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BTC hosts state land judging contest

Blackhawk Technical College was the host of the 2024 Wisconsin State Land Judging Contest held Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Those participating were FFA students from Argyle, Bay Port, Beaver Dam, Black Hawk, Cassville, Cochrane-Fountain City, Cuba City, DeForest, Dodgeville, Elkhorn, Fennimore, Hudson, Juda, Lake Mills, Lancaster, Milton, Monticello, Mt. Horeb, Pecatonica, Platteville, Potosi, Prairie du Chien, Riverdale, River Ridge, Scales Mound, Seneca, Shullsburg, Spooner, Sun Prairie East, and Sun Prairie West.

There were a total of 203 students from 30 schools.

The students traveled to the Roger and Cheri Johnson farm, located west of Juda. The students reviewed four soil pits and determined the position in landscape, slope of the field, determined type and degree of erosion or if there was deposition, evaluated soil

properties, such as texture, structure, and drainage, estimated slope, ranked land classes, observed soil limitations, checked for invasive species, and recommended conservation practices.

The senior results are as follows: Top individual was Isaiah Groom of Potosi, second place went to Colton Nyman of Monticello, third was Carter Bierman of Potosi, fourth was Ryan Stoney of Potosi, and fifth went to Emily Retallick of Cassville. In team results, Potosi placed first, Monticello second, Cassville third, Black Hawk fourth, and Prairie du Chien fifth. The top five teams qualified for the national land judging contest, to be held next April in Oklahoma.

The junior results are as follows: Top individual was River Sahr of Potosi, second place went to Aaron Edge of Potosi, third was Reid Stalsberg of Fennimore, fourth was Teegan Gris-



Monticello team, left to right: Milo Smith, Raife Jurrens, Levi Truttmann, Colt Nyman.

See JUDGING, Page 4

PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

RCSO responds to fatal accident and fatal crash

The Rock County Sheriff's office responded to two separate incidents that resulted in death over the past weekend.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, at approximately 10:26 a.m., deputies from the Rock County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of two subjects who had fallen from a boom truck at the Rock County 4-H Fairgrounds, located at 1515 Craig Ave., in Janesville. Janesville Fire and Janesville Police Department responded as well.

Rock Energy Cooperative was having an Employee Appreciation Day on the grounds.

During a demonstration of equipment, two subjects fell from approximately 10 feet while a boom was extended on one of the trucks. An employee, a 59-year-old man from Milton, and a 62-year-old female from Janesville, were transported by Janesville Fire to the Mercy Trauma Center in Janesville. The man was pronounced deceased at the hospital and the woman received medical treatment for her injuries.

Members from the Detective Bureau and Drone Team responded to the scene. The investigation was turned over to OSHA investigators.

The name of the deceased will be released by the Rock County Medical Examiner's Office at a later date.

Later on the same day, at approximately 11:35 a.m., the Rock County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a two-vehicle crash with the driver of one of the vehicles having serious injuries on West United States Highway 14 at the bridge over the Rock River in the Town of Janesville. The Janesville Police Department and the

See CRASH, Page 4

Community Action, Beloit PD host Trunk or Treat event

Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties is excited to announce its partnership with the Beloit Police Department for the second annual Heroes Halloween Trunk or Treat event. This family-friendly celebration will take place on Sunday, Oct. 27, at the Rotary River Cen-

ter in Beloit, from noon to 4 p.m., providing a safe and fun environment for children and families to enjoy Halloween festivities.

The event will feature decorated trunks, candy giveaways, and opportunities for children to interact with local heroes, including police of-

icers, firefighters, and other community service members.

Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities, a "touch-a-truck" opportunity, games, and more.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Beloit Police Department once again to bring this event to our community," said

Marc Perry, Executive Director of Community Action, Inc. "It's a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, celebrate Halloween, and connect with our local heroes in a positive and engaging way."

Investigator Dylann Rauch of the Beloit Police Depart-

ment added, "Events like these are essential for building strong relationships between our officers and the community. We look forward to seeing everyone there and making this Halloween memorable for all."

All community members are invited to attend, and costumes are highly encouraged.

For more information about the event, please contact Lexi Tintlemaun at 608-295-1623 or ltintlemaun@community-action.org.

