

Independent Register

SHOPPING NEWS

FREE! TAKE ONE

Orfordville reviews the proposed budget for 2024.....2

Second, third grade 2024 flag football teams.....4, 5

Gov. Evers honors state veterans for Veterans Day....6

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13, 2024

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Nine solar projects earn highest award

Green County, Rock County projects part of sustainability effort

The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) has awarded nine of Alliant Energy's solar projects with its highest award level – Envision Platinum – for the sustainable development, construction and operation of the facilities.

The nine Wisconsin solar projects total 664 megawatts (MW) and represent the successful execution of Alliant Energy's Clean Energy Blueprint, a roadmap to diversify its energy resources. All nine projects were placed into service by the end of 2023 as the energy company delivers on its purpose to serve customers and build stronger communities in a safe, cost-effective and reliable manner.

"As we transition to a more diverse energy mix, the sustainable development, construction, and operation of these solar projects will benefit local communities," said David de Leon, president of Alliant Energy's Wisconsin energy company. "To have some of the first solar projects in the state recognized under this framework showcases us as a leading energy company as we work to fulfill our commitment to generating cleaner energy and building stronger communities."

Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor Burns and McDonnell led the construction of these projects beginning in the summer of 2021.

"We are incredibly proud to have achieved ISI's prestigious Envision Platinum award for all nine of the Alliant Energy solar projects for which Envision verification was pursued. This recognition reflects the hard work and collaboration between Alliant Energy and our integrated

EPC team," said Chad Cotter, vice president for Burns and McDonnell. "From day one, being one unified team allowed us to demonstrate continual improvement of the planning-design-construction process, ensuring that we remained aligned in our commitment to safety, sustainability and resiliency. This award is a testament to what can be accomplished when everyone is working toward the goal of meeting the needs of the present as well as the needs of the future."

The Envision framework was designed by ISI to promote more sustainable, resilient, and equitable infrastructure projects. It is comprised of 64 sustainability and resiliency indicators (called credits) which are organized within five categories: Quality of life, leadership, resource allocation, natural world, and climate and resilience.

"ISI congratulates Alliant Energy on achieving the highest Envision Award level, Platinum, with each of these projects. By adopting Envision to guide its portfolio of clean energy projects, the company has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability and to the communities of Wisconsin," said Anthony Kane, President and CEO of ISI. "Alliant Energy is proving projects like these can produce sustainably sourced energy and also provide economic, environmental and social benefits."

Projects need to receive at least 50% of the total applicable points across the credits to receive a Platinum verification award. Below are unique characteristics from each project that led to their recognition:

- Albany (50 MW, Green

County): Alliant Energy undertook measures to understand community sensitivities associated with groundwater protection, spill and leak prevention response plans, and responsive surface water and groundwater monitoring and reporting systems.

- Bear Creek (50 MW, Richland County): At least 97.4% of all construction and demolition material was either sent to recycling facilities or diverted for beneficial reuse.

- Beaver Dam (50 MW, Dodge County): The project utilizes fiber optic cables, which are non-conductive and safer for technicians to handle, reducing the risk of electrical hazards to workers and the public. A glare study of the site predicted no risk to public health or safety for drivers or nearby residences.

- Cassville (50 MW, Grant County): Key stakeholders at the municipal and county

See SOLAR, Page 3



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

A drone photo was taken of the solar project in Springfield in Dodge County. Alliant Energy conducted multiple studies to find areas of high ecological value relative to the project site and fully avoided those areas during project development.

Celebrate the season: Sponsor a display at local tree show

Be part of a beloved community tradition by sponsoring a tree at the Rock County Historical Society's (RCHS) annual Holiday Tree Show, presented by Blackhawk Community Credit Union (BHCCU). The show runs from Saturday, Nov. 30 through Monday, Dec. 30 at the Lincoln-Tallman Museum, located at 440 N. Jackson Street in Janesville, where trees of all sizes will bring holiday cheer to this historic setting.

In 2023, over 140 creatively decorated trees delighted more than 5,300 visitors who toured the historic home. Each tree is uniquely sponsored and decorated by local businesses, nonprofits, or community members, adding personal touches

and holiday spirit to each display.

"The Holiday Tree Show is truly a community experience," said Tim Maahs, Executive Director of RCHS. "It's wonderful to see local sponsors bring their creativity to life while treating the public to a stunning holiday display."

Sponsors can choose from a range of pre-lit trees, available in sizes from 3 to 12 feet. Each sponsor has the option to decorate their tree personally or enlist the help of RCHS decorators for an additional fee. Decorations in previous years have included everything from promotional themes to traditional and whimsical designs. Each sponsor receives special

recognition on their tree, making it a unique way to share their holiday spirit.

For sponsorship details or to reserve a tree, please contact Kris Mathesius at operations@rchs.us or call 608-756-4509.

Home to six uniquely different historic sites on a 3.5-acre campus in the historic Look West Neighborhood, the Rock County Historical Society's mission is to bridge past and present through capturing and sharing stories about Rock County, Wisconsin. Its sites include the award-winning Lincoln-Tallman House, Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, RCHS Archives and Preservation Facility, Tallman Carriage House, Wilson King Stonehouse, and the Frances Willard Schoolhouse.



ROCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
RCHS is hosting their annual Holiday Tree Show Nov. 30 to Dec. 30 this year, and there is still plenty of time to become a tree sponsor. Contact them to learn more.

Albany FFA members win American Degree

Albany FFA members Rhylie Gough, Linsey Mueller and Ashley Letcher received their American Degree. They are the first Albany recipients to receive their American degree since Jillian Malkow got hers 14 years ago.

As the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, the American FFA Degree shows an FFA member's dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA association. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they exhibited through their FFA career.

American FFA Degree recipients show promise for the future and have gone above and beyond to achieve excellence.

What does it take to get this degree: Approximately 3,500 American FFA Degrees are handed out each year at the

National FFA Convention. That number represents less than half of one percent of all

FFA members, making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their

degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

The American FFA Degree winners from Albany proudly show off their degrees. From left: Rhylie Gough, Linsey Mueller, Ashley Letcher, Hala Ryan – Albany FFA Advisor.



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Festive forest extravaganza joins Merry Milton activities

Sponsors decorate trees to support clients with disabilities during holidays

Kandu Industries Inc., a Rock County, Wis.-based non-profit organization that provides programs and services to people with disabilities and disadvantages, recently announced it will host its first Festive Forest Extravaganza event during Merry Milton Weekend on Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Often referred to as a "festival of trees," Kandu's Festive Forest Extravaganza is a family-friendly holiday event offering guests the opportunity to stroll through a display of beautifully decorated holiday trees while savoring holiday treats, snapping photos with Kandu elves, and enjoying activities in a festive atmosphere. During the event, guests can purchase raffle tickets for a

chance to bring home their favorite tree, representing the true spirit of giving with family members just in time for the holidays.

