picnicking, playing, or enjoying a leisurely walk along the waterfront.

## News briefs

### Temporary compost site open in Footville

There will be a temporary compost site open in Footville at 280 N. Gilbert St., north of the fire department. There will be places for grass clippings and compost material, as well as brush. Please adhere to the signs and only place items in the correct bunk.

### Adopt A Pot in Orfordville again

The Village of Orfordville will be doing the Adopt A Pot flower campaign again this year.

Fill out a form and return it to the Village of Orfordville at 303 E. Beloit St. before June 2 to participate. The form includes donation amount, whether it is cash or check, a sponsor name, and a contact person name with their phone number and email address.

This helps offset the cost of the flowers for downtown and at the local parks. Those that donate will be recognized on the Only in Orfordville Facebook page.

### Golf sponsorship for Veteran's Memorial Park

The Village of Footville is planning a golf outing to raise funds for the Veteran's Memorial Park. The success of this event is credited to the support from the participants and sponsors.

The goal is to add a walk of honor path with veterans names on the pavers, a third monument honoring local veterans, benches, 24-hour lighting, and landscaping. Sponsors can pay \$50 for a small sign, and \$100 for a large sign. Make checks payable to the Village of Footville.

Danielle and Roland can stop by and pick up any donation. The public can reach Danielle at 608-295-0423 or Roland at 608-921-8225 and they will arrange a convenient pick-up time.

### Elder benefit specialist schedule for ADRC

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

• Tuesday, May 28, 11 a.m. to noon, The Gathering Place in Milton

• Wednesday, May 29, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Riverview Heights Apartments in Janesville

### Blood drive for Footville, Orfordville community

There will be a blood drive at the Footville Church of Christ on 117 Church St. on Thursday, May 23 from 1 to 6 p.m. Donors will receive an exclusive Red Cross Tetris t-shirt.

### Electronic recycling drop off in Orfordville

Orfordville will have an Electronic Recycling Drop Off Event at the Village Hall on Thursday, May 30 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The dumpster will be at the Village Hall, back by the shed in the back parking lot. This is only available to residents of the Village of Orfordville as the Village has to pay for this event, which is funded by residents that live within the limits of the Village of Orfordville.

Please do not bring heavy appliances to the electronic pick up. Appliance pick up is part of the village's bulk pick up

package the first Friday of the month. They are charged for the weight of the electronics that are dropped off, so not bringing in appliances will keep the cost down. There is no reason to bring appliances as they can be put on the curb at no cost.

These electronic items can be recycled: computers including desktops, laptops, netbooks and notebooks; televisions and television monitors; cell phones, tablets and e-readers; fax machines, desktop printers including 3-D printers and printers combined with fax machines, scanners and copiers; battery-powered phone accessories; computer accessories including keyboards, mice, hard drives, scanners, speakers, flash drives and other devices; DVD players; VCRs; DVRs and other video players; video game consoles including hand-held video games and battery-powered accessories.

### Memorial Day parade, ceremony in Footville

There will be a Memorial Day parade and ceremony on Monday, May 27, at 9 a.m. The parade will start at the old lumber yard at the Ezra Foot intersection and will end at Veteran's Memorial Park. To register for the parade, contact Dennis Curry at 608-876-6919.

### Veteran's Memorial Park fundraiser in June

There will be a Veteran's Memorial Park fundraiser on June 30 at Bass Creek Golf Course. There will be a 9 a.m. shotgun start, at \$70 per person. Price includes 9 holes of golf and luncheon. There are hole prizes and a prize for the best patriotic decorated golf cart. Hole sponsors pay \$50 for a small sign and \$100 for a large sign. Sponsor requests need to be submitted by June 14. Contact Danielle Harnack at 608-295-0423 or Ronald Nath at 608-921-8225 for questions and to sign up.

### State unemployment rate falls below 3.0%

The Department of Workforce Development recently released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary job totals for April 2024, which showed a decrease in the state's unemployment rate.

Preliminary employment estimates for April 2024 showed Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked down to 2.9%, a full percentage point below the national rate. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate for April 2024 remained at 65.6%, 2.9 percentage points above the national labor force participation rate of 62.7%.

Place of Residence Data: Wisconsin's April 2024 preliminary unemployment rate fell to 2.9% from 3.0% in March. The labor force decreased 500 over the month, to 3,139,500. The number of people employed increased 600 over the month, to 3,047,700. The number of unemployed people decreased 1,300 over the month, to 91,700.

