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Crane surpasses 1,000 point mark

Parkview beats Hustisford

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Parkview Vikings picked up their ninth win of the 2024-2025 Wisconsin High School boys' basketball season, last week.

The Vikings have had an exciting month this January. Back on Jan. 10, their leading scorer, Aiden Crane, broke the program's single game scoring record with a fifty-two-point performance. That broke Rusty Klitzman's fifty-one-point record set just recently in 2023.

Since then, Parkview has found themselves in a couple of close matchups. They picked up a 63-58 win over Jefferson on the road, before falling to Clinton and Abundant Life in back-to-back games.

The Vikings bounced back into the win column on Friday, Jan. 24, the same night Crane set some more

Parkview history. That Friday, Parkview took on the Hustisford Falcons in a matchup to end the week. Hustisford came into the game with an overall record of 4-6 on the year.

While the Vikings were looking to bounce back into the win column, Crane was also approaching 1,000 career varsity points. The Hustisford defense had little to say about stopping the junior from getting there. Crane racked up seventeen points in the first half alone, including four three-pointers.

Mathias Treinen was an even bigger force for the Vikings. Treinen had twenty-one points in the first half alone. By the break, the duo of Treinen and Crane had combined for thirty-eight points, helping Parkview take a 41-35 lead.

See CRANE, Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY PARKVIEW BASKETBALL

Rock Valley Publishing

Aiden Crane broke the Parkview Vikings boys' basketball program's single game scoring record as well as racking up 1,000 career varsity points.

Turtle TEK wins highest award at recent qualifier

Turtle TEK, a local high school robotics team of homeschooled and public high school students from Beloit and Clinton, as well as Poplar Grove, South Beloit, and Winnebago, Ill., recently competed at Green Bay Hackerz. The competition featured some of the best FIRST Tech Challenge teams in the state, and Turtle TEK set high goals for the competition, working to achieve them all season long.

The team members prepared a five-minute presentation and spent 10 minutes answering questions based on judging criteria. Team member Philip Turner said about the experience, "It was easy. I went up and said my lines with confidence."

Based on their performance in the judging room, they were visited by three additional groups of judges throughout the afternoon. The team was able to share their innovative

See TURTLE TEK, Page 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Robot matches feature four robots and two alliances with two teams on each. Here, teams wait as the field is set for play. From far right: Garrett Schnieder, Kelby Schnieder (hidden behind Garrett), and Alex Woodard are one of two drive teams for Turtle TEK. They are with their alliance team, Droid Rage Rewired.



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New venture capital fund will invest in state's startup companies

Mastercraft Ventures announces the launch of a new Wisconsin venture capital fund. Based in Beloit, the fund seeks to generate investor return by investing in Wisconsin-based startup companies.

Mastercraft has received a \$2.4 million dollar investment from the Badger Fund, the Fund's lead investor. Mastercraft is the sixth venture capital fund to have the Badger Fund as their lead investor.

Mason Cook will be the Mastercraft fund manager. Prior to starting Mastercraft, Cook served as president of the VC-funded software company, RealityBLU. He previously served as the managing director of a startup accelerator, supporting numerous startups with VC fundraising. Cook holds an undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and com-



Mason Cook

pleted the Executive Education in Venture Capital and Private Equity program at Columbia University. The Badger Fund of Funds has invested \$25 million in venture capital funds throughout the state, including Madison, Milwaukee, Neenah, and La Crosse, Wisconsin. The addition of Mastercraft Ventures will be the first Badger Fund investment based in Rock County. The Badger Fund has developed a proprietary investment process that has successfully generated a return of investor's capital in Wisconsin. The Mastercraft Fund will leverage this proprietary investment process.

"With Microsoft investing \$3.3 billion dollars in Racine County, and the Hendricks family commitment to growing Beloit, now seemed like the ideal time for a Rock County venture fund focused on Southern Wisconsin," said Ken Johnson, the Badger Fund Managing Director. "Mason Cook has spent the past year working with the Badger Fund team to develop the Mastercraft investment strategy."

In May 2024, Microsoft announced a \$3.3 billion investment in Racine County, Wisconsin to spur artificial intelligence innovation and economic growth. This investment includes cloud computing and AI infrastructure, the creation of the country's first manufacturing-focused AI co-innovation lab, and an AI skilling initiative to equip more than 100,000 res-

idents with essential AI skills by 2030.

"Investments like Microsoft's in Southern Wisconsin are paving the way for entrepreneurs and investors to collaborate on groundbreaking projects and transformative opportunities," said Mason Cook.

