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Local heritage comes alive at Beckman Mill



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

Walk down the military timeline to meet the soldiers representing several of the wars that the U.S. has been involved in, including a Civil War surgeon performing surgery.

The sights and sounds of rural life from a century ago will come to life again on Sunday, Sept. 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Beckman Mill Park.

In the mill itself, visitors can watch corn being ground by the original 1868 millstones powered by water or by a restored 1920 International Harvester Titan tractor engine. Know where the term "rule of thumb" came from? Get that answer during a tour of the mill.

A wide variety of activities will complement the grinding demonstrations. Collector show cars, including the Buick Club, will be on display. Demonstrators will be on hand to demonstrate historic trades, such as wool rug braiding, chair canning, basket weaving, wool spinning, butter churning, embroidering, gardening, and

wood carving which were an important part of family life and work. The blacksmiths will be working by the blacksmith shop. Walk down the military time line to meet the soldiers representing several of the wars that the U.S. has been involved in, including a Civil War surgeon performing surgery. Learn about the period of the Underground Railroad at the campsite. Ed O'Brien will enlighten attendees about Camp Grant Rockford.

Want music? In the shelter at 11:30 a.m. to noon, guitarist Bobbi Pann will play sing-a-long music and at noon the concertinas of John Sheehan and Mathew Wundrow will begin. The Christian Country Witnesses band will play from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Zachary Peterson will serenade from 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. on his violin by the museum. Toes will be tapping and hands will be clapping with this lineup of music.

Inside the Cooperage/Beckman Home is the "Cooper Corner" display. Check out the display of the 1933 World's Fair trophy which was won by Gertrude Beckman who was born and raised in the house. Also see the bakers table and bowl she used. In remembrance of Dick and Val Dunagan, a "courting dulcimer" that they owned is on display. Some of the locals may remember Dick and Val playing at these events.

Stroll through "A Mothers Flower Garden", the vegetable garden, or the trail through the wild flowers and wet lands.

Again this year will be pulled

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Art Infusion features public art projects in Janesville

Art Infusion will return to Downtown Janesville on Sept. 6 to 8 with an exciting lineup of public art projects, including the creation of two brand new murals plus a range of community programming and events.

Returning muralist CJ Hungerman, known for his dynamic and vibrant work like the "We Rise" and "Fowl Wall" murals created during past Art Infusion festivals, will bring his signature style to another new project in Birdwalk Alley. Matthew Mederer (aka Cool Disco

Rich) is an award-winning Chicago-based artist celebrated for his blend of realism and optical illusions. Matthew will be creating the second mural on the north wall of Midwest Indoor Storage at 314 W. Milwaukee Street.

"We're thrilled to welcome back CJ Hungerman and introduce Matthew Mederer to the Janesville community," said Christine Rebout, Executive Director of the Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Their work not only

beautifies our city but also fosters a deeper connection within our community. We can't wait for everyone to see these incredible murals come to life."

This year's Art Infusion will also feature the highly anticipated Chalk Art Competition on Sept. 7 and 8, welcoming participants of all ages to showcase their creativity on Janesville's sidewalks. Among the highlights are featured chalk artists including Sharon Gaver,

See ART, Page 3

Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus in Rock County

Public Health urges everyone to protect themselves against mosquito bites

Rock County Public Health (RCPH) reminds residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites and potential disease. Mosquitoes collected from Rock County have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). These are the first mosquitoes that have tested positive for in Rock County since mosquito surveillance began in early July. Currently, no human cases of WNV have been reported in Rock County in 2024, but other WNV infections have been confirmed in people and animals in other parts of the state.

WNV is spread to humans and other animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes acquire WNV by feeding on infected birds. The virus is not spread directly from person to person, animal to animal, or animal to person.