Place of Work Data: Total nonfarm jobs increased 900 over the month and increased 24,100 over the year, to 3,035,300 in April. Wisconsin added 1,000 private sector jobs over the month, to 2,623,900 jobs. Health care and social assistance jobs grew significantly over the year, adding 10,800 jobs. As of April 2024, the sector has 420,100 jobs.

Here are the top 10 destinations:

• #1: First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, Va. – Taking the top spot, this park boasts 20 miles of trails and 1.5 miles of sandy Chesapeake Bay beachfront, perfect for hiking, picnicking, and enjoying the scenic beach.

• #2: Cape Cod National Seashore, Cape Cod, Mass. – A close second, this area offers over 40 miles of beach, marshes, ponds, and uplands to explore. Families will appreciate the gentle hiking

• #3: St. Simons Island Beaches, St. Simons Island, Ga. – This beautiful spot features expansive beaches and a historic lighthouse, with numerous access points for a perfect family day by the sea.

• #4: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. – A profound place of national remembrance, this cemetery is significant for Memorial Day observances, featuring ceremonies and the iconic Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

• #5: Clearwater Beach, Clearwater, Fla. – In fifth place overall, known for its broad, sandy shores and calm waters, Clearwater Beach offers a relaxed beach day with accessible amenities such as showers, restrooms, and eateries.

• #7: San Antonio River Walk, San Antonio, Texas – The River Walk features peaceful stretches ideal for family picnics or walks along the banks of the San Antonio River.

• #8: Ocean City Boardwalk, Ocean City, N.J. – Ocean City Boardwalk, in 8th place, is perfect for strolling, dining, and entertainment by the beach, featuring attractions like arcades and a small amusement park.

• #9: Outer Banks Beaches, N.C. – Known for their wide sandy shores and beauty, these beaches are ideal for beachcombing, kite flying, or simply relaxing by the sea.

### #47: Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison

These gardens feature 16 acres of outdoor display gardens and the indoor Bolz Conservatory. While the conservatory has an admission fee, the outdoor gardens are free to the public, offering a tranquil setting for a family outing.

### #124: Hank Aaron State Trail, Milwaukee

This trail offers a great way to see Milwaukee, running through the Menomonee River Valley and along Lake Michigan. It's accessible and ideal for a family day out with stops at parks and historical sites.

