

Independent-Register

SHOPPING NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

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Third class completes Accelerated Industrial Maintenance Program

On Wednesday, July 3, 17 students completed the Accelerated Industrial Maintenance (AIM) program, marking the third graduating class of this initiative, which was funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

"There's so much opportunity right here in our stateline area for building a career," Greg Phillips, Dean of Manufacturing, Apprenticeship, Technology and Transportation, told the graduates. "My hope is that you have a better understanding of your personal interest and that the AIM program helped you or sparked you to build on your interests."

In partnership with Blackhawk Technical College and the Stateline Manufacturing Alliance, the Accelerated Industrial Maintenance program has been facilitated through the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, which received a \$1.6 million grant through the DWD in 2022 to implement projects that improve the workforce needs in several critical areas, including industrial maintenance.

Designed for high school students or recent high school graduates, the four-week summer program is comprised of Blackhawk courses that provide a foundation skillset for those seeking career oppor-

tunities in industrial maintenance and technology. Participants are paid to complete the courses and earn three credits that can be applied to a degree at Blackhawk or other colleges. The program also included career exploration opportunities at local manufacturers.

Thank you to all the partners who made this program possible, including the Stateline Manufacturing Alliance (SMA), Mid-States Concrete, Scot Forge, Blain's Farm and Fleet, The Morse Group, Stoughton Trailers, Kuhn, Charter Next Generation, SSI Technologies, Frito-Lay, Fairbanks Morse Defense, and Baker Manufacturing.

2024 AIM Class

- Jaydyn Buhmeyer, Beloit Turner High School
- Blaine Brown, Clinton High School
- Cayden DerHasen, Rock River Charter High School
- Angel Escalera, Beloit Memorial High School
- Ty Feibel, Clinton High School
- Landon Hahn, Clinton High School
- Nolan Hatch, Beloit Memorial High School
- Julian Huerta, Beloit Turner High School
- Josue Jimenez, Beloit Memorial High School
- Nolyn Miller, South Beloit High School



PHOTO COURTESY BLACKHAWK TECHNICAL COLLEGE Rock Valley Publishing

Front row, from left to right: Julian Huerta, Blaine Brown, Landon Hahn, Ryan Thomas, Jared Owens. Second row: Faith Traynor, Jaydyn Buhmeyer, Kaleb Neujahr, Cayden DerHasen, Saul Vargas, Jordan Shultz. Third row: Ty Feibel, Angel Escalera, Manuel Vargas, Nolyn Miller, Charles Whitaker.

- Kaleb Neujahr, Beloit Turner High School
- Jared Owens, Beloit Turner High School
- Jordan Shultz, Beloit Memorial High School
- Ryan Thomas, Beloit Turner High School
- Faith Traynor, Milton High School
- Saul Vargas, Beloit Memorial High School
- Manuel Vargas, Beloit Memorial High School
- Charles Whitaker, South Beloit High School
- Blaine Brown, Clinton High School

Rock County announces storm damage repair assistance funding

The Rock County Planning and Development Agency has funding available to assist with recovery from recent tornado and heavy rain events.

Funding is available for: owned residences outside the Cities of Beloit and Janesville for households at or below 80% of the County median income (household income of \$48,550 up to \$80,400 for sizes one up to six with increments in between).

Funds can be used for structural repair to the pri-

mary residence not covered by insurance, such as roof, siding, HVAC, windows, sanitary improvements, etc. Damage clean-up, personal property loss, accessory structure repair and costs already incurred are not eligible.

This fund availability will be in the form of a grant with no repayment required for eligible applicants.

Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development (WPHD) is the entity part-

nered with Rock Count to administer these funds. WPHD can be contacted at 608-258-5560 ext 302 or info@wphd.org.

Applications can be made by contacting WPHD directly. Other questions regarding eligible costs can be directed to Andrew Baker, Director of Planning and Land Conservation at 608-757-5587, baker@co.rock.wi.us or by visiting the Rock Count P&D Agency at the Rock County Courthouse.

Walworth County traffic stop ends in Rock County crash

Driver intoxicated, also found to be carrying drugs

On June 30, a Walworth County Sheriff's Office second shift patrol K9 deputy was operating with a fellow officer as a two-deputy patrol unit. They conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with Illinois registration for Unlawful Side Window Tint and No Front License Plate.



Jerry Hamilton

Initially, the driver pulled over and provided the deputies with his Illinois driver's license. The driver was identified as Jerry Hamilton, of Milwaukee. While the deputies were interacting with Hamilton, who was the sole occupant of the vehicle, they could smell the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. When they ordered Hamilton to exit the vehicle so they could further investigate, he shifted the vehicle into drive and fled the scene of the stop. As he fled, his vehicle struck the arm of one of the deputies. This caused the deputy pain but did not prevent them from returning to their squad car to participate in pursuing the suspect's vehicle.

The initial stopping deputies and other law enforcement officers pursued Hamilton south on I-43 into Rock County. During the pursuit, the suspect vehicle consistently traveled at approximately 110 mph. In Rock County, at around mile marker 4, a Wisconsin State Patrol Trooper attempted to deploy stop sticks to deflate the suspect's tires. Hamilton swerved his car as he approached the location of the trooper. This caused him to lose control of the vehicle and crash through the median barrier.