The event is a wonderful opportunity for organizations and community members to align with a cherished holiday tradition by decorating a tree, while directly supporting Kandu's work to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities in our community. In addition to decorating a tree, sponsors will enjoy the following benefits:

- Recognition in event materials, social media, and on-site signage.
- Tickets to attend the Festive Forest Extravaganza event.
- Exposure to a wide audience of attendees, demonstrating a commitment to support-

ing those who need it most during the holiday season.

• Foster employee or family engagement and morale by creating a shared sense of purpose, opportunity to show off creativity, and enjoy the friendly competition.

Businesses, families and students are encouraged to participate. Sponsorships range from \$75 to \$5,000, with each level offering varying degrees of promotion and visibility. Trees will be decorated at Kandu Industries, 15 Plumb Street, Milton, on Nov. 19 to 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kandu clients will vote on trees to be awarded 1st and 2nd place trophies. Trophies will be on display with the trees during the Festive Forest Extravaganza event on Dec. 7.

More detailed information is available at <https://www.kanduindustries.com/event/kandu-festive-forest-extravaganza/>. To sponsor a tree or make a donation, interested parties can contact Ella Miller at 608-755-4123, ext. 108 or emiller@kanduindustries.com.

Kandu Industries is a 501(c)(3) organization, based in Rock County, Wis. that provides opportunities to people with disabilities and disadvantages. For more than 60 years, these work, social, and daily activities have enabled Kandu clients to achieve their maximum potential and enjoy the dignity of being productive citizens. Today, Kandu impacts the lives of over 200 clients along with a staff of over 100, and partners with a number of community

and governmental agencies to ensure that individual choice and personal development are

nurtured in the work environment as well as in other aspects of life.

UWW awards students at juried art exhibition

The following University of Wisconsin-Whitewater students have been awarded for their artwork in the Student Juried Art Exhibition.

- Carolyn Ellefson, of Milton, who is studying Art has received Best of Medals for their art piece The Seed of Criticism.
- Olivia Hunt, of Janesville, who is studying Art Education has received Honorable Mention for their art piece Pen Drawing.

In this annual exhibition in the Crossman Gallery, all students across the campus are invited to submit up to three pieces of artwork for consideration to be included. Regardless of their year or major, this exhibition provides students the opportunity to show their creative work in the gallery. The artworks exhibited, as well as the winners of the various awards, were selected by this year's juror, Milwaukee-based artist Nina Ghanbarzadeh. In addition to the

opportunity to showcase their creative and artistic accomplishments, monetary awards are available for students and are generously funded by the Annette and Dale Schuh endowment. Awards include first, second and third place, excellence in various media and honorable mentions.

This year, thanks to a generous donation, the gallery acquired Seeing is Believing, an important and impactful artwork from the exhibition completed by Emma Bjurquist, an art education major from Prairie du Chien.

"The inspiration and concept of this piece stems from the experience of not being believed by people when you say you are blind or visually impaired," Bjurquist said. "Misinformation and ableism have caused this to be a common occurrence among almost anyone with a visual impairment."

For more information regarding this event visit www.uw.edu/coac/crossman.

Orfordville reviews the proposed budget for 2025

The Village of Orfordville held a special board meeting on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. at the Orfordville Village Hall.

President Dennis Burtress called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Present were President Burtress, David Olsen, Cami Myers-Alstat, Nikki Tuffree, Terry Gerber, and Terry Morris. Also present were Rob and Tory Baars, Municipal Judge Russell Rucker, Chief Jeremiah Burdick, Librarian Sarah Strunz, DPW Director Nick Todd, and Clerk Sher-

ri Waege. Absent was Beth Schmidt.

Clerk Waege advised that copies of the Revised Agenda were emailed to the President and Trustees; and posted at the Village Hall, Library, and Post Office. There were no additions made to the agenda.

Clerk Waege reviewed the proposed budget for 2025 for the General Fund. Discussion held on changes which included a reduction in Streets Capital Outlay, increase to Library Repairs, and reduction on Fire Protection.

Clerk Waege explained that the increase for Public Fire Protection went from \$88,870 to \$143,168 which is due to the approved water rate increase. Public Fire Protection is money that is paid from General Fund (tax dollars) to the Water Utility for use of the hydrants and water system that the water utility has to maintain for fire protection. Discussion held on moving a portion of the Fire Protection Cost to the water bills. Clerk Waege provided five options for transferring a portion of

the Public Fire Protection cost to the water bills. Discussion held on Option #3. Clerk Waege will verify the meter numbers used in the calculation, whether it is charged for each meter or one per household.

Motion by Gerber, seconded by Tuffree to table to the Nov. 11 meeting pending clarification on the unit numbers for fire protection for each water account. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuffree, seconded by Gerber to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Motion carried.

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Alliant Energy offers gas safety tips as temperatures drop

With the arrival of cooler weather, Alliant Energy encourages customers to be safe around natural gas.

"Safety is our top priority," said Adam Marxen, manager of gas integrity and standards for Alliant Energy. "As customers begin to turn on their furnaces to stay warm as temperatures drop, there are some precautions they can take to keep their families and communities safe."

Alliant Energy offers the following tips:

1. Know the signs of a gas leak and what to do.

• Signs include an odor like rotten eggs; a hiss, roar or whistle near a gas appliance, meter or pipeline; or blowing dirt, bubbling water or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area. Leave the premises immediately. From a safe location, call 911.

• Symptoms such as dizziness, shortness of breath, headaches, confusion, nausea and fainting can also be signs a furnace or gas appliance has malfunctioned and exposed you to natural gas or carbon monoxide. Leave the premises immediately. From a safe location, call 911.

2. Install carbon monoxide and natural gas detectors.

• Detectors help identify odorless threats like carbon monoxide and are especially important for those with a known loss of smell. Additionally, certain soil conditions can strip the rotten egg odorant out of natural gas, making it more challenging to detect without proper equipment. If your natural gas detector goes off, move quickly to a safe location and call Alliant Energy at 1-800-255-4268.

3. Prevent snow and ice from blocking gas vents.

• Once winter arrives, snow and ice can damage gas meters and pipes. Use a broom to keep gas service equipment clear. You must clear vents for gas appliances following a major snow or ice storm to enable proper venting and prevent carbon monoxide accumulation.