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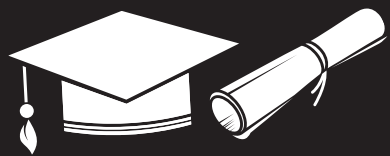
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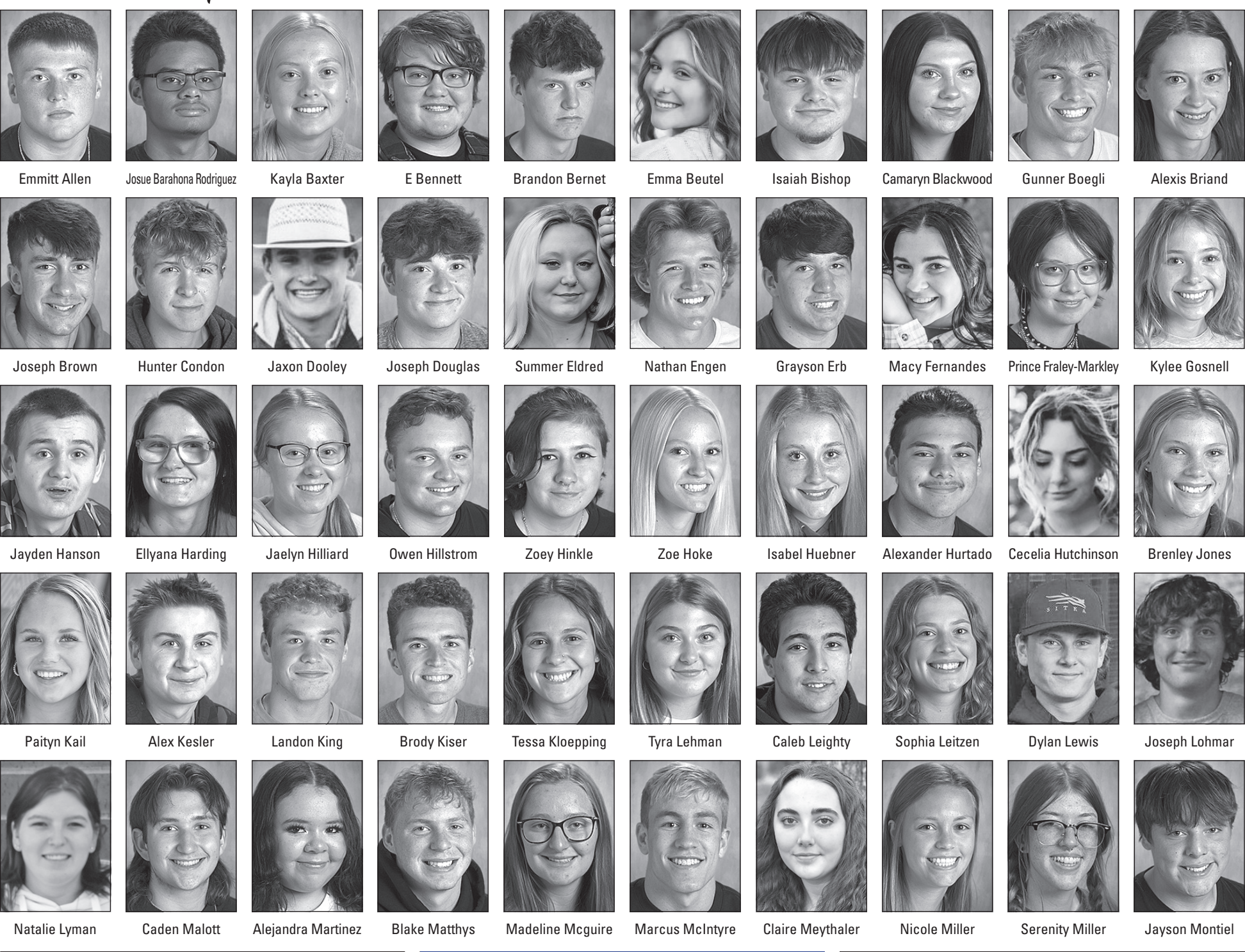
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Joseph Brown	Hunter Condon	Jaxon Dooley	Joseph Douglas	Summer Eldred	Nathan Engen	Grayson Erb	Macy Fernandes	Prince Fraley-Markley	Kylee Gosnell
Jayden Hanson	Ellyana Harding	Jaelyn Hilliard	Owen Hillstrom	Zoey Hinkle	Zoe Hoke	Isabel Huebner	Alexander Hurtado	Cecelia Hutchinson	Brenley Jones
Paityn Kail	Alex Kesler	Landon King	Brody Kiser	Tessa Kloeping	Tyra Lehman	Caleb Leighty	Sophia Leitzen	Dylan Lewis	Joseph Lohmar
Natalie Lyman	Caden Malott	Alejandra Martinez	Blake Matthys	Madeline Mcguire	Marcus McIntyre	Claire Meythaler	Nicole Miller	Serenity Miller	Jayson Montiel

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 Allison Johnson Ann Keintz Bowen Kopp Mallory Lewis Victoria Marian Taylor Mazzarisi Cole McMahon Josephine Meyers Madelynn Meyers Olivia Moffitt  
 Makenzie Morris Kaydence Noble Conner Northcutt Temperance Pautsch Justyce Peacock Jorge Nino Pimentel Karson Redman Megan Ritter Jack Ross Samuel Schwengels  
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# FAFSA delays hit vulnerable students hardest

**WISCONSIN POLICY FORUM**  
Federal officials this year overhauled the form for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It was meant to streamline the FAFSA application process, a key first step that millions of students take as they decide if, and where, to attend college. Instead, the rollout of the revamped FAFSA has been beset by technical glitches and processing errors that have resulted in substantial delays affecting students, families, and higher education institutions.

As a result, FAFSA completion rates have plunged, both nationally and in Wisconsin. Through April 26, completion rates in Wisconsin had declined from 42.4% in 2023 to 33.9% in 2024, U.S. Department of Education data show. The decline was even greater at schools with larger shares of students who are nonwhite, live in economically disadvantaged households, or do not speak English as their first language.

In recent years, Wisconsin's total FAFSA completion rate has lagged the nation's rate. That also remains true so far in 2024, as data from the Attainment Network (CAN) show Wisconsin's completion rate through April 26 ranking 35th among the states.

In one encouraging sign, from March to April of this year, Wisconsin's FAFSA completion rate increased by nearly three times as many percentage points as it did for the same time period in any of

the prior five years. This is a possible indication that families are successfully playing catch-up in completing applications as they near the dates at which students must commit to colleges or universities.