Community Action, Inc. (CAI) is a not-for-profit organization offering programs to fight poverty in Rock and Walworth Counties. Community Action develops and implements a broad range of services across the two-county area including: childcare, pre-school and school age programs, affordable housing, at-risk youth programs, weatherization, community organizing and development, a homeless shelter, health education, and the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). They are a funded partner of United Way Blackhawk Region and United Way Walworth County. Details at www.community-action.org or www.facebook.com/communityaction-rockwalworth.

WFU celebrates Albany residents

Wisconsin Farmers Union President Darin von Ruden toasts Albany residents Erica and Olivia Roth at the annual Green, Rock, Lafayette WFU Chapter meeting held Sunday, Oct. 20, at Kelch Aviation Museum in Brodhead. With local chapter members, they enjoyed a tour of the museum, presentations, board elections, a business meeting, and potluck.



TONY ENDS PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



Green, Rock, Lafayette WFU members gathered for a group photo at the close of the chapter's 10th anniversary meeting Sunday. The chapter started with just five members and has grown to more than 300. The Farmers Union mission is to enhance family farmers, rural communities, and all people's quality of life through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. The state organization has advocated for farmers since 1930. Download the state organization's annual report at https://www.wisconsinfarmerunion.com/_files/ugd/629d75_58e3debd5d444dbfbfcc099157b66119.pdf

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News briefs

Footville announces polling location, hours

At the Presidential General Election to be held on Nov. 5, 2024, in the Village of Footville, the following polling place location will be: Footville Municipal Office, 261 North Gilbert St., Footville. Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to

8 p.m.

All polling places are accessible to elderly and voters with disabilities.

If anyone has any questions concerning the polling place, contact the municipal clerk: Shawna March, 261 North Gilbert St., 608-876-6116.

At the close of voting on

Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers and the MBOC for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvasses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 7.51 and 7.53(1). This meeting will be open to

the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Notice of Meeting of MBOC to Process Rehabilitated Provisional Ballots: If provisional ballots have been issued and are subsequently cured by the voter before 4 p.m. on the Friday after the election, the MBOC must meet no later than

the following Monday at 9 a.m. to process the cured provisional ballots. This is a public meeting and requires applicable notice.

The Footville Village Clerk's office will be assisting Absentee voters at Prairieview Manor, 111 Commercial Drive, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

If an absentee voter cannot be assisted during this session, the absentee ballot will be mailed to the voter.

BTC hosting ribbon cutting event

Blackhawk Technical College will host a ribbon-cutting event on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. for its new Innovative Manufacturing Education Center at the Beloit-Janesville Campus. Guests include industry partners and Blackhawk staff, faculty and students. Self-guided tours follow the ribbon cutting, with instructors placed throughout the facility to share information and answer questions.

Event inspires healing from domestic violence

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Family Services of Southern Wisconsin's DEFY Domestic Abuse Beloit program and Green County SARP (Sexual Assault Recovery Program) invite the community to an empowering event designed to connect and inspire healing through creativity.

The "Healing Through Art and Fellowship" event will occur on Friday, Oct. 25, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Welty Environmental Center in Big Hill Park (lower level) at 1201 Big Hill Court in Janesville.

This event is open to all and provides a supportive space for individuals to unite, create, and find strength through artistic expression. No pre-registration is needed - show up and participate in this inspiring evening. Art supplies and refreshments will be provided, ensuring a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees.

Please join in for an evening of art, community, and connection as locals come together to raise awareness and offer support to those impacted by domestic violence.

Collecting native plants and grasses program

The Rock County Conservationists are offering a program that collects native plants and grasses.

They will be collecting on Saturday, Oct. 26, at Tower Hill Park on Saint Mary Street in Milton. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon.

Each year, the RCC offers people the chance to collect these seeds in an annual program. They'll be collecting the seeds from a planted prairie in Milton's Crossridge and Tower Hill Parks. Each day during a two-hour period, it will be possible for participants to collect a large volume of seeds, but participants are free to collect for less time than this if they desire. On-site assistance will be provided to help attendees learn to identify the plants and some tips for cleaning and storing the seeds and planting will also be provided.

Native plantings offer many advantages over the traditional lawn, specifically because of the fact that they require much less maintenance once established. They never need to be fertilized, and rarely need to be watered. The wildflowers are often drought-tolerant and provide food for many native species of butterflies, birds and other animals through their nectar, pollen and seeds. Prairie

grasses can also provide cover for many types of wildlife. For those homeowners with a large area of land, a prairie planting is a much smarter and environmentally friendly way to manage their property than a lawn.