Most people (80%) who are infected with WNV do not get sick. Those who do become ill usually experience mild symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle ache, rash, and fatigue. However, some people (less than 1%) who become infected with the virus get seriously ill with symptoms that include high fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, disorientation, mental confusion, tremors, paralysis, and coma. Older adults and those with compromised immune systems are at greater risk of developing severe illness that can be fatal. It is important that people contact a healthcare provider if they suspect they have WNV illness.

Public health officials in Wisconsin have monitored the spread of WNV since 2001. An

average of 18 cases of WNV are reported among Wisconsin residents each year. WNV infections in humans have been reported from June through October; however, most people with WNV report becoming ill in August and September.

The best way to avoid illnesses spread by mosquitoes is to reduce exposure to mosquitoes and eliminate mosquito breeding sites. Mosquito activity and the risk of WNV will continue through the rest of the summer until there is a hard frost (temperatures below 28 degrees Fahrenheit for at least four straight hours). RCPH offers these tips to protect yourself and your family against mosquito bites:

Avoid mosquito bites

- Apply an insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 to exposed skin and clothing.

- Prior to heading outdoors, treat clothing with permethrin; do not apply permethrin directly to skin.

- Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning hours, when mosquitoes that spread WNV are most active.

- Wear long-sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-proof your home

- Prevent mosquitoes from breeding around your home by removing stagnant water from items around your property, such as: empty standing water

that has collected in tin cans, plastic containers, flower pots, and downspouts; turn over wheelbarrows, kiddie pools, buckets, and small boats such as canoes and kayaks when not in use; change the water in bird baths and pet dishes at least every three days; and clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas, and hot tubs; drain water from pool covers.

- Make sure window and door screens are intact and tightly fitted to prevent mosquitoes from getting into your home.

- Trim or mow tall grass, weeds, and vines since mosquitoes use these areas to rest during hot daylight hours.

For more information about WNV and how to protect yourself, visit the Environmental Health website at www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/public-health/environmental-health/pests, the Department of Health Service's mosquito bite prevention website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mosquito/bite-prevention.htm, or call 608-757-5440. RCPH remains committed to the environmental wellbeing of Rock County residents and will continue to provide updates as necessary.

Rock County Public Health serves Rock County residents by improving population health outcomes and removing barriers through community partnerships to provide everyone the opportunity to reach their full health potential. Visit the Rock County Public Health website and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



ART INFUSION JANESVILLE FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

This year's Art Infusion will also feature the highly anticipated Chalk Art Competition on Sept. 7 and 8, welcoming participants of all ages to showcase their creativity on Janesville's sidewalks.

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Several hunting seasons opening in September

WISCONSIN DNR
 Hunters rejoice! September is right around the corner, and that means Wisconsin's many fall hunting seasons are almost here. There are a number of dates throughout September when seasons open. Hunters are encouraged to double-check season dates

and that they have acquired all necessary licenses and stamps before going out for a hunt.

- Sept. 14**
- Cottontail rabbit (Northern Zone)
 - Deer (Archery and Crossbow)
 - Ruffed grouse (Zone A)

- Squirrels
- Turkey
- Youth waterfowl

- Sept. 16**
- Regular goose

- Sept. 21**
- Duck (Northern Zone)
 - Woodcock

- Sept. 28**
- Duck (Southern Zone)

We want to remind hunters of the DNR's mobile-friendly online resources, including hunting regulations, season dates, hunting hours and more, available on our Hunting webpage. Hunters can find information on species population lev-

els and hunting opportunities on our fall hunting forecasts. A list of public lands open to hunting is available using the Public Access Lands webpage. This web resource lets hunters plan their next adventure from the comfort of their home. The Fields and Forest Lands Interactive Game Bird Hunting Tool provides hunters information on managed dove fields, as well as habitat for hunting ruffed grouse and woodcock. As Wisconsin's most popular hunting seasons ramp up, it's

important for all hunters to do their part to keep Wisconsin a safe place to hunt by following these firearm safety rules:

- T – Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- A – Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- B – Be certain of your target, what's before it and what's beyond it.
- K – Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

We wish all hunters a safe and successful hunting season.