Hamilton was quickly taken into custody at the scene after the crash, and first aid was

initiated. His vehicle was traveling at about 110 mph at the time of the crash. Clinton Fire and EMS were summoned to the scene to provide aid to Hamilton following the crash. Found in the vehicle with him was approximately one half-pound of marijuana in separate packages for distribution, 20 grams of cocaine and crack cocaine, and other THC ingestion products such as gummies and a vape device.

The Walworth County Sheriff's Office is referring charges to the Walworth County District Attorney's Office against Hamilton for:

- Vehicle Operator Fleeing/Eluding a Traffic Officer, 346.04(3)
 - Operating While Intoxicated – 1st Offense, 346.63(1)(a)
 - Battery to Public Officers, 940.20(4)
 - First Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, 941.30(1)
 - Resisting or Obstructing an Officer, 946.41(1)
 - Possession with Intent to Deliver Cocaine, 961.41(1m)(cm)
 - Possession with Intent to Deliver THC, 961.41(1m)(h)
- Additionally, Hamilton was issued 16 other traffic citations.

Hamilton was confined at the Walworth County Jail on the night of the incident and was subsequently issued a \$15,000 cash bond in Walworth County Circuit Court on July 1.

Assisting agencies on this call included the City of Delavan Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, Rock County Sheriff's Office, and the Clinton Fire Protection District.

Pursuant to the directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as found in Supreme Court Rule 20:3.6, Trial Publicity, you are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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College news

UW-Platteville announces Dean's List

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the spring 2024 semester.

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

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

Albany

- Jada Flannery, Con-

struction Management BS, UW-Platteville

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

Brodhead

- Cora Hafen, Industrial and Systems Eng BS, UW-Platteville

- Dawson Keller, Criminal Justice BS, UW-Platteville

UW-Platteville reveals Chancellor's List

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville also announced its Chancellor's List, honoring those with perfect 4.0 grade-point averages for the spring 2024 semester.

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

Maire of Albany and Cora Hafen of Brodhead.

UW Oshkosh Spring 2024 Dean's List, Honor Roll released

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have released the names of students who qualified for the Dean's List and Honor Roll in spring 2024 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh).

The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for University Honor Roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades be-

low a "C" and no incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run.

Brodhead

- Gabrielle Ryser, Honor Roll

Juda

- Lorelei Pagett, Dean's List

Beloit student earns Dean's List honor at Kalamazoo College

Katherine Kraemer of Beloit has been named to the Kalamazoo College Spring 2024 Dean's List.

Dean's List recognition is earned with a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a full-time course load of at least three units, without fail-

ing or withdrawing from any course, during the Spring 2024 academic term.

Kalamazoo College, founded in 1833, is a nationally recognized liberal arts and sciences college located in Kalamazoo, Mich. The creator of the K-Plan, Kalamazoo College provides an individualized education that integrates rigorous academics with life-changing experiential learning opportunities. For more information, visit www.kzoo.edu.

Augustana College reveals Dean's List

Sarah Thul, a Women and Gender Studies, French, Theatre Generalist major, of Augustana College's spring semester Dean's List.

The college named more than 1,100 to the Dean's List for the 2023-2024 spring semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term.

Augustana College is a vibrant, welcoming liberal arts college located on a 115-acre campus in the Quad Cities along the Mississippi River. Augustana, a residential campus, has 100 majors and programs, 160 student organizations and 28 varsity athletic teams.

The college enrolls 2,500 students in a metro area that provides access to many career-paths and hands-on learning opportunities, including internships, jobs, student teaching and research sites.

Beloit student named to Lawrence University's 2023-24 Dean's List

Congratulations to Devin Hessler of Beloit for making the 2023-24 Dean's List at Lawrence University.

The Dean's List is an annual honor roll of students demonstrating exemplary academic performance. The list is compiled at the end of the academic year once all grades have been recorded. For a student to be included on the Dean's List, the student must have earned at least 36 units in Lawrence courses during the academic year (Lawrence courses include courses taken on the Appleton campus or in a Lawrence-sponsored or affiliated off-campus program) and have earned a GPA of at least 3.500 in those courses, with no unsatisfactory grades.

Lawrence University is a liberal arts college located along the banks of the Fox River in Appleton, Wis. Founded in 1847, Lawrence has an enrollment of about 1,500 students drawn from nearly every state and more than 40 countries. It features a college of arts and sciences and a conservatory of music, both annually ranked among the best in the nation.

Janesville student graduates from Lawrence University

Leah Kukman of Janesville graduated from Lawrence University at a June 9 commencement held on the university's Main Hall Green.

The graduate now joins an alumni community more than 22,000 strong.

Wisconsin DNR reveals new secretary's directors

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced three new regional secretary's directors, effective July 14. Connie Antonuk will be the new Secretary's Director for the Northeast region, Jill Schoen for the West Central region, and Shelly Allness for the South Central region.

The DNR's Secretary's Directors serve within their respective regions, acting as the department's eyes, ears and voice throughout the state, ensuring prompt attention to local issues and improved responsiveness to opportunities.