For landowners who hope to save a lot of money, the costs can be greatly reduced by collecting the seeds from native prairie plants and planting them themselves.

The seeds are best collected into large paper grocery or bird seed bags. A pair of garden clippers is also recommended for clipping off the tough, spiny seed heads of some plants. Participants should be dressed for the weather and wear a pair of work gloves.

There are no RCC programs in December. Program schedule starts again in January 2025.

2024 Orfordville leaf pick-up begins soon

Leaf collection will begin the week of Oct. 28. There are a few rules that should be followed for leaf collection this year.

- Please put leaves out on the road next to the curb.
- Do not put anything other than leaves in the road. Other debris that is put out with the leaves could damage the equipment.
- No brush in the roadway.
- The last day for leaf pick-up is scheduled for Nov. 25.
- The brush site is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week for leaf and brush drop off.

Brush pick-up will end Nov. 25 for the year and resume in the spring. Please make sure any yard waste put out on collection day is in a container.

Trick or treat hours set for Orfordville

Trick or Treating for the Village of Orfordville will be on Thursday, Oct. 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Trick or treat hours set for Footville

Trick or Treating for the Village of Footville will be on Thursday, Oct. 31 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will also be Trick or Treat at the Footville Church of Christ from 4:30 to 6:15 p.m.

State employment breaks monthly record

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) recently announced new record-high employment during September 2024, according to preliminary estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the fifth consecutive monthly record for state employment, highlighting the unprecedented number of workers participating in Wisconsin's economy.

Preliminary employment estimates for September 2024 showed Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 2.9%, which is 1.2 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.1%. The state's labor force participation rate increased to 65.6% in September while the national rate stayed at 62.7%.

Place of Residence Data: Wisconsin's unemployment rate was 2.9% in September, 1.2 percentage points below the national rate of 4.1%. Wisconsin's labor force then increased by 6,700 over the month and 1,300 over the year. The number of people employed increased 7,700 over the month to a record-high 3,059,700 employed.

Place of Work Data: Total nonfarm jobs decreased 4,000 over the month and increased 30,800 over the year to 3,044,800 jobs.

UWW recognizes local Milton, Janesville tutors

A total of 49 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater students will serve as Certified Level 1, 2 or 3 Tutors for the university's Campus Tutorial Services in 2024-25.

The following University of Wisconsin-Whitewater students have been recognized as College Reading and Learning Association Campus Tutorial Services Tutors:

- Megan Ehle of Janesville, who is studying Biology and offers tutoring assistance in Biology and Chemistry with CRLA Level 2 recognition.
- Hailey Meyer of Milton, who is studying English and offers tutoring assistance in Writing, Educational Foundations, Developmental

Educations, ELL with CRLA Level 3 recognition.

UW-Whitewater's Campus Tutorial Services was awarded International Tutor Training Certification by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), a nationwide professional association made up of learning support programs at colleges and universities, both as a program and for its individual tutors. This certification sets professional standards of skill, training and evaluation for tutors and provides recognition and positive reinforcement for tutors' successful work.

Training consists of three levels: Level 1 (Certified), Level 2 (Advanced)

and Level 3 (Master). After completing Level 1 training, tutors are eligible for Level 2 training followed by Level 3 training.

The CRLA is endorsed by the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) and the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

UW-Whitewater's Campus Tutorial Services provided nearly 20,000 hours of virtual and in-person tutoring to more than 1,900 unique clients during the 2023-24 academic year. Services include one-on-one, small group, and in-class tutoring for a wide variety of content areas, along with Supplemental Instruction sessions. For more information, visit uww.edu/tutorial.



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DOC agents, law enforcement team up for trick-or-treat

Effort focuses on monitoring sex offenders to keep Halloween safe

This Halloween, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) will again be working with local law enforcement agencies across the state to closely monitor sex offenders on probation or parole and keep children safe during Halloween trick-or-treat activities.

DOC Probation and Parole Agents, working with law enforcement, will conduct random home visits on high-risk sex offenders during trick-or-treat hours.

Individuals on the sex offender registry who are on probation or parole are prohibited from having Halloween decorations inside or outside of their homes, may not distribute candy or participate in other trick-or-treating activities and must keep their porch lights off during trick-or-treating.

Any sex offenders in violation of the "Trick or Treating Restrictions" will be placed into custody.