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Get ready for hunting seasons, including early goose season, opening in September.

Wild rice crop in state is below average this year

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced that northern Wisconsin's wild rice crop production is generally below average this year across lakes, flowages and rivers. "A mild winter in 2023-2024, coupled with heavy storms in mid-June, appears to have set back wild rice production this year throughout much of the northern region of the state," said Brandon Byrne, wild rice biologist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. "However, most of the lakes that have been reliable for harvesting in recent years should still provide adequate harvest opportunities this year."

The decline in wild rice production has been a notable trend over recent decades. Scientists cite the impacts of climate change as a widespread stressor on the wild rice population. Additional human-induced and natural stressors may be compounding problems at local levels.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission maintains the Off-Reservation Wild Rice Harvest Regulations webpage, which includes helpful information for harvesters and wild rice production conditions for some wild rice waters. With a little research and exploration, harvesters can find good opportunities to harvest wild rice this year.

"The DNR takes these issues seriously and, in cooperation with tribal nations and other partners, is working on research initiatives to better understand threats to wild rice and develop better strategies for restoring Wisconsin's wild rice populations," said Jason Fleener, DNR wetland habitat specialist. One such initiative is an active partnership between the DNR, the Menominee, Lac Courte Oreilles and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, funded through an America the Beautiful Challenge grant, to develop and implement an effective management plan for Wisconsin's wild rice resources.

Wild rice harvesting is open to all Wisconsin residents and provides the opportunity to forage a highly nutritious, natural food source that is unique to the upper Midwest. Wild rice maturity typically ranges from late August through mid-September across the state and varies by waterbody and rice bed. The DNR stresses the importance of waiting to harvest wild rice until it falls with relatively gentle strokes while "flailing" or "knocking" using ricing sticks. If little to no rice is falling, it is best to try harvesting a few days later. Harvest efforts on immature beds inhibit the

maturation of the rice kernels, which negatively impacts the harvest experience for others and the long-term sustainability of wild rice production. The DNR encourages all watercraft users to educate themselves on how to identify wild rice and modify their boating activities to reduce damage to this treasured Wisconsin resource. More information on harvesting wild rice and harvest regulations is available on the DNR's Wild Rice Harvesting webpage.



PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN DNR Rock Valley Publishing

Wild rice harvesting is open to all Wisconsin residents and provides the opportunity to forage a natural food source that is unique to the upper Midwest.

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Plans for new veterans museum moving forward

Last month at the Wisconsin State Fair, the Wisconsin State Building Commission unanimously approved spending \$9 million to purchase the building that currently houses the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Purchasing the building, located on the Capitol Square, is the next step in the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs plan to construct a new state-of-the-art facility to preserve the state's veteran history.

"I'm thrilled by the bipartisan support and goodwill shown to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum," said WDVA Secretary-designee James Bond. "The museum is an exemplary steward of history, collecting and maintaining the artifacts and stories

of those who wore the uniform while educating visitors on the importance of service and sacrifice. The new museum will secure our veteran's legacy for future generations."

The building that houses the WVM was originally built in 1948 and converted from a retail space over 30 years ago. The Museum can only display about 3 percent of its collection, and the building is approaching the end of its useful life. A larger, more modern space will allow more opportunities to tell veteran stories and provide a better space to display and house artifacts.

"I very much appreciate the support of the state building commission today," said WVM

Director Chris Kolakowski. "This is a historic commitment to Wisconsin veterans and the museum. Thanks to Governor Evers and the members of the Legislature for this bipartisan show of support for Veterans."

"At the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, we are excited and very appreciative of the recent action taken by the State Building Commission to approve the purchase of the current Wisconsin Veterans Museum site," said WVM Foundation President Dan Checki. "We look forward to raising the additional private donations necessary to support the new Museum construction project at 30 West Mifflin Street."