Connie Antonuk has been with the DNR for 31 years, most recently serving as the Northern Region Field Integration Leader. Connie started her career as a limited term employee at the Escanaba Lake

Research station as a creel clerk measuring walleyes and talking with anglers. She then went on to write preliminary site assessments for the Superfund program. Her first full-time position at the DNR was with the Remediation and Redevelopment program, cleaning up leaking underground storage tank sites. She then moved to the Park Falls DNR office, where she worked with the Forestry, Wildlife, and Parks and Recreation programs. While in Park Falls, Connie also worked with the Hayward tree nursery, Flambeau River State Forest and the fire management program. In 2006, Connie was appointed Air and Waste Leader for the Northern Region, eventually transitioning to the Field Integration Leader position. Before joining the DNR, Connie worked for the US Fish and

Wildlife Service raising lake trout at a federal fish hatchery.

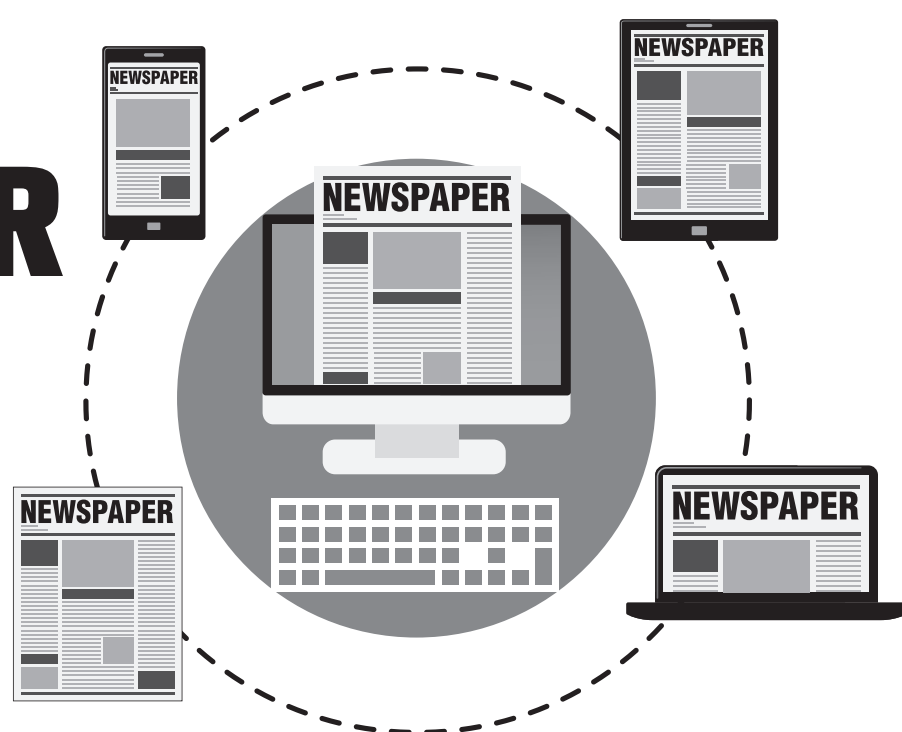
Jill Schoen has over 30 years of experience in natural resources management, serving the department in various capacities. She was introduced to the agency through an internship and later began her professional career as a Program and Planning Analyst for what was then the Water Resources Management Program in Madison. She moved to the West Central Region and subsequently served as a Field Specialist and Policy and Plan Review Expert in the Waste and Materials Management Program, a Regional Supervisor in both the Waste and Materials Management and Waterways Programs, and Field Operations Director for the Watershed Program. Most recently, Jill most recently served as Program Director

for the Watershed Management Program.

As a 25-year public servant, Shelly Allness has happily been with the DNR for over 20 years. Most recently, Shelly served as the South Central Region Field Integration Leader; before that, she was the Deputy Legislative Director and the Agency Tribal Liaison. Shelly started her DNR career as a DOT Liaison/Environmental Analysis Specialist in the Northeast. She later served as the Division Policy Advisor for the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks predecessor, the Lands Division. Shelly was also a member of the leadership team working within the Secretary's Office at the Department of Tourism for several years, where she worked on various topics and regularly engaged with the outdoor recreation and tourism industry.

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Wisconsinites willing to pay for homegrown goods

In late 2020, the Reshoring Institute conducted a survey that revealed nearly 70% of respondents preferred American-made products, with more than 83% willing to pay up to 20% more for domestic products. This underscores the strong preference among American consumers for the “Made in the USA” label. But what about products made in Wisconsin?

Hosting Advice sought to answer this question, specifically looking into how much of a premium people would pay for products produced and sold online by businesses in their state. The survey of 3,000 consumers found that, on average, Wisconsinites are willing to pay a 12% premium for products with a “Made In Wisconsin” label.

Hawaii residents value locally sourced products the most and are willing to spend up to 35% more on items made in the islands, perhaps due to the high cost of imported goods. On the other hand, New Yorkers are the least willing to pay a premium, with an average willingness to spend only 8% more on local products.

The survey also revealed that 32% of online shoppers specifically look for locally made products, while 40% do so occasionally. Meanwhile, 28% of those surveyed said they do not consider the origin and opt for the best available option regardless of where it was made.