"Halloween is a fun time of year for children," said Grace Knutson, DOC's director of

Sex Offender Programs. "It is also an opportune moment to discuss safety with children that can be practiced throughout the whole year. For trick or treating, children should never go alone and always be accompanied by a parent or trusted adult. Stick to well-lit streets and familiar neighborhoods. Children should be taught to watch when crossing the streets, never enter homes of other people or cars without their parent's permission and carry a cell phone for quick communication or so parents can check their location through cell signal."

Parents can get to know the neighborhood by accessing the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry web site at <http://wistaysafe.gov/> and conducting a zip code or geographic radius search.

If the public sees any possible violations, they may call in the tip at 1-877-234-0085. As always, the DOC recommends that the public contact local law enforcement if the situation is an emergency.



Greenhouse giving back

Each year Pleasant Prairie Greenhouse runs a very special sale at the end of the spring season. Customers are given a discount on all annual plants. Then Pleasant Prairie donates 50% of the proceeds to area backpack food programs for kids. These programs provide easy-to-prepare food to children that may need a little something extra at home. Each location generated the donation for their community. They were proud to be able to deliver the donations just in time for school. Sales at the Brodhead location, the South Greenhouse on Highway 104, meant the company was able to donate \$700 to the Brodhead Backpack Food Program. At right, from the sales of the West Greenhouse in Albany, the company was able to donate \$350 to the Albany Comets Care Pack Program.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED *Rock Valley Publishing*



Fall color report uncovers the canvas of autumn

With autumn beginning to paint the treetops in a palette of color, Travel Wisconsin's Fall Color Report provides a curated guide to the natural artwork on display.

The award-winning Fall Color Report is a comprehensive planning resource to track changing fall leaves and make unforgettable fall memories. The interactive map shows the status of fall color across Wisconsin. More than 80 volunteer reporters provide regular, on-the-ground updates throughout September and October, keeping travelers informed as leaves turn from green to peak color. By selecting a destination on the report, visitors also find recommendations to round out a trip like nearby activities, upcoming events, places to stay and where to dine.

"As autumn advances across Wisconsin, the Fall Color Report ensures you don't miss a moment of the beautiful but brief season," said Tourism Secretary Anne Sayers. "The tool is designed as a one-stop shop for everything residents and visitors need to plan a memorable fall getaway."

This season, improvements make it easier for fall sightseers to discover where, when and how to take in the colors of fall.

Travel Wisconsin added icons to the map that indicate points of interest, which are notable locations

to take in fall color such as Willow Falls and Mountain Fire Lookout Tower. Additionally, the Fall Color Report now directly links to the Wisconsin Trail Report. By connecting the two resources, travelers can use one to identify colorful areas of Wisconsin and then the other to locate trail networks to hike or bike under the canopy of color.

"Each season, we innovate and update the Fall Color Report to help travelers spend less time researching fall trip ideas and more time enjoying the season," said Secretary Sayers.

In August, the U.S. Travel Association honored Travel Wisconsin with a prestigious Mercury Award for its seasonal reports (Fall Color, Trail and Snow Reports). The Mercury Award recognizes the innovation of the reports and the value they create for travelers.

Travel Wisconsin representatives are available for interviews about the Fall Color Report, including how to use the resource, ideas of where to see fall color and ways to make the most of autumn. Residents and visitors can find more fall vacation inspiration by visiting TravelWisconsin.com and signing up for a weekly email update highlighting peak fall color, as well as other seasonal trip ideas. Visit <https://www.travelwisconsin.com/fall-color-report>.

Police news

Human remains results in death investigation

On Sunday, Oct. 13, at approximately 9:37 a.m., Rock County Sheriff's Office Deputies and WI DNR Warden were dispatched to 8622 N. Pine Road, which is public hunting grounds, in Milton Township for a suspicious activity.

Upon arrival, deputies spoke with the reporting person who was out hunting and found what appeared to be human skeletal remains in the area. After consulting with the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office, the remains were confirmed as human remains and the identity is unknown at this time.

The Rock County Sheriff Office and the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office are continuing to investigate. There is no further information to be released at this time and there is no immediate threat to the public. Any new information that can be released will be provided at a later date.

Officer involved death takes place in Fitchburg

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigated an officer involved death in the City of Fitchburg, Wis., that occurred on the morning of Monday, Aug. 12.