Still, as commitment deadlines, the confusion and uncertainty has affected all stakeholders. In a typical year, many colleges and universities require students who plan to enroll in the fall to commit by May 1. For this year only, some institutions, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, have pushed the commitment deadline back to May 15 to give students and families more time to cope with FAFSA delays.

### KEY step for college selection

FAFSA completion is an essential step in the process for nearly all students considering higher education, because it unlocks access to most federal, state, and institutional financial aid.

The FAFSA form asks students and families a series of questions to calculate the amount they can contribute towards the cost of education. This information, along with the cost of attendance at their considered schools, is used to determine the amount of federal aid (either grants or loans) for which the students are eligible. The FAFSA also is used to distribute Wisconsin grants totaling \$124 million in 2023 that went to University of Wisconsin students and students at private, technical,

and tribal colleges. This information is then forwarded to the considered schools, which use it to make additional financial aid offers to students and families prior to student commitment deadlines.

Financial aid packages are understandably critical factors for many students and families when selecting a college or university. In a typical year, students and families can begin completing their FAFSA applications on Oct. 1. But this year, the FAFSA overhaul process put them behind from the start, as its launch didn't occur until late December.

Since then, technical problems and errors have further delayed students and families from completing FAFSA applications. They also have kept FAFSA data from being processed and forwarded to colleges and universities.

This year, FAFSA delays may have forced some students and families to make college commitment decisions without a full picture of the financial aid they will receive. At a minimum, others had far less time than is typical to compare financial aid packages and decide.

declined this year in districts of varying demographics and geography, but fell more among schools with a greater share of students of color, English Learners, and economically disadvantaged students. These students may be at greater risk of postponing – or forgoing – college if they do not obtain financial aid information in a timely manner.

From April 2023 to April 2024, FAFSA completion for all schools statewide declined by 8.5 percentage points. In schools with a majority of 12th grade students from economically disadvantaged households, the decline was 10.8 percentage points, compared to 7.7 percentage points for schools with less than a majority of such students.

Schools with greater than 10% of students who were English Learners saw a 12.0 percentage-point decline, compared to an 8.0-point decline for schools with a lesser share of English Learners. The racial makeup of a school showed the largest discrepancy: schools with a majority of students of color registered a 13.2 percentage-point decline, compared to a 7.6-point decline among schools with majority white students.

Urban schools also have lower completion rates, according to a 2023 report from the UW-Madison Student Success Through Applied Research (SSTAR) Lab. Suburban schools tend to have higher completion rates, with towns and rural areas falling in the middle.

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is an outlier in these data. Despite being an urban district with a high proportion of disadvantaged students, MPS has outpaced the state in recent years. In April 2023, its FAFSA completion rate was 15.4 percentage points higher than the state's completion rate. Through April of this year, the MPS completion rate of 39.3% is once again higher than the state's rate of 33.9%. Part of the district's relative success may be attributed to requiring FAFSA completion for graduation beginning in the 2022-23 school year, in addition to concerted efforts to encourage FAFSA completion.

**Completion rates already declining**  
The decline in FAFSA completion rates so far this year follows a downward trend that predates the COVID-19 pandemic. Final completion rates for Wisconsin peaked in 2017 at 54.0%, before dropping modestly in 2018 and 2019. Larger declines followed in 2020 and 2021, with rates hitting a recent low of 45.6% in 2022 and then increasing slightly to 47.3% in 2023.

In past years, completion rates typically rose a little over four percentage points between the end of April and June. Given this year's challenges and the surge in completions in April, there is reason to believe completion rates may rise by a larger amount than usual this May

and June. Yet hitting even the relatively low final rates of recent years appears out of reach in 2024, and the annual decline could be larger than during the peak of the pandemic.

**What's next?**  
Many colleges and universities are bracing for the possibility that these lower completion rates will translate into declines in freshman enrollment for the 2024-25 school year.

Recent research from the Brookings Institute notes, "Given the current state of FAFSA filing, it's possible the decline in enrollment in fall 2024 comes close to pandemic-driven declines, particularly at community colleges." The report states that in the fall of 2020, undergraduate enrollment overall (both incoming and returning students) decreased by 3.3%, and community college enrollment decreased by about 8.7%. Nationally, fall 2020 college enrollment for the high school graduating class of 2020 dropped by 6.8% from the previous year, an "unprecedented one-year decline" at the time, according to the National Student Clearinghouse.