4. Dig safely.

• In addition to increased potential gas and carbon monoxide risks when the weather turns cooler, there's also an increased risk of gas pipeline damage as homeowners rush to finish yardwork. Digging incidents are the most common cause of underground natural gas leaks. If you plan to dig, including constructing a fire pit, visit call811.com at least three days ahead of time. This will initiate a free process for utilities to locate and mark underground lines so you can dig safely.

• Even minor damage to a gas pipeline such as nicks, scratches, cuts, scrapes, dents and gouges can result in pipeline failure or a major incident in the future if not properly assessed. Call Alliant Energy at 1-800-ALLIANT if any digging equipment or tools contact underground pipelines.

• Finally, never place a fire pit above a buried line. If the fire gets too hot, it could cause the gas pipeline below to leak or melt.

"We urge customers to install natural gas and carbon monoxide detectors for greater security," Marxen said. "Customers should replace batteries regularly and get into a routine of practicing their emergency plans annually."

For more information about gas safety, please visit alliantenergy.com/gas.

Poll: Voters in state among the most sleep deprived on election night

Election night had Americans buzzing like never before. With high voter turnout and fierce competition, the suspense kept millions glued to their screens well past bedtime, eagerly awaiting the final count. For many, this was more than just watching the results. It was an all-night experience, and it took a toll on sleep across the country. HostingAdvice wanted to find out just how late Americans stayed up to watch the vote count. And by analyzing when people in each state called it a night, they uncovered where the most sleep-deprived viewers live, revealing the states that stayed awake the longest.

The survey found that, on average, Americans went to bed at 1:02 a.m. following election coverage. But who was the most dedicated to the cause? And who stuck

with it so they could see the new dawn, not just for the following day, but for U.S. politics? Well, the survey found the most committed state was New Hampshire. Those tireless Granite Staters stayed awake until 4:06 a.m. Those who stayed awake the earliest were the more chilled residents of Hawaii, who went to bed at their usual 9:25 p.m., although given the significant time difference, they would have been aware of the direction of the election results by then.

The poll revealed that Wisconsinites were among the most sleep deprived on election night – the average Wisconsinite went to bed at 1:28 a.m.

HostingAdvice also wanted to find out how people followed the vote count, and the main source for follow-

ing the results was cable news (such as CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC) with nearly half of respondents (48%) tuning in that way, while 26% got the results from streaming platforms such as YouTube and news apps. 22% got final tally from social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, and 4% from radio and podcasts.

The survey also found that most people – over two-thirds, or 68% – watched the results at home with friends and family. Fifteen percent also watched with friends and family, but virtually. Another 15% didn't want to be in the company of anyone else while finding out who was going to be voted in to run the country, preferring to watch alone, while 2% made a night of it with a larger group and had a watch party.

Of those who stayed up late to track the results, nearly half – 47% – had to adjust their schedules the day after Election Day because they stayed up so late. But it appears it didn't put people off – 86% said they intended to stay up late again in future election years. Finally, 29% of Wisconsinites said that the election suspense had affected their sleep.

"It was one of the biggest nights for America in recent history," said Christina Lewis of HostingAdvice.com. "No wonder people wanted to stay up as late as possible to find out the results!"

Dogs, deer, dolphins and the Dewey Decimal System



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA ROTH Rock Valley Publishing

It's KNOWember and story time at Albertson Memorial Library is all about non-fiction books. Last week they learned about Melville Dewey, who gave us the Dewey Decimal System, and read about a cat named Dewey who lived in a library. Can you guess which book was fiction and which one was non-fiction? The preschoolers found the shelves with the non-fiction books. Then they used those books to learn something new about dogs, deer, and dolphins. Finally, they folded an origami dog and used markers to make spots, eyes, etc. The group meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the library.

News briefs

Albany Historical Society presents guest speaker on birdstones

On Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., the Albany Historical Society presents Judge James Beer of Monroe.

He will be the guest speaker and his topic will be "Native American Birdstones" ancient artifacts.

Birdstones are carvings in slate or hard stone that resemble a bird. They are considered the highest art form created by prehistoric Americans, and date from approximately 2000 BC to 800 AD.

There will be a brief business meeting prior to the presentation. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the museum at 119 N. Water St., Albany.

The public is welcome to attend, and there is no charge to attend.

Please text or call 608-214-8289 for more information.

Snowmobile safety education course

Sheriff Fell is pleased to announce that the Rock County Sheriff's Office will offer their final 2024 Snowmobile Safety Education Course on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 7 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Rock County Sheriff's Office, 200 East U.S. Highway 14, Janesville. Students must attend both sessions to graduate.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1985, is required to complete a Snowmobile Safety Education Course to legally operate a snowmobile in areas open to the public within Wisconsin. Students should be at least 12 years of age or turn 12 shortly after the class.

Registration is now open. Complete the online enrollment form to reserve a seat at <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/recreational-patrol/snowmobile-education>.

Class size is limited to thirty students. Upon submission of the registration form, the submitter will see an onscreen confirmation message with course information.

The course fee of \$10 per student will be collected at the first session. If the student is under 18 years old, a parent/guardian will need to attend the first session with the student. Students will receive course materials at the first session. Please direct any questions to Deputy Trevor Lund at trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us.

Beloit native part of UWW production

Anna Olson from Beloit, who is studying Theatre at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, is part of the university's production of "Sylvia" by A.R. Gurney.

Olson is a member of the cast serving in the role of Kate. Performances of "Sylvia," directed by Robyn Accetta, will run Nov. 15 to 17 and Nov. 20 to 23 at Hicklin Studio Theatre in UW-Whitewater's Greenhill Center of the Arts.

Tickets are on sale for the performances and can be purchased in person at the Greenhill Center of the Arts, online at tickets.uww.edu or by calling 262-472-2222. There is a \$2 surcharge for tickets purchased at the door at the time of the event. The Hicklin Studio Theatre is located in the Greenhill Center of the Arts at 950 W. Main St., Whitewater.

For additional information about the UW-Whitewater Department of Theatre/Dance visit uww.edu/theatre.

The play: Step into Greg and Kate's world as they are balancing their new lives in the vibrant city of Manhattan after twenty-two years in the suburbs. Discover how Sylvia, a lab and poodle mixture, becomes an escape from the stress of work for one and an opponent for affection for the other. The hilarious play depicts the relationship of a man and his best friend and the importance of his marriage through complications and revelations. Don't miss the significant lessons that a street-smart dog like Sylvia will teach the couple. Note: This play contains language that might not be suitable for a younger audience.