At approximately 8 a.m. on

Aug. 12, Fitchburg police officers responded to a residence on the 800 block of Whispering Pines Way for a 911 call reporting a disturbance. While on scene, the officers were approached by a witness who reported a physical altercation between two individuals and directed the officers to the residence where the individuals entered. Officers knocked on the door of the residence for an extended period of time before entering. The officers located Kevin D. Price with a knife and Fitchburg Police Sergeant Peter Johnston, with 14 years of law enforcement experience, discharged his weapon, striking Price. Law enforcement immediately

began lifesaving measures, and Price was transferred to a local hospital. Price died at the hospital on the afternoon of Aug. 15.

Involved law enforcement personnel were wearing body cameras during the incident.

Sergeant Johnston remains on administrative assignment, per agency policies.

DCI led this investigation and was assisted by the Wisconsin State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit, Dane County Sheriff's Office, DCI's Digital Evidence Unit and a DCI Crime Response Specialist. All involved law enforcement fully cooperated with DCI during this investigation.

Sen. Spreitzer celebrates local grant investments

Following the approval by the State Building Commission of Non-State Grant funding recommendations by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement: "I am incredibly excited and proud to announce that construction projects throughout the 15th Senate District have received an investment of \$5.55 million in grant funding thanks to today's vote! I would like to thank Governor Tony Evers, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the members of the State Building Commission for recognizing and supporting these crucial investments in our community."

"Today, the State Building Commission approved \$5.55 million in grant funding for the construction of four diverse and incredibly important projects led by respected nonprofits in the 15th Senate District. These projects include:

- Family Services has received \$2 million in grant funding to construct the Next Steps Family Resilience Center in Beloit, a transformative initiative which will provide stable housing and comprehensive wraparound services for single-parent homeless families with young children.
- The Boys and Girls Club of Janesville has received \$1.75 million in grant funding to construct a new facility, which will provide dedicated classrooms for educational elementary programming, serve hot meals,

and help meet the growing demand for affordable childcare in Janesville.

The Children's Museum of Rock County has received \$600,000 in grant funding to construct a new museum in downtown Janesville, which will provide hands-on learning and early childhood development designed to inspire and educate kids in Rock County and beyond.

Kandu has received \$1.2 million in grant funding for

their newly opened facility in Milton, which will centralize their clients and staff under one roof to better provide care and instruction to adults with disabilities and dementia.

"Each of these projects represents a crucial investment in our community. As a State Senator, I was incredibly proud to support these exciting local projects throughout the state grant process. I look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish in our community."



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•Judging (Continued from front page)

world of Fennimore, and fifth went to JP Scanlan of Fennimore. In team results, Potosi placed first, Fennimore second, Monticello third, Milton fourth, and Black Hawk fifth.

Thanks go to Rufer and Son and Brent Wollin for digging the pits for the contest. Jeff Deniger of the Natural Resources Conservation Service was the official judge of the contest. Todd Jenson of Green County Land and Water Conservation was in charge of running the contest. Jason Thomas of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and members of their state office staff were pit bosses during the contest. Insight FS provided a \$2,500 sponsorship that covered the cost of awards and travel stipends to the teams going to the national contest. Monson Septic sponsored a porta potty. Diane Morgan and Ken Engelke, state FFA CDE coordinators, managed the scoring room. Green County Land and Water Conservation sponsored lunch for the scorers. Blackhawk Technical College students



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing
Black Hawk team, left to right: Alyvia Ruegsegger, Jaci Kammes, Keira Brunner, Alyssa Broge.

and staff helped throughout the contest. Dusty Williams of Blackhawk Tech did the introductions at the beginning of the contest and handed out the awards at the end of the contest. Thanks also to the 20 plus retired Agriculture

instructors from southern WI and Ag ED students from UW Platteville who helped score the contest. And of course, a big thank you to Roger and Cheri Johnson for agreeing to be the host farm for the contest.

•Crash (Continued from front page)

Janesville Fire Department responded as well.

The investigation revealed that a vehicle operated by a 58-year-old man from Darlington was traveling eastbound across the Rock River Bridge when the collision occurred. A farm tractor pulling a large planting drill, operated by a 63-year-old man from Janesville, was traveling westbound crossing the bridge.

As the two vehicles were passing in opposite directions the car struck the large farm implement being towed.

The driver of the car was pronounced deceased at the scene. The passenger, a 68-year-old woman, also from Darlington, was transported by Janesville Fire to the Mercy Trauma Center in Janesville with non-life-threatening injuries. The farm tractor operator

did not have to receive medical treatment.