For colleges and universities, and the communities in which they are located, another such enrollment decline could take a heavy toll. That's in part because it would follow not only the pandemic-era enrollment decreases,

and project needs

IX. Adjournment

The Independent Register  
5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 456045

**TOWN OF CENTER ROCK COUNTY TOWN PLAN COMMISSION HEARING**  
CENTER TOWN HALL  
9119 W County Rd A, Evansville, WI  
Tuesday, May 28, 2024  
6:00 PM

1. Open Hearing
2. Roll Call
3. Plan Commission to consider an application for a Land Division, Zoning/Land Use Change to take approx. 3.0 acres from an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190, Section 23-3-11 W1/2 SW1/4 .78.14 acres, and adding it to an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190.1, Section 23-3-11 PT N/W 1/4 SW 1/4 .44 acres, creating an A-3 parcel making this parcel approx. 3.0 acres which excludes the right of way.

The Plan Commission to consider taking approx. 1.0 acre from an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190, and take approx. 2.2 acres from an A-1 parcel, #6-4-187, Section 23-3-11 S110A E1/2 W1/2, and add those acres to an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190.2, Section 23-3-11 PT NW 1/4 SW 1/4 making it an A-3 parcel with approx. 3.7 acres excluding the right of way. The property owner is Fenrich Farms, 8114 W Townsend Rd., Janesville, WI 53548. The parcels 78.14-acre property is located at 8402 W County Road A., Section 23-3-11 in the W1/2 SW1/4.

4. The Plan Commission to consider an application for a Conditional Use permit to build a single-family residence on a parcel zoned Agricultural Three (A-3) & Highland Conservancy Overlay District (C-2). The 6.74 acre parcel is located in the W 1/3 of the W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 in Section 15 at 9536 W Topp Rd., Evansville, WI 53536. The property is owned by Scot A. Eisenbraun and Jennifer J. Eisenbraun, 402 Seminole Crt, Janesville, WI 53548.
5. Finding of Facts

following request for variance to the zoning/building codes:

Request by Todd & Tera Staffon for a variance to **202 W 7th Ave.** The applicant is requesting to keep a second driveway constructed in the front yard on 20th Street to park an RV camping trailer. Per ordinance chapter 236, only one driveway is permitted in residential property. Also, per ordinance 480-51 off-street legal parking is not permitted in the front yard except for one driveway. Legal description is: **Clinton & Co Addition Block 250 lot 2; N 22 Lot 4**

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

Kristin Covert, City Clerk  
City of Brodhead

Posted: May 10, 2024

The Independent Register  
5/15, 5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 455598

**TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY**  
Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting  
Monday, May 27th, 2024  
At the Orfordville Fire Station  
173 North Wright Street, Orfordville, WI  
6:00 PM

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Reading and approval of minutes
3. Old business:
4. New Business: 1) Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance Certification
5. Building Permits: 1) 2843 S. Coon Island Rd. parcel 6-18-95, Jeremy Bennett, addition to house.
6. Audience communication:
7. Adjournment

Chris Duemler  
Chairman

The Independent Register  
5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 456067

**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, May 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Brodhead City Hall, 1111 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, to consider the

and project needs

IX. Adjournment

The Independent Register  
5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 456045

**TOWN OF CENTER ROCK COUNTY TOWN PLAN COMMISSION HEARING**  
CENTER TOWN HALL  
9119 W County Rd A, Evansville, WI  
Tuesday, May 28, 2024  
6:00 PM

1. Open Hearing
2. Roll Call
3. Plan Commission to consider an application for a Land Division, Zoning/Land Use Change to take approx. 3.0 acres from an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190, Section 23-3-11 W1/2 SW1/4 .78.14 acres, and adding it to an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190.1, Section 23-3-11 PT N/W 1/4 SW 1/4 .44 acres, creating an A-3 parcel making this parcel approx. 3.0 acres which excludes the right of way.

The Plan Commission to consider taking approx. 1.0 acre from an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190, and take approx. 2.2 acres from an A-1 parcel, #6-4-187, Section 23-3-11 S110A E1/2 W1/2, and add those acres to an A-1 parcel, #6-4-190.2, Section 23-3-11 PT NW 1/4 SW 1/4 making it an A-3 parcel with approx. 3.7 acres excluding the right of way. The property owner is Fenrich Farms, 8114 W Townsend Rd., Janesville, WI 53548. The parcels 78.14-acre property is located at 8402 W County Road A., Section 23-3-11 in the W1/2 SW1/4.