Mastercraft expects to register with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to obtain qualified venture fund certification. Once obtained, this designation will offer eligible investors Wisconsin tax benefits when the fund invests in Wisconsin-based startups recognized as qualified new business ventures.

Startup companies and other parties interested in learning more about Mastercraft Ventures can visit its website or reach out to Mason Cook at mason@mastercraft.vc.

College news

Brodhead student named to Fall 2024 Academic Dean's List

The University of Dubuque congratulates Hannah Shickles of Brodhead on being appointed to the Fall Semester 2024 Academic Dean's List.

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

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

The University of Dubuque (UD) is a private, coed university founded in 1852 that offers undergraduate, graduate, and theological seminary degrees as well as other educational opportunities with the intention of educating and forming the whole person. Here, the value of an education is measured in helping the students find their calling in life through academics, community, character, vocation, and stewardship. This approach to learning is based on professional programs with a liberal arts core, and the university prepares students to find their purpose and make meaningful contributions to the world. <https://www.dbq.edu/>.

Janesville student named to Fall 2024 Dean's List

Azia Lynn Koser, a member of the Class of 2026 from Janesville, Wis., has been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Stonehill College. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

UW-Stevens Point undergraduates honored for scholastic achievement

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,600 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic

year.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are sent to those who earned highest honors distinction.

Students who received honors include:

Albany

- Mackenzie Castellucci, Highest Honors

Brodhead

- Gracyn Bolton, High Honors
- Dawson McGinty, Honors

Beloit student named to men's track and field team at UW-Whitewater

Kobe Chandler from Beloit, Wis., who is studying Physical Education at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, has earned a roster spot on the Warhawk men's track and field team for the 2025 season.

The Warhawks finished fourth in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference at both the indoor and outdoor championship meets in 2024. The team placed fourth at the NCAA Indoor Championships and tied for sixth at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Returning distance runner Christian Patzka captured three individual national titles last spring, winning the indoor and outdoor 5,000-meter run and the outdoor 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Head coach Mike Johnson enters his 18th season leading the men's program. The Warhawk men have finished among the top 10 at 19 national meets – 11 indoor, eight outdoor – during Johnson's tenure.

Roster set for UW-Whitewater women's track and field team

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater women's track and field team started its 2025 indoor season on Jan. 18. The outdoor season starts March 28.

The following student-athletes have been named to the roster of the Warhawk women's track and field team at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the 2025 season:

- Cianna Vendrell-Nolen of Edgerton, who is majoring in Physical Education.

- Caitlin Zingsheim of Janesville, who is majoring in Business Analytics.

The Warhawks finished fifth in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference at both the indoor and outdoor championship meets in 2024. The team placed 20th at the NCAA Indoor Championships and tied for 11th at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Returning field athlete Gracie Holland finished as national runner-up in the pole vault at last year's NCAA Outdoor Championships.

Head coach Mike Johnson enters his 14th season leading the women's program. The Warhawk women have finished among the top 10 at four national meets – two indoor, two outdoor – during Johnson's tenure.

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SHOPPING NEWS

February at the Albertson Memorial Public Library

By Cindy Clint
ALBERTSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Here's what's happening during the month of February at the Albertson Memorial Library:

February is 'Blind Date with a Book' all month long at the library. The library will feature wrapped books by genre, allowing you to check out one from your favorite category. Take home your selection, unwrap it like a present and enjoy a literary adventure!

February's Preschool Story Time will be all about 'Things that Go!' Enjoy stories and crafts every Tuesday at 10 a.m. with our Children's Programming Specialist, Miss Laura. This month's stories will rev up your curiosity, pump up your heart rate, and deliver a full-on truckload of fun! Hop on board for a wild ride!

The Albany Joint Library Board Meeting will be held at the library on Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is open to the public.

Join us for Craft Night with Diane, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. to make your own personalized glass gem magnets. Bring a picture to the library to have copied and reduced, at no charge, for this craft. No photo? No worries! The library's got your back with some fabulous images to choose from. Let the crafting fun begin!

Ready to roll the dice? Join us Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. for an epic adventure in our one-shot Dungeons and Dragons game! Will you escape the dungeon or roll a crit fail? Let's find out!

Swing by on Feb. 21 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for Creative Crafters, the ultimate adult craft bash! Grab the craft you're working on and join the crafting party for some chit-chat and mouthwatering snacks! Let's get crafty and snack happy!