West U.S. Highway 14 was closed for 6 hours during the investigation and reconstruction completed by the Rock County Sheriff's Office Crash Reconstruction Team as well as Drone Team members.

The name of the deceased will be also released by the Rock County Medical Examiner's Office at a later date.

Golden gigs: State seniors' side hustle is worth \$1B

As retirees step into their golden years, many might picture themselves tending to gardens, embarking on long-awaited travels, or savoring precious moments with family. However, a new trend is transforming the traditional notion of retirement: the rise of the side hustle. Driven by the need to stay mentally active or to supplement their retirement income, an increasing number of retirees are embracing side hustles as a means to secure their financial future.

According to a recent study by MarketBeat.com, the retiree side hustle economy is thriving. By surveying 3,000 respondents and analyzing publicly available data, the study found that retirees with side hustles earn an average of \$379 per month. This side hustle income translates to a national economy worth an astonishing \$6 billion.

Notably, the earnings from these side gigs vary significantly across regions. Retirees in Utah lead the pack, earning a substantial \$825 per month, while those in North Dakota bring in a more mod-

est \$100 monthly from their side hustles.

When it comes to Wisconsin, seniors here with a side hustle are making \$342 on average, equating to a local side hustle economy worth a staggering \$1,163,686,125.

MarketBeat.com also explored the motivations behind this trend, asking retirees why they pursue side hustles:

- To supplement retirement income: 47%
- To stay mentally engaged and active: 34%
- To pursue a passion or hobby: 10%
- To meet new people and build social connections: 9%

As for the types of side hustles retirees engage in, the majority (32%) have launched their own small businesses. Crafting and selling homemade goods is another popular choice, with 30% of retirees involved in this activity. Additionally, 22% of retirees supplement their income through trading or investing, while 15% choose freelancing.

On average, retirees dedicate 10 hours and 24 minutes per week to their side hustles.

When asked what they find most rewarding about these activities, the respondents' top answers were:

- The additional income: 34%
- The sense of purpose and fulfillment: 29%
- The mental stimulation and engagement: 21%
- The flexibility and freedom: 10%
- The social connections and community: 6%

Perhaps most strikingly, an overwhelming 76% of respondents reported that their side hustles bring them happiness. Moreover, 19% of retirees are so motivated by their side hustles that they are considering turning them into full-time businesses.

Matt Paulson, Founder of MarketBeat.com, explains, "The retiree side hustle trend is a testament to the evolving landscape of retirement. It's no longer just about leisure; it's often driven by the need for financial security, along with a desire for purpose and fulfillment. Retirees are showing that there's no age limit to innovation and entrepreneurship."

State recognizes impact, importance of architecture

The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) honored the Wisconsin chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) recently.

DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth presented AIA Wisconsin with a proclamation from Governor Tony Evers, declaring October as Architecture Awareness Month in Wisconsin, and recognizing architecture as fundamental to the well-being and success of society and the design industry as an economic driver in Wisconsin.

"People live, work and play in built spaces, most of which are designed by architects to keep the public healthy and safe. But the average person typically doesn't interact with an architect or even think about the impact that architects have on their daily lives," said AIA Wisconsin Executive Director Lisa Kennedy, FAIA. "Our goal during Archtoberfest is to raise awareness of architects and their work in Wisconsin, and how good design can

positively impact our communities and our lives."

During Architecture Awareness Month, branded Archtoberfest by the AIA Wisconsin, the chapter is providing Wisconsin residents with opportunities to explore, appreciate, and engage with the built environment around them. There is a full list of Archtoberfest events open to the public throughout the month on the AIA Wisconsin website.

"We're proud to present this proclamation to AIA Wisconsin on behalf of Governor Tony Evers," said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. "The Governor realizes that architecture makes an economic, environmental, and cultural impact in communities across Wisconsin. I encourage everyone in the state to learn more about the impact of architecture and the design community at the events scheduled throughout October."

The proclamation notes, "The success of the developed world is contingent

upon the built environment's ability to be resilient and on the decisions that architects, designers, engineers, public and private stakeholders, and the construction industry make daily."

For more information, please contact the AIA Wisconsin office at aiaw@aiaw.org or 608-257-8477.