Orfordville holds community engagement committee meeting

The Village of Orfordville held the Community Engagement Committee Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m. in the Orfordville Community Room.

2024 events were discussed, including:

- Discussion on Holiday lights
- Discussion on Christmas at the fire station
- 2025 planning was discussed, including:
 - Discussion on 2025 events
 - Discussion on 125th anniversary celebration.

• Solar (Continued from front page)

levels expressed approval of the project and its execution based on Alliant Energy's proactive communication approach and its economic, environmental and public health benefits for the community.

- North Rock (50 MW, Rock County): The project ensures the transmission of data used for remote monitoring, programming and scheduling of project operations through the addition of fiber optic cables in the region.

- Paddock (65 MW, Rock County): Alliant Energy conducted early studies and incorporated public input to inform the development of policies related to construction work schedule limitations, designated traffic routes, and a proactive roadway maintenance program.

- Springfield (100 MW, Dodge County): Alliant Energy conducted multiple studies to find areas of high ecological value relative to the project site and fully avoided those areas during project development.

- Wautoma (99 MW, Waushara County): The team sought feedback from the Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter to ensure they could fully avoid any negative impacts to water quality from the project. The group conducted water monitor-



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

In the Wautoma solar project in Waushara County the team sought feedback from the Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter to ensure they could fully avoid any negative impacts to water quality from the project.

ing in the area and found no changes in the quality.

- Wood County (150 MW, Wood County): Alliant Energy partnered with local lumber contractors and mills to implement a sustainable tree harvesting program, and non-salable wood, such as small trees, limbs, and stumps, were chipped into usable mulch and donated to local citizens.



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Second and third grade



Bears second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Gage Gill, Nolan Thingvold, Coach JD Thingvold, Dax Samelstad, Kutter Kennedy. **Kneeling:** Brantley Guilbault, Ali Elmer, Dominic Roudez.

PHOTOS COURTESY BRIANNE LARSEN PHOTOGRAPHY *Rock Valley Publishing*



Bills second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Layton Nath, Coach Nate Crane, Abram Crane, Coach Ben Fenwick, Case Fenwick. **Kneeling:** John Slotten, Luke Neild, Jack Neild, Ruby Sankey. **Sitting:** Beau Lawrence, Jayson Inabnit.



Cowboys second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Axel Stout, Coach Jayke Huntington, Logan Yaun, Coach Jacob Keating, Henry Schauer. **Kneeling:** Tucker Clark, Dominick Nelson, Bryan Brush, Luke Curless. **Missing:** Weston King.



Buccaneers second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Dalton Johnson, Ryder Akkerman, Coach Tyler James, Cade Cavitt, Coach Steve Cavitt, Kash Carter, Jayce Miller. **Kneeling:** Ezra Flodeen-Jackson, Lane Calkins, Oliver Hauri, Casen Cavitt. **Missing:** Jackson Allen.



Chiefs second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Steven Carpenter, Coach Grant Carpenter, Wyatt Schupbach, Coach Derrick Schupbach, Colton Dehn. **Kneeling:** Hayven Rundle, Gemma Kraemer, Kyler Covert, Abigail Prindle. **Sitting:** Eliza Oellerich.

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DIRECTIONS: Hwy. 14 north of Evansville or south of Madison to Rutland Corners west to Windmill Rd. north. Watch for BSA signs.
NOTE: Our second and final sale featuring a lg. quantity of IH tractors, farm machinery, shop equipment and more. Some of the tractors were restored or partially restored with majority having new tires. Great sale – mark your calendars!
TRACTORS/IH FARMALL COLLECTOR TRACTORS: IH 886D (16.9-38 Rear Tires with Cab, Dual Hyds., only 3,310 hrs.), IH 706 (16.9-38 Rear Tires with Fast Hitch & Low Hrs.), IH 706 (16.-38 Rear Tires with 3 pt.), IH 560 Gas with WF, Fast Hitch & IH 2000 Hyd. Loader, IH 350 NF with Fast Hitch, IH Super C with WF – Restored Completely with Fast Hitch, IH Super C with NF – Completely Restored with Fast Hitch & Weights, IH C with NF – Near Restoration Completion, IH 284D with Turf Tires (Sharp), IH German McCormick Utility (Sharp), Farmall Cub with Fast Hitch, IH French Vineyard F265D (Needs Repair), Project or Parts Tractors (IH German McCormick D219 & Farmall H, Ford 1500D Utility with 3 pt. Hitch and more).
IH PARTS: Weights, New Draw Bars, FH Arms, Hydraulic Rams, Fenders, Hoods, Rims, Fast Hitch Parts, (2) Sets of Duals and Much More.
SKIDSTEER/MACHINERY: Bobcat F751 Skid Loader with Material Bucket, Virmig Hyd. Grapple Fork Bucket, CID Hyd. Rotary Mower, Wallenstein WX 43 Wood Splitter, Manure Tine Bucket, Bale Spear, Set of Forklifts, Snowplow, New Grapple Fork Frame, IH 510 8 ft. Grain Drill with Grass Seed Attachment, Kinze 2 Row Sweet Corn Planter, JD 16 ft. Older Chisel Field Cultivator with Drag Leveler, JD 12 ft. Wheel Disk with Spike Tooth Leveler, JD 12 ft. Cultimulcher, IH 710 Semi Mounted 3 & 4 16 in. Bottom Plows, NH 1465 9 ft. Haybine, NH 977 7 ft. Haybine, NH 630 Round Baler, (8) Bale Basket Wagons on 6T Gears, Kasten 8T Gear with Flat Rack, H&S Round Bale Hauler, Ford 5 ft. 3 pt. Rotary Mower, Woods 3 pt. Finishing Mower, King Kutter 400 3 pt. Seeder or Fertilizer Spreader (Nice), Fimco 3 pt. 40 gal. Sprayer, King Kutter 3 pt. 5 ft. Scraper (New) and H&S 270 Manure Spreader
ANTIQUE COLLECTIBLE EQUIP: IH 312 Fast Hitch Moldboard Plow (Sharp), (2) IH Steel Wheel Plows, (3) IH 3 & 4 Bottom Plows, IH Equipment, IH Fast Hitch Plow, IH 111 3 pt. 6 ft. Rotary Mower, 5 ft. Rotary Mower, IH Fast Hitch Scraper and IH Thrashing Machine and Much More.
LAWN MOWERS: Troy-Bilt Zero-Turn Mower, Simplicity Zero-Turn Mower (Needs Repair), (2) Husqvarna Rear Tine Tillers (Nice).
OUTDOOR/SHOP RELATED: ARE Contractor Topper for 3/4T Pickup (Like New), Craftsman Rolling Toolboxes, Porter Cable 175 PSI 80 gal. Air Compressor, Millermatic Challenger Wire Feed Welder, Lincoln Stick Welder, Acetylene Torch, Skat Blast Cabinet Sandblaster, Beckett Steam Cleaner, (2) 20T Press, Hyd. Pipe Bender & Engine Hoist, Engine Stands, Chain Hoist, (2) Metal Brackets, Rolling Carts, (2) Fuel Transfer Tanks with Hand Pumps, Qty. of Hand/Power Tools, Qty. of Hardware, Lumber, Scrap Iron and much, much more.
CATTLE/MISC.: Schuld 6T Bin with Auger, 50 ft. of Steel Continuous Fence Line Hay Feeder Panel, 40 ft. of Steel Rod Fencing, (45) Stockyard Gates, (12) Corral Panels, (3) Poly Water Tanks, (2) Cargo Enclosed Truck Boxes for Storage and 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.