4. The Plan Commission to consider an application for a Conditional Use permit to build a single-family residence on a parcel zoned Agricultural Three (A-3) & Highland Conservancy Overlay District (C-2). The 6.74 acre parcel is located in the W 1/3 of the W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 in Section 15 at 9536 W Topp Rd., Evansville, WI 53536. The property is owned by Scot A. Eisenbraun and Jennifer J. Eisenbraun, 402 Seminole Crt, Janesville, WI 53548.
5. Finding of Facts

### GREEN COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Per Wisconsin State Statutes 88.05(2) - NOTICE is hereby given that on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the second-floor conference room off the County Board room, in the Historic Courthouse, 1016 16th Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin, a Public Hearing will be held by the Green County Drainage Board, regarding a flat fee assessment to every individual land owner in the #1 Drainage Districts. The flat fee assessment is needed for administrative costs associated with conducting the business of the Drainage Board. All interested citizens are invited to attend. All questions and concerns will be heard by the Board. A letter has been sent to all property owners affected. A listing of all affected property owners is on file with Green County Land & Water Conservation office, 1627 4th Ave West, Monroe Wisconsin, from 7:00 am - 4:00 pm. Any objections to the jurisdiction of the drainage board or to the sufficiency or legality of any assessment or to the equity shall be filed with the drainage board in writing before the hearing and that the objections(s) shall be set forth clearly and in detail to John Dieckhoff, W2210 Pinnow Road, Brodhead, WI 53520, Tim Schmidt, W4199 County Road K, Monroe, WI, 53566 or Kim Buehl, N6903 Marshall Bluff Road, Monticello, WI, 53570.

The Independent Register  
5/8, 5/15, 5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 455162

### TOWN OF DECATUR NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that application has been received by the Town Clerk, Town of Decatur, County of Green, State of Wisconsin, for So. Wisconsin Land Conservancy, Inc. (Three Waters Reserve) Steven I. Apfelbaum, Agent, for a "Class B" Beer and Liquor License for So. Wisconsin Land Conservancy, Inc. (Three Waters Reserve) located at N3941 Golf Course Road, Brodhead, WI, for a period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

The Independent Register  
5/15, 5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 455573

Emma Brugger  
Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register  
5/15, 5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 455573

### TOWN OF DECATUR NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that application has been received by the Town Clerk, Town of Decatur, County of Green, State of Wisconsin, for a "Class B" Beer & Liquor License for James E. Hanly, Crazy Horse Campground, located at N3201 Crazy Horse Lane, Brodhead, WI, for a period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Emma Brugger  
Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register  
5/15, 5/22, 5/29/2024  
WNAXLP 455579

Green County Circuit Court  
Date: April 26, 2024

The Independent Register  
5/15, 5/22, 5/29/2024  
WNAXLP 455579

### TOWN OF DECATUR NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that application has been received by the Town Clerk, Town of Decatur, County of Green, State of Wisconsin, for a Class "B" Beer License for Professional Property Management, Richard C. Josephson for Sweet Minihaha Campground, located at N4697 County E, Brodhead, WI, for a period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Emma Brugger  
Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register  
5/15, 5/22/2024  
WNAXLP 455575

### STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

In Re: the Name Change of Treyton Malaki-Milligan Alexander

**Notice of Hearing**  
Case No. 2024CV000065

TREYTON MALAKI-MILLIGAN  
ALEXANDER  
704 EAST 8TH AVE  
BRODHEAD WI

This case is scheduled for:  
**Name change hearing**  
Date: 06-07-2024  
Time: 09:30 am  
Location: 2nd Floor - Branch

1 Green County Justice Center,  
2841-6th Street, Monroe WI  
53566

### Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner: Faun Marie Phillipson

**Re Name Change**  
This matter will not be adjourned by the court except upon formal motion for good cause or with the specific approval of the court upon stipulation by all parties.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-328-9433 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Green County Circuit Court  
Date: April 26, 2024

### SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JUDA Special School Board Meeting

**May 22, 2024, 6:00 pm**  
Juda School Den  
(Old Library)  
N2385 Spring St.

**This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public hearing. There may be a time for public comment during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.**

The Independent Register  
5/15, 5/22, 5/29/2024  
WNAXLP 455579

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order by President Pflugsten
- II. Roll Call:  
Dennis Pfingsten, Pat Daniels, Rustin Whitney, Laura Powers, Jenna Merritt, Jessica Matzke, Jen Brooks
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Proof of Notice
- V. Acceptance of Agenda
- VI. Reading Curriculum Adoption: Discussion/Action
- VII. Pupil Non-discrimination Self Assessment: Discussion/Action
- VIII. School Tour and Discussion of building/ground, facility study