When it comes to American-made products, there is a strong loyalty: 90% of respondents trust the quality of American products over imported ones, and 72% would choose a more expensive American product over a similar international one.

Consumers are most willing to pay a premium for the following locally made products, in order of preference:

- Health and beauty products.
- Clothing and apparel.
- Cars and car parts.
- Electronics.
- Home appliances.
- Furniture and home decor.
- Food and beverages (e.g., specialty foods, craft beer).
- Sporting goods and outdoor equipment.

- Children’s products (e.g., toys, clothing).
- Jewelry and accessories.
- Construction materials (e.g., flooring, tools).

Additionally, they surveyed producers of locally made products, especially those selling online. It was found that 81% of online marketers adjust their marketing strategies based on the region they are targeting. Furthermore, 70% have noticed a significant shift toward products marketed as made in their state over recent years.

Many online businesses also support local causes and organizations, finding it easier to raise funds with the convenience of online transactions. An impressive 85% of online businesses reported that contributing to local causes has benefited their business.

“Our findings highlight a growing trend among American consumers who not only value the ‘Made in the USA’ label but also strongly prefer products made within their own states. Local loyalty is driving significant premiums, with consumers recognizing the quality and supporting their local economies,” says Christina Lewis of HostingAdvice.com.

All content is courtesy Hosting Advice. Respondents are carefully chosen from a geographically representative online panel of double opt-in members. This selection is further tailored to meet the precise criteria required for each unique survey. Throughout the survey, they design questions to carefully screen and authenticate respondents, guaranteeing the alignment of the survey with the ideal participants.

To ensure the integrity of their data collection, they employ an array of data quality methods. Alongside conventional measures like digital fingerprinting, bot checks, geo-verification, and speeding detection, etc. each response undergoes a thorough review by a dedicated team member to ensure quality and contextual accuracy. The commitment extends to open-ended responses, subjecting them to scrutiny for gibberish answers and plagiarism detection.

Annual Dairy Strong conference returning to Green Bay in 2025

Dairy Business Association announced recently that the annual Dairy Strong conference will return to Green Bay on Jan 15 to 16 for the 2025 event.

The 2025 conference, to be held at the KI Convention Center, will focus on the future of the dairy community and how it’s being shaped through policy, practices and priorities. Coming on the heels of a presidential election in November, Dairy Strong programming will include timely and focused topics to help move dairy forward.

This past January, the annual conference brought together more than 400 attendees, representing over 280,000 cows. The 2025 event will be the second year that Dairy

Strong will take place in Green Bay, kicking off at one of the city’s greatest attractions: the historic Lambeau Field stadium.

“Continuing to move the dairy community forward in all aspects of the industry is our philosophy at the Dairy Business Association,” Tim Trotter, DBA CEO, said. “This motivates our work and the work of the entire dairy community. We’re eager to gather among friends at the Dairy Strong conference again in 2025 as we keep moving dairy’s path forward.”

Sponsorship and exhibit information, speaker updates and other announcements about the 2025 Dairy Strong conference will be posted at dairystrong.org.

Beckman Mill holds annual ice cream social and artists in the park

Summer is finally here, the season of ice cream, cake, and root beer floats. Everyone is invited to join the Friends of Beckman Mill for their Annual Ice Cream Social and Artists in the Park on Sunday, July 21 from noon until 4 p.m. Entrance to the park is free and there is so much to see and do.

Again this year, artists from around the region will display their works in an open air gallery. The public is invited to watch and interact with them. Some artists will have paintings for sale.

For children that love to create, young budding artists are invited to paint – Beckman Mill provides the canvas and paints, attendees bring their artistic spirit. Sarah will provide the inspiration and fun. Melody Jones, retired art teacher, and Carla Nelson will help the kids create a drawing with assorted materials that will be provided, which will become an insert for a greeting card that the kids can take home.

Ever made ice cream? Crystal will begin the process and visitors will be invited to help crank the handle and then of course have a taste of freshly made ice cream when it is ready.

Besides the art exhibits and painting, free activities will include corn grinding demonstrations at the mill, strolling on the Oak Savanna Boardwalk, visiting the museum, exploring the fish ladder, discovering the new musical



BECKMANMILL.ORG PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Join the Friends of Beckman Mill for their Annual Ice Cream Social and Artists in the Park on Sunday, July 21 from noon until 4 p.m.

playground equipment, or simply lounging in the shelter and enjoying the ice cream treats and listening to the music. Music will be provided by “the Jug Band” which consists of a hammer dulcimer, guitar and base viola. There is no charge for any of the activities or the treats, but donations are greatly appreciated. Summer doesn’t get any better than this. Enjoy the treats, music, art, and

fun for the whole family. It is the perfect way to celebrate National Ice Cream Day.

Beckman Mill is at 11600 South Co Road H in Beloit.

For information call 608-751-1551 or check out the Friends of Beckman Mill website online at www.beckmanmill.org. Visit on Facebook at Friends of Beckman Mill, Inc., for updates and the calendar of events.