Check out our website for all upcoming 2024 online and on-site auctions. Book your sale today!
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 608-774-9336

George Auction Service & Real Estate, LLC

LAND AUCTION

682.28 Surveyed Acres in 6 Parcels – 659 +/- Cropland Acres
 Union Township Sections 7, 8, 17, 18, & 19 – Rock County, WI
 Brooklyn Township Section 11 – Green County, WI
 Paul E. & Fern R. Maas Revocable Trust
Tuesday, Nov. 19 • 1 p.m.

AUCTION LOCATION: Creekside Place – 102 Maple Street, Evansville, WI 53536. Directions – ¼ mile west of The Night Owl on Main Street to Maple Street, south.
NOTE: Luncheon & refreshments will be complimentary, beginning with registration at noon.
PARCEL INFORMATION:
Parcel 1 – 188.54 Surveyed acres with farm buildings. 180.58 +/- cropland acres, per FSA Maps. *Farm Buildings:* 70'x105' Morton shop with bi-fold door & concrete floor, 40'x60' Cleary shed with 40'x70' extension & 25'x35' Cleary shed.
Parcel 2 – 80.98 Surveyed acres. 80.98 +/- cropland acres, per FSA Maps.
Parcel 3 – 160.70 Surveyed acres. 149.31 +/- cropland acres, per FSA Maps.
Parcel 4 – 79.56 Surveyed acres. 77.55 +/- cropland acres, per FSA Maps.
Parcel 5 – 77.79 Surveyed acres. 76.57 +/- cropland acres, per FSA Maps.
Parcel 6 – 94.71 Surveyed acres. 94.16 cropland acres, per FSA Maps.
NOTE: Each parcel will be sold as price per acre, based on number of surveyed acres. Parcels will be offered separately through the method of "buyer's choice".
TERMS: 5% buyer's fee. \$10,000 minimum offer per tract, balance due at closing in 45 days or less. Successful bidder required to sign standard offer to purchase with no contingencies. Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material. Seller may accept or reject any and all bids.

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

2024 flag football teams



Dolphins second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Easton Homan, Coach Justin Soddy, Cullin Soddy, Coach Jimmy Sturdevant, Lincoln Myhre, Coach Kendall Myhre, Kydence Myhre, Coach Jerad Norton, Kenneth Norton. Kneeling: Louis Field, Emmitt Nangle, Hudson Thelen, Mason Feld. Sitting: Emberliegh Hanson, Jasper Heeder, Anderly Luckey.



Packers second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Charlie Krueger, Everly Ubersox, Coach Corey Weis, Aubry Gulden, Braztyn Drasch. Kneeling: Miles Wasmund, Wynnie Weis, Gage Haffele, Dalton Wurster.

PHOTOS COURTESY BRIANNE LARSEN PHOTOGRAPHY *Rock Valley Publishing*



Ravens second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Theron Forster, Ben Brown, Chase Naatz, Coach Ryan Naatz, Lenora Seibert, Jacob Wellnitz, Wyatt Lindroth. Kneeling: Lucas Freitag, Colton Cudney, Levi Freitag.



Seahawks second and third grade flag football team for 2024. Standing: Zander Stitt, Emmett Clark, Coach Chase Wilhite, Jett Nehls, Makenna Jarvis. Kneeling: Huntley Bradt, Case Nyman, Beckham Riese, Owen Schenk. Missing: Coach Braydan Sweeney.

FARM & CONSTRUCTION CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 9 A.M.

7526 OLD STATE RT. 121, HOPEDALE, IL

ITEMS INCLUDE: Tractors, trucks, trailers, tillage, equipment, industrial.

FOR COMPLETE LISTING, GO TO AUCTIONZIP.COM, AUCTIONEER ID #51582.

AUCTIONEERS: Brent Schmidgall, 309-202-8378 and Cal Kaufman, 309-696-9019.



7526 Old State Route 121
Hopedale, IL 61747

skauctionsllc@yahoo.com • skauctions.net

46-4258

POWERS AUCTION MULTI-PARTY ESTATE AUCTION

Gary Schreiner - Robert C Lehmann - Gerald Zweifel - Virgil Swanson
SATURDAY, NOV. 23 • 9 A.M.

110 E. MURRAY ST., BROWNTOWN, WI 53522

Multi-party estate auction offering tractors, household, vehicles, toys and more!
Gary Schreiner Estate: collectible tractors, Corvette, farm implements & more; Robert C. Lehmann Estate: cars, lawn mower, personal belongings; Gerald Zweifel Estate: approx. 150 toy tractors (complete line of tractors to be sold in December); Virgil Swanson Estate; approx. 100 die cast toy tractors. Visit powersauction.com for more information!