Study: 274K in state 'drink dangerously'

It's widely recognized that heavy alcohol consumption poses significant health risks, even to the healthy population. However, the stakes are notably higher for individuals with pre-existing health conditions, such as hypertension.

Alcohol's impact on the cardiovascular system is complex; it initially causes blood vessels to dilate, followed by a rebound constriction. This fluctuation disrupts normal blood flow and exacerbates blood pressure levels, presenting a considerable risk to people with hypertension. Consequently, the potential

for severe health events, including heart attacks, strokes, and heart failure, is significantly increased.

MyBioSource.com conducted a comprehensive survey targeting 3,000 individuals with hypertension to inquire about their drinking habits, specifically focusing on the prevalence of heavy drinking within this demographic. By integrating public data on the percentage of adults with hypertension across various states, the website was able to merge this data with their survey findings. This approach allowed them to calculate an absolute figure of those who have hypertension yet continue to drink heavily. In essence, they revealed the number of adults in each state who are drinking dangerously.

The study discovered that, on average, 33.2% of Wisconsin adults have hypertension (below the national average of 35%). The survey further revealed that 14% of these individuals admit to heavy drinking. When combined, this data translates to 274,042 Wisconsinites engaging in the dangerous practice of consuming large quantities of alcohol while managing hypertension.

The results highlighted some regional variations. The top five states with the highest percentages of drinkers with hypertension are:

- Colorado: 22%
- Nevada: 19%
- Hawaii: 19%
- Maine: 19%
- Ohio: 19%

The survey also unearthed some concerning lifestyle choices. For instance, 27% of respondents stated that the pleasure they derive from alcohol outweighs the associated risks. This mindset underscores the need for increased awareness and education about the dangers of heavy drinking, especially for those with existing health conditions like hypertension.

A spokesperson commented on the findings, stating, "Our study highlights a critical public health issue that needs immediate attention. Heavy drinking among those with hypertension significantly elevates their risk for severe health complications. It's crucial for healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities to come together to address this problem, promoting healthier lifestyles and better management of hypertension."



Left: One of the participants in a previous Chalk Art Competition during Art Infusion in downtown Janesville. Right: Check out the Janesville Art League's current exhibit in the Janesville Performing Arts Center gallery during Art Infusion weekend. This is a free exhibit. Dates: Friday, Sept. 6 at 1 to 3 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 7 at noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 8 at noon to 4 p.m.

•Art (Continued from front page)

a seasoned artist and former art educator from Janesville. Also featured this year is the Speece family, who have become local legends since first participating in the competition for the first time exactly one decade ago. This group of six sisters will collaborate on one large chalk art mural, guided by the encouragement of their mom Bev and grandparents.

In addition, Art Infusion will offer a variety of community activities and events to celebrate the arts in Janesville. Art enthusiasts can stroll through local art exhibits including the Incredible Edible Art Exhibit displayed at the Janesville Performing Arts

Center (JPAC), as well as exhibits at Rotary Botanical Gardens, Hedberg Public Library, and the Janesville Woman's Club. These free exhibits showcase the incredible talent within the community and provide an opportunity to experience the depth of Janesville's artistic culture.

The weekend will also feature a vibrant mix of community events, such as the Janesville Farmers Market and Downtown Sidewalk Sales on Sept. 7, plus Summer Sunday shopping hours at local retailers, making it a perfect time to explore and support local businesses. Visitors can engage in creative fun with interactive art at Raven's

Wish on Sept. 6 and 7 or guided rock painting workshops at Olde Towne Mall on Sept. 7, plus enjoy free guided tours at JPAC led by Executive Director Nathan Burkhardt and downtown public art led by Roam Around Tours. Pre-registration is required for both tour opportunities.

The weekend will also feature special performances, including a dance performance on Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. by No Limits LDA – a program dedicated to individuals with autism, Down syndrome, sensory processing disorder, intellectual disabilities, and other learning differences or physical challenges – at the Cope Ryan Pavilion in Town

Square.