## LEGAL NOTICES

See FAFSA, Page 12



# Classifieds

AD DEADLINE:  
Friday  
at 4 pm

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## help wanted

### ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

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

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For immediate consideration send resume/job history to:

Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising  
Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com

Fax: (262) 725-6844

444841

## business & service

### Home Improvement

**HANDYMAN-HOME REPAIRS**  
Powerwashing, Painting, Honey-do-list. 608-897-2410 Go to: Jackofalltrades.us

**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

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**SAFE STEP** North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-866-764-0055

**SAFE STEP** North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-866-764-0055

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### Tree Service

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## real estate

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

## for rent

### Apartments

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

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

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The Clinton Topper  
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## 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.



## transportation

### Automobiles

**1979 JEEP CJ5** 6 cyl, 4 sp, 6.5' plow, new blade. 3k OBO. 262-282-1739.

**2004 MONTE CARLO** Mint condition. Mechanically sound. \$10,000. Call 262-379-4161.

**2005 CHRYSLER LIMITED** Mechanically sound with documents. No rust. 141,000 miles, \$9,000. Call 262-379-4161.

### Boats

**SEARS GAMEFISHER 14FT** Fiberglass Tri-Hull, 18hp Evinrude, MinnKota, Lots more. Elkhorn \$1450. Call or text 262-374-8602.

### Campers and RVs

**1994 WINNEBAGO WARRIOR 22'** V8 454 engine, 97,200 miles. Newer tires, new battery, new sub floor and flooring. Rooftop A/C works great. Rust free, runs good and ready for travel! Some updates have been done to the interior, but still needs some minor finishing. Asking \$11,500. Located near Rockford. Call 815-520-0997.

**2022 COACHMAN FREEDOM EXPRESS 20SE.** \$19,900. 262-470-4083.

### Farm Machinery

**H&S 80 BU Spreader** PTO driven. 608-728-1629

**JOHN DEERE 7000** 4 row wide. W/no-till coulters, dry fertilizer & insecticide boxes. 608-728-1629



### 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@slpublishers.com.

### Pets

**AKC GERMAN SHORTHAIRED** Pointer puppies. Born 4/1/2024. Tails docked; dew claws removed; first round of shots. Strong hunting lines. Ready for new homes 5/27/24. Call Robin for more information 608-289-1239.



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

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


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1<sup>st</sup> three lines  
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# Aviation excellence soared to new heights in Janesville

The skies above Janesville were an exciting stage for aviation excellence as the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport hosted the highly anticipated SAFECON competition.

Running from May 13 to May 18, SAFECON showcased the finest talents in collegiate aviation from across the nation.

SAFECON, short for Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference, attracted over 600 students hailing from 45 member schools around the country, along with a contingent of instructors and judges. This prestigious event, organized by The National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA), offered a platform for aspiring aviators to demon-

strate their skills in various competitions while emphasizing aviation safety and excellence.

During this multi-day event, students engaged in a series of competitions showcasing navigation, precision landing, message drop, and more. These airborne exhibitions not only highlighted the skills of the competitors but also captivated flight enthusiasts and spectators alike.

In addition to the competitions, SAFECON served as a valuable forum for collegiate aviators to expand their studies, network with industry professionals, and elevate their careers. The event fostered a spirit of camaraderie and excellence, empowering participants to go above and

beyond their ordinary curriculum.

With an economic impact exceeding half a million dollars in 2019, SAFECON was poised to make a significant contribution to Janesville's local economy. "We are thrilled to welcome back SAFECON to Janesville," said Christine Rebout, Executive Director at the Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (JACVB). "This event not only celebrates the skill and dedication of collegiate aviators but also showcases Janesville as a premier destination for aviation and large-scale events." The JACVB was proud to assist in coordinating logistics and welcoming event attendees.

While the event was not

open to the public and there was no viewing available at the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport, Airport Park at 1020 West Knilians Road offered the best opportunity for the general public to witness these pilots in action.

The Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (JACVB) is a private, non-profit Destination Marketing Organization, whose mission is to lead, support

and promote tourism in the area by promoting Janesville as a prime destination for meetings and conventions, motorcoach, sporting events, and leisure travelers, thereby creating a positive economic impact on the community and enhancing the quality of life. The JACVB is funded by local hotel room tax and receives approximately 60% of the room tax collected by the City of Janesville with the re-

mainder going into the city's general fund.