Office - 608-439-5761 • Dan - 608-214-3765 • Mike - 608-214-5761

Powers Auction Service • 110 E. Murray St., Browntown, WI 53522 • powersauction.com

463708

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463572

ROEDER IMPLEMENT

17th Annual Inventory Reduction Auction

Date: November 30, 2024 - Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 2550 Rockdale Rd - Dubuque Iowa 52003

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| 2010 CASE IH 7088 COMBINE 3,048/2,320 HRS | 2019 CATERPILLAR 420F2 BACK HOE 2,120 HRS | 2021 H&S LW1100 BALE WRAPPER |
| 2008 CASE IH 2577 COMBINE ROCK TRAP | 2012 GENIE X45/25IC BASKET LIFT 1,624 HRS | 2019 BRENT V1100 GRAIN CART |
| 2014 CASE IH STEIGER 540 QUADTRAC 3,488 HRS | 2020 CATERPILLAR 289D TRACK SKID 1,400 HRS | 2021 H&S GM9117 GRINDER MIXER |
| 2017 NEW HOLLAND T8.410 TRACK TRACTOR | 2004 GEHL 3635 SKID STEER 469 HRS | 2013 MORBARK BEAVER M&D |
| 2007 CASE IH MAGNUM 245 TRACTOR 7,675 HRS | 2018 DEERE 333G TRACK SKID STEER 2,015 HRS | 2018 CASE IH DC102 10' DISCBINE |
| 2019 JOHN DEERE 3046R LDR BACKHOE 301 HRS | 2014 CASE IH 1255 12 ROW PLANTER PRECISION | 2009 NH H7450 DISCBINE |
| 2004 CASE IH JX1075C LDR TRACTOR 2,200 HRS | 1960 JOHN DEERE 730 REGULAR LP RESTORED | 2010 SUNFLOWER 1435-26 DISK |

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LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
GREEN COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
DENNIS T. STROMMEN
Deceased.

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 24-PR-81

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth May 28, 1957 and date of death August 25, 2024, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1403 18th Street, Brodhead, WI 53520.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 29, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Register in Probate, Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin.

Electronically signed by
Jennifer Prien
Probate Registrar
October 17, 2024

Attorney Todd W. Schluesche
Schluesche Fields S.C.,
250 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 106
Monroe, WI 53566
608-325-2500
Bar Number 1024392

The Independent Register
10/30, 11/6, 11/13/2024
WNAXLP 463491

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
GREEN COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
LOIS M. HARVEY
Deceased

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 24-PR-90

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth November 22, 1935 and date of death February 21, 2021, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W893 Giese Road, Brodhead, Wisconsin 53520.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 7, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Register in Probate, Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin.

Electronically signed by
Jennifer Prien
Probate Registrar
October 31, 2024

Attorney Amanda M. Fields
Schluesche Fields S.C.
250 N. 18th Avenue, Ste. 106
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566
(608) 325-2500
Bar Number 1094267

lieve may be useful to verify the nature and amount of the claim, including copies of any relevant documents.

Please send all of the above information to:

Mary Brintnall Peterson
c/o Attorney Clara A. Nerby
Shannon Law Office, LLC
104 W. Main St.
Evansville, WI 53536

The Independent Register
11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2024
WNAXLP 463993

AGENDA

**BRODHEAD SCHOOL
DISTRICT
SPECIAL REFERENDUM
MEETING**

**Wednesday,
November 20, 2024
HIGH SCHOOL AUDITERIA
2501 West 5th Avenue,
Brodhead, WI
6:00 P.M.**

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET:
<https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-tnh>
JOIN BY TELEPHONE:
+1 727-325-2066
(PIN: 996403637)

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- AGENDA**
- IV. OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT REFERENDUM AND HANDOUTS
- V. REVIEW TWO DIFFERENT SCENARIOS FROM THE BAIRD MODEL
- VI. OPEN FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION
- VII. ADJOURN

The Independent Register
11/13/2024
WNAXLP 464187

**NOTICE OF
DISSOLUTION
of MBP CONSULTING LLC
and
Instructions for Submitting
Notice of Claim**

Notice to any and all Creditors of MBP Consulting LLC:

You are hereby notified that MBP Consulting LLC has been dissolved, effective November 4, 2024.

It is hereby requested that any and all persons with a claim, known or unknown, against MBP Consulting LLC or its members, agents, or employees, in their capacities as such, present said claim in accordance with this published notice.

To file a notice of a claim against MBP Consulting LLC you must send the following written information to the address below, no later 120 days following the first date of this publication:

- 1. A statement of the amount of your claim;
- 2. The legal name of the entity asserting the claim;
- 3. Identification or brief description of the agreement or other circumstances under which the claim arose; and,
- 4. Any other information you believe may be useful to verify the nature and amount of the claim, including copies of any relevant documents.

PLEASE NOTE: A claim against the dissolved limited liability company or its members, agents, or employees, is barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is brought within two (2) years after the first publication date of this notice. If your claim is so barred, you will have no further rights to assert or otherwise take action with respect to your claim, against MBP Consulting LLC or its members, agents or employees.

If you have any questions, please contact Attorney Clara A. Nerby, Shannon Law Office, (608) 882-5944.

/s/ Clara A. Nerby
Attorney Clara A. Nerby,
Shannon Law Office, LLC, for:
Mary Brintnall Peterson,
Sole Member
MBP Consulting LLC

The Independent Register
11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2024
WNAXLP 464189

**TOWN OF SPRING
VALLEY**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
(Originally posted
for November 25th &
rescheduled for
December 9th, 2024)**

To be held Monday, December 9th, at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular monthly Town Board meeting at the Orfordville Fire Station meeting room, 173 North Wright Street, Orfordville, WI for the following purpose: To consider an application by Arthur T Donaldson Marital Trust Vivid Inc., Comb & Associates-Agent, for a Minor Land Division (2 +/- acres) and Rezone of Township T2N 10E Parcel 6-18-153, a 290 acre A1 parcel, located in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 18, located at 18319 W. Footville-Brodhead Rd., divide and rezone 2 +/- acres with residence from A1 to A3.

The Town of Spring Valley Planning & Zoning Committee has reviewed the 6-18-153 land division and rezone application at its September 23rd, & October 28th, 2024, meetings and recommends that the Town Board grant the 6-18-153 land division and rezone as presented in the application and preliminary CSM.