Join us for our monthly book club, All Booked Up, on Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. This month we will be discussing

'This Tender Land' by William Kent Krueger, the unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression.

Whether you're a word wizard or just starting out, everyone's invited to join the fun on Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. to share and be inspired while working on their writing projects with the Sugar River Writers.

Please follow the library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AlbertsonMemorialLibrary, Instagram at www.instagram.com/albertsonmemoriallibrary or check out the calendar of events on the website at www.albertsonlibrary.org for additional information.

Library learnings

Read wherever you are! The Albertson Memorial Library offers Libby. Libby gives you free access to thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines. Best of all, it's easy to use! Download and

open Libby on your device. Answer a few basic questions. Browse or search to discover your next eBook or audiobook and start reading or listening!

To open Libby on a laptop or desktop computer, go to the Albertson Memorial Library website at: www.albertsonlibrary.org. Don't have a computer or Wi-Fi? No problem, use the library's! Click on "Libby," which you can find on our homepage under the section titled "Reading Resources." You can also go directly to Libby at: www.Libbyapp.com. On Apple iPhones and iPads download "Libby, the library app" from the App Store. On phones and tablets with Google Play download "Libby, the library app" from Google Play. On Amazon Fire tablets download "Libby, the library app" from the Amazon App Store.

Once you've downloaded and opened the app you will need to answer a few basic questions. Questions like

whether you possess a library card from the Albertson Memorial Library? If you do, select "Yes." If you do not, please visit the library where one of our library aides will assist you in obtaining a card. To locate your library, choose "Search for a Library," then enter the zip code "53502" for Albany. The "Albany Public Library" will be displayed; click on it. Select "Sign in with my card." When prompted to indicate where you use your card, choose "Albertson Memorial Library" from the list. Enter Albany's zip code, 53502, followed by your library card number and then click "Sign in." Libby will confirm that you are signed in; click "Next" to proceed. You will then have the option to select "Yes, I read with Kindle" or "Skip." Choose the option that best suits your preferences.

Upon logging in, select a genre to explore or use the search function, found at the bottom of the screen, to locate a specific title or author. When you discover materials you'd like to borrow, click on "borrow" if the title is available.

If it isn't currently available, you can place a "hold" on it. For titles not in their collection, choose the "notify me" option to receive updates if the item becomes available. Borrowed titles will appear on your "shelf" and will download to the app automatically when connected to Wi-Fi, allowing you to read them offline. To begin reading a borrowed material from your "shelf," tap "loans" at the top of the screen. From there, you can: tap "Read With..." to decide whether to open the material in Kindle or Libby. If you opt for Kindle, you'll be directed to Amazon's website to complete the download. If you're signed into your Amazon account, confirm the "Deliver to:" device and tap "Get Library Book." If you're not logged in, select "get library book", sign in, and choose a delivery device. Tap "Open in Libby", "Open Magazine", or "Open Audiobook" to begin reading or listening through the app. Tap "Manage Loan" to access options, such as, "Renew Loan" and "Return Early." Enjoy flipping through those digital pages!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Turtle TEK was thrilled to be selected as the all-around best team at Green Bay Hackerz, winning the Inspire Award. Back row, from left: mentor Mike Schneider, Garrett Schneider, Alex Woodard, Phillip Turner, Isaac Kubatzke, Zander Yost, and Coach Ted Wilder. Front row: coach Heather Schneider, Katherine Woodard, Kelby Schneider, and Austin Thacker.

• Turtle TEK (Continued from front page)

design plans, how they built those into SCUBA, their Java autonomous and tele-op programming, the outreach they do in the community, their support for younger robotics teams, and how they have learned from local professionals.

There were many obstacles that came up over the course of the day for Turtle TEK, but they were steady through it all. Amidst their multiple judge visits, they played six alliance robot matches on a 12'x12' playing field. Turtle TEK competed with their custom designed, built, and programmed robot, SCUBA. Although the team's record was slightly disappointing, their individual performance was strong, propelling them to 24th out of almost 90 teams in Wisconsin.

When the awards were being announced, the team held their breath. Finally it came down to the last award. Kelby Schieder, a freshman on the team said, "At this point, it's all or nothing."

Turtle TEK won the Inspire Award, the highest award a team can win. It means that the team is exemplary and is a role model amongst FIRST Tech Challenge teams. Only 10 teams in the state will receive the Inspire Award this season. The team was thrilled when they were announced for this prestigious award.