News briefs

Nature hike to be held at the Sunny Peace Prairie

Walk through the prairie to observe wildflowers, birds, butterflies and insects. The walk will be led by Dave Bendlin, former Milton science teacher, who leads many such programs in the area. Attendees will learn a lot about prairies and determine if they would like to plant one of their own. The event is held Saturday, July 27, at 9 a.m. at the Sunny Peace Prairie, 2604 S. Coon Island Road, Orfordville. The program will last about an hour and a half. Bring the kids. There will be nets to capture insects along the walk which will be done on mowed trails. Wear good shoes especially if anyone wants to pursue an insect through the prairie.

Rock County ADRC holds Elvis event

In recognition of family caregivers from across Rock County, the Aging and Disability Resource Center and the Rock County Caregiver Network will host a free “Afternoon with Elvis and Friends” starring world champion Elvis tribute artist Jesse Aron. “Elvis” will be performing on July 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the DWRC located at 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville.

Tickets for this event are free for family caregivers and those that support them in their caregiving. Family caregivers

are invited to attend regardless of where their loved one lives, the age or the disability of their loved one. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the ADRC of Rock County at 608-758-8455 or emailing Krystal.Torres@co.rock.wi.us.

This will be an afternoon attendees won’t soon forget. Join in on Saturday afternoon, July 20 for an afternoon full of entertainment with award winning tribute artist Jesse Aron as he takes attendees on a magical journey with some of the most legendary voices in rock and roll and country tributes to Elvis and Roy Orbison.

“Music and laughter as well as time away is important for family caregivers and can be another way to assist families with coping,” says Cori Marsh, Aging Programs Supervisor, ADRC of Rock County. Marsh encourages family caregivers of all types to join them on July 20.

ADRC announces elder benefit schedule

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County announces the elder benefit specialist schedule for July 2024.

Times will be by appointment only. Please call 757-5414 to schedule an appointment.

• Thursday, July 18, 11 a.m.

to noon, Hedberg Library, Janesville

• Tuesday, July 23, 11 a.m. to noon, The Gathering Place, Milton

• Wednesday, July 24, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Riverview Heights Apartments

• Thursday, July 25, 8 a.m. to noon, Grinnell Senior Center

Sign up for caregiver classes at the ADRC

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County is offering the 6-week SAVVY Caregiver Training Program on Monday afternoons July 29 to Aug. 26 and Sept. 9 at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center located at 1717 Center Ave., Janesville. There is no cost to attend this program.

Who is SAVVY for? It is for any family or friend caring for someone with Alzheimer’s disease or another form of progressive dementia. What is SAVVY? Savvy Caregiver is a proven curriculum developed by Dr. Kenneth Hepburn and colleagues at the University of Minnesota. Grounded in research, this educational series teaches strategies, practical real-world skills and helps to reduce stress, both in the caregiver and the person for whom care is being provided. Savvy Caregiver increases the caregiver’s sense of competence and well-being even though there may be little experience.

The course will provide a base of dementia knowledge and cover a variety of related caregiving topics and information.

Reserve a spot today for the SAVVY Caregiver Training Program by contacting Karen Tennyson at 608-741-3615 or via email at karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us.

EXIT Realty welcomes new team members

EXIT Realty HGM is pleased to announce that Ashton Andonegui and Logan Kahl have joined its growing team of dedicated real estate sales professionals.

EXIT Realty HGM, located at 12 S. Pontiac Dr., Janesville, is a proud member of EXIT Realty Upper Midwest’s rapidly expanding network of independently owned and operated brokerages across the region.

EXIT Realty is a company founded and built on human potential. A full service, forward-thinking, real estate franchisor with offices across North America, EXIT has to-date paid out more than a half a billion dollars in single-level residual income to its associates. A portion of every transaction fee received by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund, and to-date, \$7 million has been allocated to charity. For more information, please visit www.exitrealty.com and www.joinexitrealty.com.



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President and CEO to retire from WEDA



Mary Perry

Perry has served as WEDA President and CEO since Jan. 2021. Under her leadership, WEDA has experienced exceptional growth, the implementation of valuable member programs and services, and

greater influence over the direction of economic development in Wisconsin.

Melissa Hunt, the current Chairperson of the WEDA Board of Directors, said, "I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Mary before and since she took the helm as WEDA President and CEO, and I do not have adequate words to express my gratitude for her extraordinary vision and leadership, which has solidified WEDA and advanced economic development across Wisconsin. While the entire WEDA family will miss her day-to-day presence, she has earned the opportunity to think about her next act, and we wish nothing but the best in her retirement. Thankfully, Mary

will leave WEDA in a rock-solid position as we begin the search for her successor."

The WEDA Board of Directors has launched a search to identify Perry's successor. In the short term, Kathryn Berger will act as interim president and CEO. Berger has been a WEDA member for decades and has served as executive treasurer of the WEDA Board of Directors for the past two years, where she has demonstrated great leadership and a deep commitment to the WEDA mission. An economic development veteran, she brings a wealth of experience from the public, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors, which will be instrumental in guiding WEDA through this transition.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Association, founded in 1975, is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to growing Wisconsin's economy. Driven by the needs of our 450-plus members, they represent the economic development interests of both the private and public sectors through leadership on statewide initiatives.