The Makers Market will return for its second year in Olde Towne Mall on Sunday, Sept. 8 at noon to 4 p.m., organized by the Downtown Janesville Business Improvement District (BID). Explore a vibrant array of artist demonstrations and discover unique handmade and original works, plus a variety of family-friendly activities, making it a perfect outing for all ages.

With a rich array of activities, Art Infusion 2024 promises to be a weekend where the entire community comes together to celebrate creativity, culture, and the arts.

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 remainder going into the city's general fund.

•Heritage (Continued from front page)

pork sandwiches cooked on site. Also available will be quarter pound all beef hot dogs, chips, beverages, pies and fresh baked goods. The

"meal deal" is a sandwich, chips and drink for \$5. A variety of Beckman Mill products, including cornmeal that was ground in the mill, will

be for sale in the Gift Shop inside the Griinke Creamery.

Kids will have the opportunity to help a blacksmith, make butter, dig potatoes, and

shell an ear of corn. Don't forget to get the Beloit Heritage Days Passport stamped at the membership table by the shelter during the visit.

The day's events will take place in Beckman Mill County Park on County Highway H, one mile south of Highway 81, about five miles west of Beloit. There is no admission charge for the Heritage Sunday events at Beckman Mill, but donations will be gladly accepted and are appreciated. The entire project has been completed by volunteers, donated monies and materials, grants, and memberships. The profits for the day will be used to continue their 34 years of relentless efforts.

Please join Beckman Mill for a fantastic family fun-filled day. Call 608-751-1551 for more details or visit the Facebook page.



The blacksmiths will be working by the blacksmith shop.

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DHS invests in effort to reduce drug overdose deaths

Strategies will focus on harm reduction services and supports

After International Overdose Awareness Day on Aug. 31, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is highlighting new state efforts to end overdose deaths and improve the health of people who use drugs. This annual observance, as proclaimed by Gov. Tony Evers, is a day to remember those lost to drug overdose, acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind, and act to save lives.

“Too many of our family members, friends, and neighbors are dying due to an unsafe drug supply, with no community immune to the impacts of the overdose epidemic,” said DHS Director of Substance Use Initiatives Michelle Haese. “Together we can make a difference by meeting people who use drugs where they’re at in their life journey without judgement, just the support and tools they need to stay safe.”

Drug overdoses decreased slightly nationally and in Wisconsin in 2023, the first decrease since 2018. Despite this, more than 1,700 fatal drug overdoses occurred in Wisconsin in 2023, an increase of 45% since 2018. Most overdoses involve fentanyl, a powerful opioid, and other drugs, like cocaine and methamphetamine, or a combination of multiple drugs.

DHS continues to work with programs, services and partners, including more than 100 community coalitions around the state, to find solutions to the overdose epidemic. Overdose fatality review teams in 21 counties look at each local death to find ways to save lives and a mobile harm reduction response team works with people who use drugs to reduce the risk of infection, overdose, and death. Mobile opioid treatment programs make it easier to get medications for opioid use disorder.

Now, DHS is taking more steps to meet the needs of Wisconsin communities. These actions include:

- Creating and implementing local naloxone saturation plans
- DHS is working with community agencies statewide to ensure naloxone is available for free to people who need it when they need it. Naloxone is the opioid overdose reversal medication. Naloxone distributors have attended regional meetings focused on identifying and addressing opportunities for greater naloxone access for people who use drugs and people who may witness a drug overdose.
- Supporting the purchase of public health vending machines
- Twenty-two community agencies received grants to purchase public health vending machines stocked with the free lifesaving tools like nal-

oxone and fentanyl test strips.

- In addition, 10 community agencies received grants to purchase supplies for existing public health vending machines. These agencies include Hope Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Langlade County Health Department, Madison Street Medicine, Milwaukee Turners, North Shore Health Department, Portage County Health and Human Services, Rock County Public Health Department, Southwest Suburban Health Department, Tellurian Behavioral Health, and Wood County Health Department.