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

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SATURDAY, OCT. 26 • 9 A.M. START
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SANDWICH, IL 60548
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— FARM AUCTION —
Lee & Kathy Schroeder
4148 S. Schuman Rd., Orfordville (Hanover), WI
Monday, Oct. 28 • 10 a.m.

DIRECTIONS: In Hanover, turn east on Race St. (Ding-A-Ling Supper Club) to Schuman Rd. south. Watch for BSA signs.
NOTE: Nice clean sale with all items in working condition. Mark your calendars!
VEHICLES (CLEAN): 1997 Chevy 1500LT Tahoe (4-Door, 216,000 mi., 5.7L, Auto, Runs Good), 2003 Chevy Silverado LS Z71 Off-Road ½ Ton (2-Door, 168,113 mi., 5.3L, Auto, 4x4, Runs Good).
TRACTORS (WELL - MAINTAINED & RUN GOOD): McCormick Farmall H, Ford 2N.
MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT: Ford Dearborn 3pt. 2-Bottom Plow, 3pt. Ford Sickle Mower, IH Sickle Mower, Woods Mod. M5 3pt. Brush Hog, John Deere 14T Kick Baler, JD Hay Rake, (2) JD 2-Row Corn Planters with New Tires (Nice), McCormick Deering 4-Wheel Rake with Spoke Wheels & New Tires, New Idea 7 ft. Hay Conditioner, Chain Link Bale Elevator with Transport & Elec. Motor, 24 ft. Chain Link Bale Elevator, Steel Wheel Pull Behind Road Grader, 10 ft. Pull Behind Disk, Ground Driven Manure Spreader (Great Condition), 3pt. Buzz Saw, Concrete Mixer with Elec. Motor and much more.
MISC.: StarCraft 12Ft. Fishing Boat with Highlander Trailer & 3hp Minn Kota Trolling Motor, (3) Equine Jog Carts, (2) 16 ft. Steel Gates, Qty. of Lumber & Barn Boards, Steel Fence Posts, Johnson 6hp Sea Horse Boat Motor, ATV Lift, Generac GP 3250 Generator, Hunting Bows & Tree Stands, Mec 650 Versa Reloader, Nordic Track Treadmill, Outdoor Smoker/Grill, Weber Grill, Agri-Fab Lawn Sweeper, Schwinn Bike & Others, Coleman Stove, Piano Stool, Steamers Trunk, Horse Collar, Antique Wood Chairs & Work Bench and much more.
TERMS: 5% buyer's fee. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted. 4% surcharge when paying by credit card (Mastercard, Visa and Discover). All sales are final and must be settled on the day of sale. Not responsible for accidents or misprints, if any. Once sold, items are your responsibility.

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State coalition seeks to protect local waterways

A new, rapidly growing coalition focused on protecting Wisconsin's lakes recently highlighted the growth of local communities and lakes rallying to protect this state's waterways.

"Last year, there were less than 20 lakes regulated for wake-enhanced boating. Today, the number is over 200, and more are contacting us daily. Towns have also taken action, with 33 towns regulating wake-enhanced boating. We've seen a tremendous increase in local communities recognizing the impacts of wake-enhanced boating and subsequently taking action to protect their natural resources through local ordinances," remarked Jeff Meessmann, Director, Last Wilderness Alliance.

The Last Wilderness Alliance, a founding coalition member, assists Wisconsin towns and their lake advocates through the process of developing local ordinances to regulate enhanced wakes and has developed a standard template that local governments can leverage to avoid the implementation of ordinances with vastly different language. Local ordinance support can be requested online here: <https://lastwildernessalliance.org/contact>

The coalition represents Wisconsin fishing experts/enthusiasts, advocates for local control, lake property landowners, sailors, those concerned with spreading invasive species, and others. All are concerned about the devastating impacts of wake-enhanced boating on Wisconsin's glacial lakes and other waterways.

Members of the coalition include: First Chapter Muskies, Inc., Walleyes for Tomorrow, Headwater Chapter Muskies, Inc., Diamond Lakers, Inc., Trout Unlimited Inc., Yahara Fishing Club, Vilas County

“Until elected and appointed state officials take action against the damage to Wisconsin lakes and waterways by these boats, we will need to continue to fight in every town and for every lake. Locals are demanding something be done – and that is why this coalition is growing so rapidly.”