Blood and platelet donors critically needed

This July, the American Red Cross continues to stress that blood and platelet donors are critically needed right now to support lifesaving transfusions this summer. Donors of all blood types are in demand, especially those with type O blood and donors giving platelets.

Every donation counts in the mission to keep blood products stocked for patients, including those facing life-threatening situations. More than a quarter of all blood products each year are used in critical care and emergency room cases, highlighting the importance of generous blood and platelet donors. Be a force for good. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Universal Pictures for the theatrical release of Twisters to help avoid a summer blood shortage. All who come to give blood or platelets July 1 to 31 will get a Fandango Movie Ticket by email. Those who come to give blood in July will also automatically be entered for a chance to win a 2025 Ram 1500 Big Horn. See RedCrossBlood.org/Twisters for full details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Green County

Juda

• Thursday, Aug. 1: 1 to 6 p.m., Community Center, N2350 County S.

Monroe

• Monday, July 29: 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., United Methodist Church, 2227 4th St.

Rock County

Beloit

• Tuesday, July 23: Noon to 5 p.m., Beloit Life Center, 2170 Murphy Woods Road

Evansville

• Wednesday, July 31: Noon to 6 p.m., Creekside Place Community Center, 102 Maple St.

Janesville

• Thursday, July 18: 1 to 6 p.m., Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Drive

• Tuesday, July 30: Noon to 5 p.m., Marian Hall, 1236 E. Racine St.

• Wednesday, Aug. 7: Noon to 5 p.m., The Venue, 37 S. Water St.

• Thursday, Aug. 8: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St.

Milton

• Friday, July 26: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Mary's Center, 837 Parkview

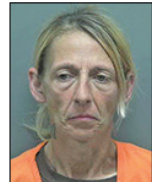
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Police news



Crystal L. Eichman



Jeannie J. Rains

Beloit women arrested on drug charges

On July 9, at approximately 5:20 a.m., the Rock County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team executed a search warrant at 951 Highland Avenue, Beloit. The Beloit Police and Fire Departments also assisted with the search warrant execution.

The search warrant was a result of a drug trafficking investigation conducted by the Rock County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit.

A total of 13 people were located inside of the residence and detained as part of the investigation.

The following subjects were charged as a result of the search warrant: Crystal L. Eichman, 43, Beloit, for Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Maintaining a Premises for Drug Trafficking; and Jeannie J. Rains, 43, Edgerton, for Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Eichman and Rains were both provided future court dates.

"Pursuant to the directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as found in Supreme Court Rule 20:3.6, Trial Publicity,

you are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

RCSO warns of scam calls impersonating deputy

The Rock County Sheriff's Office was made aware of recent fraudulent phone calls to citizens within Rock County where the caller identifies themselves as a Rock County deputy. They have been using different names of active deputies/supervisors. The caller(s) indicate the person needs to send them money to clear up a legal manner. At this time, the RCSO is not aware of any monetary loss to the public.

These phone calls are fraudulent in nature, and they warn the public that the sheriff's office nor their representatives will call citizens asking for money. The RCSO encourages the public to let their family and friends know about these scams. The caller's have even set up mailboxes identifying themselves as RCSO personnel, so when someone tries to return the call it appears to be real.

Anyone receiving calls of this nature is urged to report it to the Rock County Communications Center at 608-757-2244. People should always use caution and are reminded not to give personal information or pay monies via phone unless they can verify the source of origin.

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Final installment of property taxes due

The final installment of the 2023 real estate property taxes is due to the Rock County Treasurer on or before July 31.

Please include the Tax ID number with all payments.

Pay in person 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rock County Courthouse, 51 S. Main Street, Janesville.

Pay by mail: the mailing address is 51 S. Main Street, Janesville. If requesting a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope or email address.

Online payments can be made at this website: www.co.rock.wi.us/treasurer. Click on Paying Property Taxes > Payment Options > GovTech Services Inc. website to pay with debit card, credit card, or e-check.

Or call 855-912-7625 and follow the voice prompts. There is a fee for using these services.

The online services will be temporarily shut down for settlement Aug. 3 through 12.

They have a drop box inside the Rock County Courthouse building before security and one next to the office door on second floor.

Remember to check to see if one is receiving the lottery and gaming credit on their tax bill; 2023 late lottery credits must be claimed by Oct. 1.

Those that need help paying property taxes visit: wisconsinruralhousing.org, Foundation for Rural Housing or call 1-888-400-5974 for more information.

Please call the office with questions at 608-757-5670.

Blackhawk joins the National Consortium on College Men of Color

Blackhawk Technical College has joined the National Consortium on College Men of Color (NCCMC) to further its commitment to improving the success of historically underrepresented students.

The NCCMC is an initiative of the Community College Equity Assessment Lab in partnership with the Lumina Foundation that offers a collaborative environment where community colleges nationwide can share best practices and learn from one another.

As a member of the NCCMC, Blackhawk will benefit from assessment tools to evaluate existing programs and the opportunity to develop new initiatives tailored to the needs of men of color enrolled at the college. Through monthly professional development webinars, survey resources and an annual working group meeting, NCCMC members work together to enhance the success of male students of color.

Two Blackhawk academic advisors, Linda Fair and Xanthe Kuhn, will lead the efforts for the college.