The National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) is a prestigious organization dedicated to promoting aviation education and safety among collegiate aviators. NIFA provides a platform for students to participate in competitive and non-competitive events, network with industry professionals, and enhance their aviation skills.

## Gov. Evers highlights Mental Health Awareness Month

Gov. Tony Evers recently delivered his weekly radio address highlighting May as Mental Health Awareness Month across the state and nation. Gov. Evers proclaimed May as Mental Health Awareness Month, and a copy of the governor's proclamation is available below.

Hey there, Wisconsin! Governor Tony Evers here.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month here in Wisconsin and across the nation to reduce the stigma and encourage folks and families to have open and honest conversations around mental health.

In 2023, I declared it the Year of Mental Health because I was worried the state

of mental health in Wisconsin was a quiet, burgeoning crisis – one I still believe will have cascading effects for generations if it goes unaddressed.

That's why I was proud to sign a budget that made key investments in addressing our state's mental health crisis, including \$30 million for school-based mental health services to support our kids, \$10 million to establish two crisis urgent care and observation centers for folks in crisis, and \$200,000 for DATCP's farmer mental health assistance program.

And thanks in large part to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, we were also proud to announce nearly \$17 million in federal funding to support

operations of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

This is all great news, but we know there is much more work to do, and I won't stop fighting to make sure every Wisconsinite has access to quality, affordable mental healthcare.

Remember, folks, you are not alone, and help and hope are always available. Just call or text 988 and get connected to a trained crisis counselor.

May is a great reminder to take good care of ourselves and each other and let's work together to reduce the stigma and build a healthier state for everyone.

Happy Mental Health Awareness Month, Wisconsin.



PHOTO COURTESY FULL SPECTRUM PHOTOGRAPHY Rock Valley Publishing  
Images taken at the 2019 SAFECON at Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport.

### Independent-Register Shopping News

**MUST BE PREPAID**

Will Feature The

## BRODHEAD CITY WIDE RUMMAGE SALES

To Be Held **Saturday, June 8, 2024**  
All sales will be listed in the free Independent-Register Shopping News

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Send or bring in ad with payment to:  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ THE INDEPENDENT-REGISTER  
917 W. Exchange Street  
Brodhead, WI 53520  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ or email to [paper@indreg.com](mailto:paper@indreg.com)

Each Box Represents One (1) Word • 10 lines \$6 (approx. 35 words) 50¢ for each additional line.

Address of Sale:	Time & Date (if other than June 8):

- CHECK ONE:
- Northeast of Center Ave. & Exchange Street (701)
  - Northwest of Center Ave. & Exchange Street (702)
  - Southeast of Center Ave. & Exchange Street (703)
  - Southwest of Center Ave. & Exchange Street (704)
  - North Towne (706)
  - Country (707)

**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP:  
Thursday, June 2 at Noon!  
Early Registration is Appreciated!**

### • FAFSA (Continued from page 10)

but also a long-term decline in high school graduates. Small private colleges in particular faced very challenging financial circumstances even prior to these FAFSA delays, and another sizable enrollment decline this year would only compound them.

Meanwhile, as we have shown, these enrollment declines are unlikely to be distributed evenly by income or race. High school seniors from affluent households may more easily commit to a college or university without knowing how much financial aid they

may receive. Students from low-income households or other vulnerable circumstances seem less likely to take such a risk.

With the clock ticking, Wisconsin school officials and policymakers are emphasizing to students that there is still time to complete their FAFSA forms. Gov. Tony Evers and administration officials recently urged families to do so as part of a national FAFSA Week of Action. This statement referenced the Fair Opportunity Project, a national nonprofit organization that provides free

support for students' college application process, including FAFSA completion, and College Goal Wisconsin, a volunteer program that previously provided students with FAFSA completion support services.

Some districts, such as MPS, are regularly communicating with families that have not yet completed the FAFSA. This approach may represent a straightforward but potentially effective approach for other districts to follow. "FAFSA drives" hosted by school districts, universities, state officials, or community organizations, can galvanize completion by bringing many applicants into a single room and providing completion support on the spot. As the end of the school year approaches, districts and communities may wish to clearly designate who is responsible for assisting and proactively reaching out to noncompleters when summer begins – though these months can be challenging to reach some students and families.

Wisconsin's rank among the states in FAFSA completion rates shows there is substantial room for improvement. Nearly two-thirds of the state's expected high-paying job openings through 2030 are expected to require a college degree. A successful effort could increase not only college attainment but also economic mobility, while potentially helping to narrow Wisconsin's gaping divide in educational equity.

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