Kevin Kawula, TSV Planning & Zoning Committee Clerk
(608)876-4255

The Independent Register
11/13, 11/20/2024
WNAXLP 464236

TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY

**Notice of Public Meeting of the Electors to Approve the 2025 Budget
Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 6PM
Orfordville Fire Station Meeting Room 173 N Wright St., Orfordville WI**

Budget Notice Calculation			
	2024	2025	%Change
REVENUES			
Taxes: General Levy	\$389,508	\$389,206	-0.08
Other Taxes	\$2,262	\$0	-100.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$226,483	\$231,596	2.26
Licenses and Permits	\$13,015	\$13,330	2.42
Misc. Revenues	\$5,000	\$20,000	300.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$636,268	\$654,132	2.81
EXPENDITURES			
General Government	\$68,957	\$71,205	3.26
Public Safety	\$173,092	\$176,309	1.86
Public Works	\$382,269	\$394,669	3.24
Health & Human Services	\$2,800	\$2,800	0.00
Culture Rec & Education	\$150	\$150	0.00
Capital Outlay	\$4,000	\$4,000	0.00
Reserve for Contingency	\$5,000	\$5,000	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$636,268	\$654,132	2.81

Betty Anderson, Treasurer
Dela Ends, Clerk

The Independent Register
11/13, 11/20/2024
WNAXLP

463987

Gov. Evers honors state veterans for Veterans Day



GOV. TONY EVERS YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

In recognition of Veterans Day, Gov. Tony Evers celebrated Wisconsin's veterans and their families and honored the holiday with a video message thanking them for their service and sacrifice and reaffirming his commitment to supporting veterans and their loved ones.

Gov. Tony Evers, in recognition of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, celebrated Wisconsin's 300,000 veterans and their families and honored the holiday with a video message thanking them for their service and sacrifice and reaffirming his commitment to supporting veterans and their loved ones. Gov. Evers also proclaimed Nov. 5 to 11 as Veteran Recognition Week and Nov. 11 as Veterans Day in Wisconsin. A copy of the governor's Veteran Recognition Week and Veterans Day proclamation is available online.

Supporting Wisconsin's veterans has been a top priority for the governor and the Evers Administration. Earlier this year, Gov. Evers and Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) Secretary James Bond announced Veteran Mental Health Community-Based Organization Grant funding for nine non-profit organizations to promote positive mental health through activities, programs, and services that enhance the emotional, psychological, and

social well-being of Wisconsin's veterans.

The governor additionally signed a series of bills in 2024 to support veterans, including allowing spouses of veterans to become members of the state's veterans' homes even if their spouse is not a veteran, directing funding to cover some eligible burial expenses for veterans, ensuring Hmong veterans can have veteran status on their driver's license or ID, ensuring Wisconsin has

qualified individuals filling positions in veterans service offices and veterans homes, and adding the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to state highway maps.

The Evers Administration is committed to ensuring Wisconsin veterans have the tools and resources needed to thrive in their civilian lives. To learn more about resources and services available to veterans and their families in Wisconsin, visit DVA's website.

DWD honors companies who employ veterans

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) recently announced the 2024 winners of the Vets Ready Employer Initiative. The award recognizes Wisconsin employers that have gone above and beyond to hire and support veterans and their families. A record 22 employers of all sizes are being honored this year.

"Our nation's veterans have given so much in service to our country and often face special challenges when they return home, including finding family-supporting employment," DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek said. "Veterans bring invaluable experience to the workplace, and I commend these Vets Ready employers for employing and engaging veterans. This distinction elevates the work of these employers and gives them the competitive edge in recruiting and retaining veterans."

The Vets Ready Employer Initiative encourages employers to build a support system within their workplace, hire and retain more veterans, and connect to veterans and their families in the community. Every year, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and its Office of Veteran Employment Services (OVES) recognize businesses with either a gold or silver certification in one of three employer categories: small, medium, and large. Award program partners include the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, the Disabled American Veterans Department of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce, the Wisconsin American Legion, Employer

Support of the Guard and Reserves, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

Award-winning employers will be invited to a recognition event. Recipients are promoted by DWD staff, veteran agencies and organizations, and workforce partners through resources such as DWD's website. Additionally, winners are highlighted as a Vets Ready employer on JobCenterofWisconsin.com and recognized with a special icon on JobCenterofWisconsin.com to indicate the employer's Vets Ready status. Winners are also given a Vets Ready Winner emblem to include on the company's website and presented a certificate.

Among the 22 employers honored, the seven companies that are first-time recipients are indicated with an asterisk. The 2024 awardees are:

Large – Gold Certification

- 4imprint Inc., Oshkosh
- Del Monte Foods Inc., Plover
- Deloitte LLP, Madison
- Frank Beverage Group, Middleton
- Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, Menasha*
- Kimberly-Clark Corp., Neenah
- Menasha Corp., Neenah
- Moraine Park Vocational and Technical College, Fond du Lac*
- Oshkosh Corp., Oshkosh
- Rockwell Automation, Milwaukee
- TDS Telecom, Madison
- U.S. Venture Inc., Appleton*
- UW Health, Middleton*

- We Energies, Milwaukee

Large – Silver Certification

- Old Wisconsin Sausage Co., Sheboygan*
- Superior Water Light and Power, Superior*
- Waupaca Foundry Inc., Waupaca*
- Xcel Energy, Eau Claire

Medium – Gold Certification

- Worthington Cylinders, Chilton

Small – Gold Certification

- MCC Inc., Appleton
- Northwood Technical College, Rice Lake
- Precision Iceblast Corp., Peshtigo

Additional details about the Vets Ready Employer Initiative, including answers to common questions about the program, and how to better support veterans in the workplace are available online.

Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development efficiently delivers effective and inclusive services to meet Wisconsin's diverse workforce needs now and for the future. The department advocates for and invests in the protection and economic advancement of all Wisconsin workers, employers, and job seekers through six divisions – Employment and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, Unemployment Insurance, Equal Rights, Worker's Compensation, and Administrative Services. To keep up with DWD announcements and information, sign up for news releases and follow them on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.



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Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
Fax: (262) 725-6844

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

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ADDRESS _____

532-503

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real estate

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

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Motorcycles

1994 350 SUZUKI CLIMBER
Asking \$1700. Call/text (262) 210-3147

Sports/Classic Cars

1952 CHEVY PICKUP Solid Nevada truck, runs great. \$19,750. (262) 949-6997.

Sport Utilities

2008 JEEP LIBERTY 4X4 125k. New battery, exhaust, water pump, AC compressor & brakes all around. AZ car. 2 Key Fobs, \$7,100. Call 262-716-6180.

Trucks & Trailers

2000 GMC SIERRA ext. cab, short box. 218000 miles. Good runner. \$2,000 OBO 262-758-2710.

2002 FORD F-250 SUPER DUTY V-10, with 8' Western Plow, 37k miles, excellent cond., no rust, \$28,000. 262-497-3162.

2006 V8 DODGE PICK UP 4 door, new tires, sharp! East Coast truck-no rust. runs great. \$6,500. OBO 224-361-3059.

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Contact Rhonda at rmarshall@rvpublishing.com for information on advertising.

for rent

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Brodhead: Maderia Kourt

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USDA, DATCP award \$3.1M to projects that help food supply chain

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced it has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to award \$3.1 million for 41 projects through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) to strengthen local and regional food systems.