- All Tribal nations, county and municipal government agencies, and nonprofit agencies were invited to apply for a portion of the \$2,250,000 in one-time funding designated for these grants.

- More than 80 locations across the state are expected to have a public health

vending machine when the units funded by the grants announced recently are placed, with many locations open to the public 24/7.

- Maps on the DHS website show the locations of all vending machines providing free naloxone and fentanyl test strips.

- Providing navigators to connect people who use drugs to health and wellness services

- Seven community agencies received annual grants through 2028 to expand or establish navigator programs that connect people who use drugs to services designed to lessen the harms associated with drug use. These services may include programs offering drug checking supplies, syringe services, wound care, and substance use disorder treatment.

- Vivent Health has been awarded \$250,000 annually through 2028 to provide train-

ing and technical assistance to community agencies that engage with people who use drugs. This support includes acting as a resource hub, identifying and addressing barriers people who use drugs face in accessing health and wellness services, and training staff at the community organizations on best practices for working with clients.

DHS work to address drug use is funded primarily by grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, as well as the state government’s share of Wisconsin’s opioid settlement dollars.

Find more information about how to build supportive communities where prevention works, treatment is available, and recovery can happen for everyone on the DHS Real Talks Wisconsin webpages.

Gov. Evers kicks off back-to-school tour

Gov. Tony Evers visited schools in Milwaukee, Eau Claire, and Superior on Tuesday, Sept. 3, to kick off his annual statewide back-to-school tour and welcome students, teachers, and staff back to school for the 2024-25 school year.

At 7:30 a.m., Gov. Evers visited South Division High School in Milwaukee and joined local elected and district leaders from Milwaukee Public Schools

for their annual first-day-of-school bell-ringing event.

Gov. Evers then visited Manz Elementary in Eau Claire at 10:15 a.m. and Superior Middle School in Superior at 1 p.m.

Gov. Evers has spent most of his life in education fighting for Wisconsin’s kids, first beginning his career as a science teacher in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and then going on to become a principal, superintendent, and state

superintendent before running for governor in 2018.

Under Gov. Evers’ leadership, Wisconsin schools are now back in the top 10 after dropping to 18th under the previous administration. After a decade of disinvestment, Gov. Evers has spent the last five years working to invest in public education at every level, including in K-12 schools. During his time in office, Gov. Evers has enacted budgets

to restore two-thirds funding for public schools for the first time in over two decades, provide the largest special education aid increase in state history, and bring per pupil aid to its highest level ever.

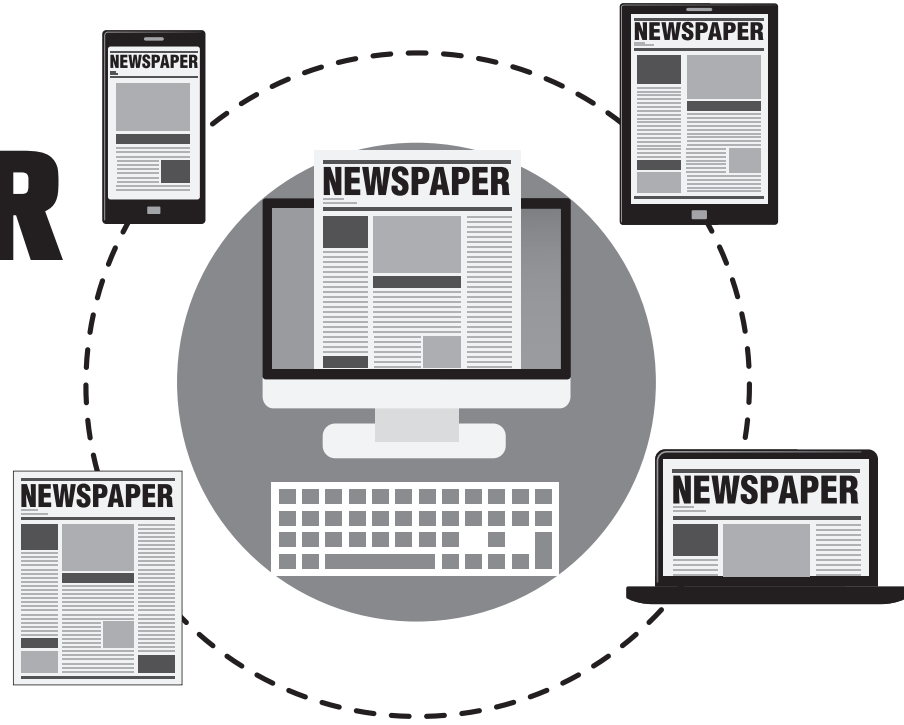
Together with 2023 Wisconsin Act 11, the 2023-25 budget, as signed by Gov. Evers, builds upon the historic progress of the Evers Administration toward fully funding public