– Joe Garstecki of Lakes at State Wisconsin

Lakes and Rivers Association, Lakes at State Wisconsin, Last Wilderness Alliance, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Wisconsin Lakes Association, Wisconsin's Green Fire, Sawyer County Lakes Forum, Buffalo County Conservation Alliance, Mondovi Conservation Club, Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association, Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association, Oneida County Clean Waters Action, Izaak Walton League of America-Wisconsin Division, Wisconsin Trappers Association, Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association, Winnebago Conservation Alliance, Friends of the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit, Musky Fool Fly Fishing Company, Lake George Lake Association, Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association.

"Until elected and appointed state officials take action against the damage to Wisconsin lakes and waterways by these boats, we will need to continue to

fight in every town and for every lake. Locals are demanding something be done – and that is why this coalition is growing so rapidly," stated Joe Garstecki of Lakes at State Wisconsin.

Wisconsin citizens clearly spoke this past Spring at the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) where over 75% of voters expressing an opinion, supported a resolution restricting the "generation of intentionally magnified wakes for wake surfing" to lakes at least 1,500 acres in size, at depths of at least 20 ft, while operating at least 700 ft from shore or other lake users. The WCC vote on this question was 10,274 in favor and only 3,363 opposed.

"Wake-enhanced boating is creating tension between neighbors. It is incredibly sad and unfortunate. I'm perplexed why someone would want to purchase a \$250,000 boat and use it when their neighbors are all giving them dirty looks. It seems like a purchase you wouldn't want to make if you wanted peace with your neighbors and fellow lake users," said Cody Kamrowski, Executive Director of Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

The growth in local ordinances addressing wake-enhanced boating is reflected in the organic growth of this coalition as more Wisconsinites are realizing the damage this type of boating can do to the waterways.

However, there are still thousands of Wisconsin lakes (and some rivers) that are not protected by a local ordinance. The coalition's proposed State minimum standards offer a baseline of protection to all the water bodies while still allowing towns to maintain their long-standing right for local control to continue to protect their lakes beyond state minimums.

DNR: Elevated risk of fire danger across state

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is asking the public to avoid burning due to elevated fire danger across the state. The DNR and partners at the National Weather Service are closely monitoring the situation throughout the weekend. Most of Wisconsin is at high fire danger due to gusty winds and dry vegetation. All DNR-issued annual burning permits for debris piles, burn barrels and prescribed burns are suspended in 25 counties where the DNR has burning permit authority.

Current wildfire concerns are primarily due to the lack of precipitation across the entire state. Wisconsin has received record-low rain in recent weeks, resulting in varying levels of moderate to severe drought. Wildfires that occur under these conditions can burn for great lengths of time and smolder underground for days and can be challenging to suppress.

Fire safety tips

- Avoid outdoor burning until conditions improve. Burn permits for debris burn-

ing are currently suspended in numerous counties.

- Operate equipment (chainsaws, off-road vehicles, lawn mowers, etc.) early in the morning or late in the day to avoid sparks at peak burn hours.

- Secure trailer chains to keep them from dragging.

- Delay having campfires until the evening hours as fire conditions tend to improve; keep them small and contained. Make sure they are completely extinguished before leaving them unattended. Report fires early: dial 911.



Children tried to hang rings on an elephant's trunk at the library.

All about elephants at Albany library

By Laura Roth
ALBERTSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

It was all about elephants at Albertson Memorial Library! We did the "elephant stomp" using these really cool colored

dots – practicing for hopscotch – and tried to hang rings on an elephant's trunk, which wasn't as easy as it looked. Then we read some elephant stories and made a balloon elephant. Next week, we're

focusing on tigers. Our stories will include the books Oh, No!, in which the animals are falling into a hole and Fox the Tiger, in which a fox learns about being worthy. There may or may not be tigers hidden around our room. And did you know that orange paint and black crayons make a pretty awesome tiger fur.

This will be the end of the Wild About Reading month. November at Albertson Memorial Library will be "KNOWvember." (The More You Know!) We'll look at books in the non-fiction collection: trains, tractors and trucks, beavers, badgers and bison, dogs, dolphins and deer.

Again, we're always looking for new friends to join us every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m., before the library officially opens. We've got the place to ourselves and can have a rowdy good time playing games together. Looking forward to meeting you!



Colored dots made for a fun game of hopscotch at Albertson Memorial Library in Albany.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

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David Leuty II
13437 State Rd. 81, Beloit, WI
Saturday, Oct. 26 • 9:30 a.m.

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