One of the things that the team contributes to their Inspire Award win is their outreach in the community. This past December, the team held Women in STEM, a program

aimed at girls in sixth through 12th grades, at Beloit Public Library. It was quite successful, with over 60 attendees learning about a variety of STEM careers with talks from seven local female speakers. The girls had so much fun doing engineering challenges, learning about career opportunities, and attending a trades and college fair. The team is so grateful to ASA, SHINE Technologies, Fairbanks Morse Defense, Rockford School of Pharmacy, Beloit College, Kerry Foods, CareerTEK, and ABC Supply for being a part of that day.

Turtle TEK will next compete on Saturday, Feb. 1 in Brookfield, Wis., at the Battle of Brookfield before heading to the Wisconsin State Championship at the Milwaukee School of Engineering Kern Center in early March.

For more information about ways to support Turtle TEK, such as volunteering or sponsorship, please contact ftcirturletek@gmail.com or call 608-676-7329.

About FIRST

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology" (FIRST) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, New Hampshire, FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

From left: Alex Woodard, Zander Yost, and Garrett Schneider tune autonomous code in preparation for robot matches.

science, technology, and engineering.

With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$80 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the FIRST Robotics Competition for students in grades 9-12; FIRST Tech Challenge for grades 7-12; and FIRST

LEGO League for pre-K through eighth grade (ages 4-16; ages vary by country). "Gracious Professionalism" is their way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

To learn more about FIRST, go to www.firstinspires.org.

Last days for 78th Alice in Dairyland applications

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds individuals with a passion for promoting Wisconsin agriculture to apply for the position of 78th Alice in Dairyland through Friday, Jan. 31.

In this highly visible and fast-paced position, Alice in Dairyland serves as a full-time spokesperson, cultivating relationships with media outlets throughout the state, writing and delivering speeches at events, using social media to tell the stories of Wisconsin agriculture and more. Additional responsibilities are outlined in the position announcement.

Alice in Dairyland applicants should have an interest in Wisconsin agriculture; at least three years of experience, education, or training in communications, marketing, education, or public relations; and public speaking experience. Applicants must also be female, residents of Wisconsin, and at least 21 years old.

This one-year, full-time contractual position starts July 7. The chosen candidate will travel extensively throughout the state and have required weekly in-person office time at DATCP's Madison office. The annual salary for Alice

in Dairyland is \$45,000 and includes holiday, vacation, and sick leave, and use of a vehicle while on official business. Reimbursement is provided for professional travel expenses and an individual health insurance premium up to \$450 a month.

To apply, provide a cover letter, completed application form, resume, and contact information for three professional references to DATCPAlice@wisconsin.gov by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31. Application materials are available online at www.aliceindairyland.com/becoming-alice-in-dairyland.

Qualified applicants will participate in a preliminary interview on Feb. 22 at DATCP's Madison office or via Microsoft Teams. The resulting top candidates will attend a two-day program briefing and press announcement March 7 to 8, as well as the three-day final interview process May 15 to 17, in Crawford County.

Questions about the position or application process can be directed to DATCPAlice@wisconsin.gov. For more information about the Alice in Dairyland program, visit www.aliceindairyland.com and follow Alice online on Facebook and Instagram.

• Crane (Continued from front page)

Parkview would take control of the game in the second half. Crane and Treinen continued their offensive success, and Hustisford couldn't keep pace. Crane wound up finishing the night with forty points, which was more than enough to get him across the 1,000

point mark. Treinen wasn't far behind as he added thirty-three points in what was an 82-60 victory for the Vikings.

Parkview will be back in action on Tuesday, Feb. 4, when they play host to Johnson Creek. That game is set to tip off at 7:15 p.m.



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Governor delivers 2025 State of the State Address

Gov. Tony Evers delivered his 2025 State of the State address on Jan. 22. Below are Gov. Evers' remarks as prepared for delivery:

Good evening, Wisconsinites!

Honorable Supreme Court Justices, Tribal Nation leaders, constitutional officers, Adjutant General May, members of the Wisconsin National Guard and active and retired members of our armed forces, cabinet members, legislators, distinguished guests, and Wisconsinites from wherever you are joining us tonight, thank you for being here with us. ...

We begin the new year with a new Legislature elected under new, fair maps. For the first time in a generation, this Legislature was not elected under some of the most gerrymandered maps in America. I am hopeful this will mean more collaboration, more partnership, a little less rancor, and a renewed commitment to do right by the will of the people.