"We are thrilled to join the National Consortium on College Men of Color. This partnership reflects Blackhawk Technical College's unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for our students. By collaborating with the NCCMC, we can share best practices and

develop tailored initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by men of color in higher education. Our goal is to ensure that every student, regardless of their background, has the resources and support they need to succeed," Fair said.

In addition to NCCMC membership, Blackhawk continues to work to cultivate an on-campus culture of inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility through several programs and initiatives, including the BEAM program that features outreach, support and services to help close equity gaps, the college's annual Dream Chasers Summit for high school students of color, and the Minority Excellence Organization.

Visit ccea.org for more information about NCCMC and its initiatives.

Celebrating changes at HealthNet



PHOTO COURTESY STATE SEN. MARK SPREITZER *Rock Valley Publishing*

On May 30, State Sen. Mark Spreitzer was pleased to meet with Kerry Swanson, the new Executive Director of HealthNet of Rock County, and her team. As a free and charitable clinic, HealthNet does important work for the local community. Spreitzer was happy to speak with them about how they are working to meet the medical, dental, and behavioral health needs of Rock County residents.

Program aims to send 1,000 girls to camp

Sara Blakely, the inventor and founder of Spanx, is giving full scholarships to send 1,000 girls across the country to Camp Invention this summer.

This includes the Clinton Camp Invention program at Clinton High School from Monday, July 29 to Friday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"My hope is that this gift will inspire the next generation of female leaders and industry disruptors. Only 13% of primary patent holders are women, and when I started Spanx, that number was even lower ... it was only 6.8%," Blakely said. "We need more products and ideas generated from the feminine perspective. Women have so many gifts to bring into the world ... imagine if their full potential could be realized. I'm so excited to partner with the National Inventors Hall of Fame to send young girls to Camp Invention this summer so they too can

have the confidence to dream up ideas and solve problems for the world."

In addition to the financial gift, each girl will also receive a "lucky" red backpack. "I started Spanx with my lucky red backpack from college. It was with me every step of the way. The lucky red backpack is a symbol of starting small while dreaming big and that everything you need is right there on your back. It's even hung on the wall and framed at Spanx HQ as an inspiring symbol," Blakely said.

For more than three decades, Camp Invention, a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, has developed confidence and problem-solving skills for girls and boys through authentic, hands-on STEM activities inspired by its Inductees. Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and

encourages entrepreneurship – in an exciting and engaging environment.

"The National Inventors Hall of Fame pays it forward through our education programs, competitions and events," said National Inventors Hall of Fame CEO Michael Oister. "We are appreciative of Sara Blakely's donation, specifically to support girls' access to invention education and hands-on STEM activities. Our mission is to provide more underserved children the opportunity to experience our programs, develop their own innovative mindset, and benefit from hands-on, problem-based learning, which will boost their interest and confidence in exploring STEM fields."

Local programs are facilitated and taught by certified local educators. Annually, Camp Invention programs benefit more than 118,000 children and partner with 2,500 schools and districts across the nation.

Educators and school districts can partner with Camp Invention by visiting invent.org/camp.

Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innovation, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. Through hands-on programming, Camp Invention encourages children entering kindergarten through sixth grade to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics curriculum inspired by some of the world's greatest inventors. Camp Invention is a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. This nationwide, non-profit organization is committed to the curious minds and innovative spirits of the past, present and future. Since 1990, our education programs have served more than 2.6 million children, and 309,000 teachers and Leadership Interns. For more information, visit invent.org/programs/camp-invention.

Spreitzer reacts to decision on legality of absentee ballot drop boxes

Recently, State Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit), released this statement following the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision in *Priorities USA v. Wisconsin Elections Commission*, which affirmed that clerks may allow Wisconsin voters to return their absentee ballots via secure drop boxes:

"Today's ruling is a restoration of voting rights that Republicans took away from the people of Wisconsin. Reviews, audits, court cases, and investigations have all confirmed that Wis-

consin elections are safe, secure, and transparent. In spite of that, far-right conspiracy theorists and their Republican allies temporarily stopped the use of secure drop boxes for ballots with a court decision that read non-existent restrictions into the law and undercut the ability of local clerks to do their jobs. Today's decision corrects that anti-voter reading of state statute.

"Today, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has put things right. The Court recognized today that clerks may use

drop boxes to meet their responsibility under Wisconsin law to administer elections. Once again, local clerks can offer voters an easy and secure way to return their ballot with convenient drop boxes located in

their municipality. Because of today's ruling, voters will continue to have the option of voting in-person on election day, in-person before election day, or by absentee ballot, and they will have options to return absentee

ballots in the ways that fit best within their busy lives.

"I applaud this decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Wisconsin elections are safe, secure, and transparent – and drop boxes are a part of that."

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Large training event a rewarding experience for state army guard

By Staff Sgt. Kati Volkman
32ND INFANTRY BRIGADE
COMBAT TEAM

Over the past month, more than 5,000 soldiers from across the United States and Canada, led by the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), put their skills to the test at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Johnson, La.