schools by providing an overall increase of nearly \$1.2 billion in spendable authority for public school districts, including state categorical aids. This historic increase is generated by a \$325 per pupil increase in revenue limits in each fiscal year, as well as an increase in the low revenue ceiling from \$10,000 to \$11,000 per pupil in the first year of the

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WDVA Secretary visits 72 county and 11 tribal veteran service offices

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary-designee James Bond recently reached an important milestone – in just over a year, he traveled to every one of Wisconsin’s 72 counties and 11 tribes to personally consult with each of the state’s 83 County and Tribal Veteran Service Offices. CVSOs and TVSOs are crucial in advocating for veterans in their communities and connecting veterans and their families with federal and state benefits.

“I want to thank the men and women I met over the past year who welcomed me into their offices and shared their challenges and successes in supporting veterans,” said Secretary-designee Bond. “WDVA cannot do our work without our partners on the ground, especially our County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers. These folks are often the first point of contact for veterans navigating benefits and adjusting to civilian life. Every veteran and everyone who loves a veteran should know who their CVSO or TVSO is, and every Wisconsinite should know about the extraordinary work they do.”

Having an officer in every county and Tribe ensures every veteran has access to an advocate who understands the unique needs of their community and knows how to meet veterans where they are. On the advice of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity, Governor Tony Evers invested an additional \$1.5 million in CVSO and TVSO offices to help bolster their ongoing veteran advocacy work, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. With recent changes to veteran benefits, including the passage of the PACT Act, CVSOs and TVSOs play a vital role in offering free assistance in navigating benefits.

“I find it is important for Secretary Bond to get to know and understand the uniqueness of every county and Tribe,” said Bruce Wilber, who serves as TVSO for the Menominee Nation, CVSO for Menominee County, and President of the County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers of Wisconsin. “While each county and Tribe has similarities, there are many differences in our state from



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Lac du Flambeau visit, from left to right: Georgine Brown, Larry DeCota, Edmond Thomas, James Peterson, John Snow, Melissa Doud, Ronald Peterson (TVSO), Secretary-designee James Bond, Jim Brown, and John Brown.

one end to the other. I am happy that Secretary Bond finds it important to know and understand these things about the veterans he serves.”

To find a CVSO or TVSO, please visit the CTVSOA of Wisconsin website.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Forest County Potawatomi Chairman James Crawford shows Secretary-designee Bond the birchbark canoe that is being built at the Family Center. Wanye Vallier (LdF) and Lawrence Mann (FCP) are teaching the kids how to do this treasured and historical craft.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Menominee Nation visit, pictured left to right: Ron Corn Jr., Secretary-designee James Bond, Alex Medina, Bruce Wilber, Dr. Alton “Sonny” Smart, Melissa Doud, (in back row) Elmer Denny III, and Burton Warrington.

More people need to adopt pets in order to make state no kill

Nationally, 415,000 dogs, cats were killed in U.S. shelters last year

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America’s shelters in 2025, released new data showing Wisconsin saw a decrease in lifesaving compared to the previous year.