Through this program, DATCP will fund 41 projects with Equipment Grants to support middle of the supply chain infrastructure. Additional projects are still being reviewed and will be announced soon.

"We have a proud tradition of agriculture here in Wisconsin, and it's critically important that we're able to get food from our farms and producers to our grocery stores, restaurants, and kitchen tables across our country and the world over," said Gov. Evers.

"From the Northwoods to the Fox Valley to the Driftless Area, I'm grateful our partners like Sen. Baldwin are helping bring investments home to Wisconsin to support our farmers and their families, bolster our state's critical supply chain, build food resilience, and, importantly, help make sure our state's proud agricultural tradition continues for generations to come."

Examples of funded projects include:

- Heartland Craft Grains, a family-owned farmstead mill and grain processor near Lodi, will purchase equipment to automate the handling, batching, and dispensing of their finished, value-added processed grains into packaging. These ingredients are then used to add value, flavor and nutrition to other food businesses, such as bakeries, restaurants, tortillerias, pasta makers, brewers and distillers, and more.
- The Sokaogon Chippewa Community in Crandon will purchase manoomin (wild rice) processing and storage equipment to provide opportunities for at least 20 underserved, tribal producers. Manoomin production capacity is currently severely limited by lack of larger-scale, collective processing equipment.

This project is part of a set of proposals coordinated by the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition (GLIFC) designed to form a statewide network of mid-supply-chain infrastructure-supporting economic opportunities for underserved producers across the state.

• The Driftless Berry Grower group, under the leadership of Good Thunder Farm in Richland Center, will purchase 12 pieces of equipment for storage, juicing, freeze-drying and distilling elderberries, aronia berries, and currants. This group of 12 small, beginning berry farmers will build middle of the supply chain infrastructure for processing these crops of growing importance and popularity in Wisconsin, strengthening rural economies.

• Northeast Wisconsin Hmong Professionals of Appleton will purchase a delivery vehicle and cold storage equipment to establish a Hmong Food Hub for distributing cultural and specialty crops. This project will support wholesale readiness, provide cold chain distribution access, and enhance market opportunities for local, underserved producers.

• Stock Family Farm of Helenville recognizes the shared challenges faced by small-scale farmers in their region and will purchase cold storage and distribution equipment to serve as a hub for locally produced food aggregation. Centralizing transportation infrastructure will enhance the resilience of an estimated 10 individual farms, and strengthen the entire local food system in

Southeastern Wisconsin by establishing a more reliable and accessible source of local food for communities falling within classified food desert boundaries.

"Projects funded through RFSI are building strength and resilience in Wisconsin's food system, diversifying agricultural markets, creating new revenue streams for small and mid-sized producers, and providing economic opportunities for local communities," said USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt. "USDA is grateful for Wisconsin's support strengthening local and regional agricultural supply chains."

This awarded funding is part of the \$420 million available through the RFSI grant program to build capacity within the middle of the supply chain and support local and regional producers. It is funded by President Biden's American Rescue Plan. Through this program, AMS has entered into cooperative agreements with state agencies, commissions, or departments responsible for agriculture, commercial food processing, seafood, or food system and distribution activities or commerce activities in states or U.S. territories.

RFSI Equipment Grant awardees can be found at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/RFSIEOAwardList.pdf>. For more information, visit the AMS Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure webpage at ams.usda.gov. The status of state and territory RFSI programs is available on the program's state grant webpage.

Honoring the state's first woman lawyer

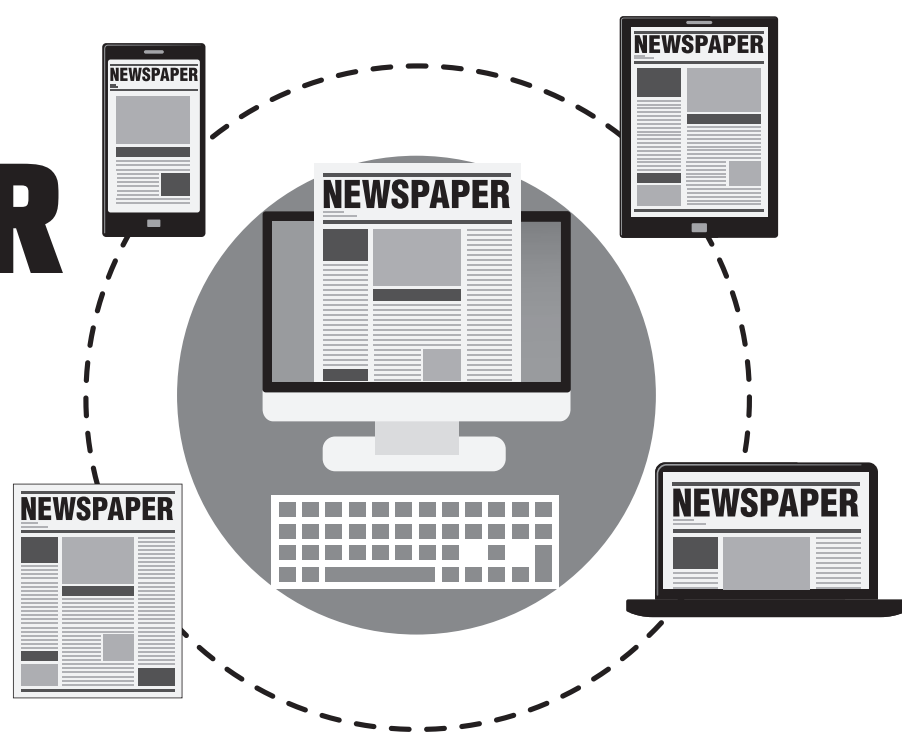


PHOTO COURTESY SEN. MARK SPREITZER *Rock Valley Publishing*

On Sept. 30, Sen. Mark Spreitzer attended a ceremony to name the Wisconsin State Law Library in honor of Lavinia Goodell, Wisconsin's first woman lawyer. Goodell spent years overcoming gender-based discrimination before passing an examination at the Rock County Courthouse in Janesville in 1874. Even after becoming a lawyer in Rock County, Lavinia Goodell was denied the ability to appeal her case to the Wisconsin Supreme Court because of her gender. She then successfully lobbied the state legislature to change the law. The naming ceremony was attended by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices Ann Walsh Bradley, Rebecca Dallet, and Jill Karofsky. It was great to hear reflections on Lavinia Goodell's trailblazing achievements and on her ongoing impact on women in law today.

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