JRTC provides brigade combat teams with simulated large-scale combat operations to build readiness to support overseas deployments and prepare soldiers to survive the rigors of war. This is likely the largest training event for the 32nd IBCT since the entire brigade and its equipment shipped to West Germany for REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany) in 1986.

Though some soldiers have been through a combat train-



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. KATI VOLKMAN Rock Valley Publishing

Col. Matthew Elder, commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, briefs Brig. Gen. Matthew J. Strub, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Army, and Command Chief Warrant Officer Charles Mattison, along with other state leadership on the current training status June 15 at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) on Fort Johnson, La. Strub described the time at JRTC as "the closest thing to combat that a soldier can do, and train to be ready for the future fight."

ing center like JRTC in the past, for many, this will be the only time in their careers to

experience a training event of this scale.

1st Sgt. Christian Byrd, from the 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment headquarters company, emphasized the uniqueness of having this kind of opportunity.

"For a lot of these guys, they may never get to experience another training event like this," Byrd said, "so we encourage them to make the most of it and also try to have a little fun along the way."

For Capt. David Eischen, commander of Company C (Charlie Med), 132nd Brigade Support Battalion, this training was the closest thing to real-world deployment scenarios many of his troops have had.

"Because we are dealing with both real world and notional situations involving injuries and illnesses, there are more patients to work with as we simulate a large-scale combat operation environment, than what I have seen on multiple deployments," Eischen said.

Staff Sgt. Jesse Portillo, an intelligence analyst with the brigade's 1st Squadron, 105th Cavalry Regiment, was surprised to learn about the effort required to bring a brigade to a training event like JRTC.

"Seeing all the different wheels that have to be turn-

ing to make this work makes me appreciate all the different [military occupational specialties] and what they do for us," Portillo said.

"JRTC is an endurance challenge more than anything else," he added.

From the soldier's perspective, Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Johnson, senior enlisted leader for the 32nd IBCT, said this was the toughest, most realistic training that the soldiers have ever received.

"The thing I'm most proud of is the attitude they had and how much they learned from being able to do their military job for such a solid stretch of time," Johnson said. "Now we need to figure out how to best build more of this realistic training into our drill weekends and annual training, considering our limited resources and time."

Col. Matthew Elder, 32nd IBCT commander, agreed with Johnson about the benefit of having soldiers train together for a longer period of time.

"When you get these opportunities for a longer time frame of training, you can see the collective progression and growth over time," Elder said. "Soldiers build trust in one another and their leadership, along with growing their skills in their jobs and their basic soldier skills."

Col. Brion Aderman, commander of the rotational support group for this training cycle, said this exercise will change the way the 32nd IBCT trains for decades to come.

"A good majority of the next two to three generations of leadership are right here on the ground and shared this experience," Aderman explained. "Going forward, those future first sergeants, company commanders, battalion and brigade commanders and command sergeants major, will have this shared training to look back on, they'll reflect on the lessons learned, and be able to move forward with a common understanding."

Brig. Gen. Matthew Strub, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Army, met with many soldiers and leaders during a visit to the training exercise, which he described as the closest thing to combat soldiers can experience in a training environment. He said troops at every level would use what they have learned at the JRTC for the rest of their careers.

"You aren't going to win every fight, but you will learn from every fight and take that knowledge with you into future training and deployments," Strub said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Curtis Patrouille, senior enlisted leader for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, said the soldiers participating in JRTC were being challenged at every level.

"Everybody is taking the opportunity to learn and grow in their jobs," Patrouille said. "Not only are they becoming masters at their own job, they're asking to learn more."



Soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd "Red Arrow" Infantry Brigade Combat Team take up a hasty fighting position June 8 during a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Johnson, La. The Red Arrow led more than 5,000 soldiers from across the United States and Canada in simulated large-scale combat operations. This realistic training builds readiness for overseas deployments and prepares soldiers to survive the rigors of war.



Members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment conduct a fire mission on an M777 155-mm howitzer as part of a live fire exercise June 6 during a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Johnson, La.



Col. Matthew Elder, commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, leads a combined arms rehearsal with battalion leadership. Combined arms rehearsals create a shared understanding of the mission by having different elements of the brigade talk through their assignment, using a large floor map to show their location and movement in relation to other brigade elements.

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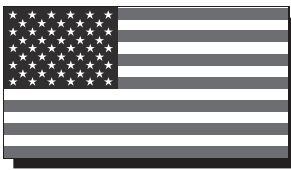
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commencing between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.,

Returning July 31, 2024 if needed

Special Voting Deputies appointed by the City of Evansville will be administering absentee voting for the residents of this facility for the **Partisan Primary Election** at the above time and place. Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

Only observers from each of the two recognized political parties whose candidates for governor or president received the greatest number of votes in the municipality at the most recent general election may accompany the deputies to each facility where absentee voting will take place. The observers may observe the process of absentee ballot distribution in the common areas of the home, facility, or complex. Each party wishing to have an observer present shall submit the name of the observer to the clerk or board of election commissioners no later than the close of business on the last business day prior to the visit. Family members of residents may be present at the time of voting.

If you have further questions, please contact:

Leah Hurlley, City Clerk
31 S Madison Street, Evansville, WI 53536
608 882-2266 Option 2
L.Hurlley@evansvillewi.gov

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