“Unfortunately, Wisconsin shelter deaths increased by more than 1,000 dogs and cats in 2023 versus 2022,” said Liz Stamper, senior regional manager at Best Friends Animal Society. “We really need communities in Wisconsin to help with saving lives by adopting and fostering from local shelters.”

Currently, 58 of 67 Wisconsin shelters are considered no-kill.

Nationally, 2.3 million dogs and cats were adopted in 2023. Best Friends data shows that pet adoption declined over the last five years as most pets are acquired through other means.

“Roughly 7 million people in America are planning to acquire a pet this year, and if just 6 percent more people chose to adopt versus purchase their

pets, we would end the killing of dogs and cats in our nation’s shelters,” said Julie Castle, CEO, Best Friends Animal Society.

To inspire those looking to add a pet to their home by choosing the adoption option, Best Friends recently kicked off their largest national campaign built upon the foundation that pets belong in homes not shelters. The ‘Bring Love Home’ campaign will bring awareness to the dogs and cats still being killed in shelters throughout the country simply because they don’t have safe places to call home.

Individuals can help save lives by choosing to adopt from a shelter or rescue group instead of purchasing from a breeder or store. Even if someone isn’t looking to add a new pet to their family, everyone can help end shelter killing by spaying or neutering their pets, fostering kittens or an adult dog, volunteering, donating for proven lifesaving programming for pets.

Since 2016 when Best Friends set a bold goal to take the country no-kill by 2025, they’ve undertaken a massive effort to collect information from every shelter across the country. That meant starting at ground-level, because in 2016 no one even knew how many animal shelters there were in

the country. Back then they collected data with volunteers doing records searches and calling shelters. In recent years, rather than working harder, they’ve learned to work smarter, and this year is the smartest yet.

A 90 percent save rate is the nationally recognized benchmark to be considered “no-kill,” factoring that approximately 10 percent of pets who enter shelters have medical or behavioral circumstances that warrant humane euthanasia rather than killing for lack of space.

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America’s shelters and make the country no-kill in 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to 415,000 last year. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs across the country, as well as the nation’s largest no-kill animal sanctuary. Working collaboratively with a network of more than 4,800 animal welfare and shelter partners, and community members nationwide, Best Friends is working to save them all. For more information, visit bestfriends.org.

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The Town of Center, Rock County, is looking to hire a deputy clerk to assist the clerk.

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Please call Devona Udulutch, Clerk, at 608-295-6265 if you are interested.

460828

real estate

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SECOND WEEK FOOTBALL FRENZY WINNERS

The first place winner of \$20 was Doug Rezner of Brodhead with 7 correct answers and 48 as the most points scored. The second place winner of \$10 was Dennis Schwartz of Albany with 7 correct answers and 41 as the most points scored. The most points scored by one team was Parkview-Albany vs. Dominican with a score of 55-24

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FOOTBALL FRENZY CONTEST THIS WEEK AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS WHO MAKE THIS CONTEST POSSIBLE.

CONTEST RULES:

1. Pick the teams listed in each advertisement on this page. Indicate the winner by writing in the name of the team opposite the advertiser's name on the entry form. No scores. Just pick winners.
2. Pick a number which you think will be the highest number of points scored by any one team on this page and place this number in the space provided near the bottom of the entry form. This will be used to break ties and if a tie remains, one winner will be chosen via random drawing from all correct entries.
3. One entry only from each contestant. Entries must be brought to The Independent-Register's office by 4:30 p.m. Friday or postmarked no later than Friday of each week and mailed to Independent-Register Shopping News, 917 W. Exchange St., Brodhead, WI, 53520; or emailed to paper@indreg.com.
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Edgerton vs. Delavan-Darien 460583

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Or emailed to: paper@indreg.com

I think _____ will be the most points scored by one team.



PLEASE PATRONIZE THE SPONSORS WHO MAKE THIS CONTEST POSSIBLE!!! THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!