And that is great news – it means we can work together to make bipartisan progress on critical priorities like reforming our justice system, fixing our roads, funding our public schools, and expanding access to affordable housing.

It's no secret that sometimes people in this building disagree and share some differences – never with me, of course. But we begin this year with, I believe, an urgent need – and a mandate – to find common ground. So, let's get to work!

Wisconsinites, I begin tonight with good news. Thanks to our work cutting taxes, Wisconsinites are keeping more of your hard-earned income today than at any point in the last 50 years. A new Wisconsin Policy Forum report says Wisconsin's state and local tax burden dropped to a record low in 2024. The state and local taxes Wisconsinites pay as a share of your income is the lowest it has been in over half a century.

Just two decades ago, Wisconsin was in the top five states for our tax burden and the taxes Wisconsinites paid as a share of their income. Today, Wisconsin is in the bottom 16 states in the country. We have seen the largest drop in our tax burden of any state over the last 20 years.

Cutting taxes has been a bipartisan priority over the last six years. I have proposed middle-class tax cuts in every budget I have introduced as governor. And the Legislature sent me back some proposals I agreed with, including one of the largest tax cuts in state history. All told, through the income tax cuts I've signed into law, most Wisconsinites have seen a 15 percent income tax cut or more, and folks will see \$1.5 billion in tax relief each year, primarily targeted to the middle class.

And we've been able to provide real, responsible relief while still paying down our state's debt, saving where we can, and working across the aisle to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. After 30 consecutive years of our state's checking account running a deficit, we have ended all five fiscal years that I have been governor with a positive balance.

And, Wisconsin, our workforce has never been stronger. I declared 2024 the Year of the Worker in Wisconsin because I want addressing the workforce challenges that have plagued our state for generations to be a top priority. And here are our results so far.

In 2024, we reported nine counties with the lowest rates of unemployment on record. We had historically low unemployment. And Wisconsin ended last year with seven consecutive months of record-high employment. ...

And we want Wisconsin workers to be ready for the 21st Century. For the second consecutive year, we hit an all-time high of nearly 10,000 Youth Apprentices and had record-high employer participation. And we had the highest enrollment ever in our Registered Apprenticeship Program's 100-year history – for the third year in a row.

We launched the first-ever teacher apprentice pilot program to retain our teachers and bolster our education workforce. We created new youth apprenticeship pathways from law enforcement and fire prevention to early childhood education. And we're partnering with over 20 bipartisan states through the U.S. Climate Alliance to train 1 million new registered apprentices nationwide with

a focus on climate and clean energy fields over the next decade.

And we're making sure our economy is built for the 21st Century, too. In 2024, we launched the largest public-private investment in Wisconsin startups and entrepreneurs in state history. We also welcomed billions of dollars in investments from global companies, including Microsoft, Eli Lilly and Company, and Kikkoman, among others, that will create thousands of jobs in Wisconsin. Businesses partnering with our administration last fiscal year committed to more than \$2 billion in capital investments – the highest level in over a decade.

We're also working to make Wisconsin a global leader in health and medical field advancements, from developing new technologies to discovering cures and strategies to improve treatment outcomes. We worked with Senator Baldwin to secure Wisconsin's designation as a U.S. Regional Tech Hub. Our Tech Hub is projected to create over 100,000 jobs and \$9 billion worth of economic development in Wisconsin over the next decade alone.

And, Wisconsinites, thanks to our hard work, state government is working smarter and faster than ever before. We've been working to modernize and improve programs that can help improve your daily life. ...

We expedited community infrastructure projects for drinking water by cutting the review time for engineering plans in half. We partnered with the Technical Colleges to streamline licensing for students, helping make sure they could join our strapped healthcare workforce as soon as possible. We also created the first-ever interactive mapping tool for producers to be able to monitor animal disease outbreaks across Wisconsin.

After I directed investments to bring our state's licensing system into the 21st Century, folks can now apply for or renew their professional licenses online. And get this! Wisconsinites no longer have to use a fax machine to send in some of their materials. ...

We created a new system to help professionals respond to drug overdoses, identify dangerous trends in our communities, and get information out quicker to folks who need it. We made it possible to purchase state trail passes online so folks no longer have to carry a paper pass on the trails. And we launched a new app for our state-run veterans homes so that loved ones can stay up to speed about their veteran's medical care.

And, Wisconsinites, we're also saving your tax dollars along the way by shrinking our bottom line. We're working to consolidate building space across state government. And, by downsizing and expanding remote work options, we've made it even easier for Wisconsinites to join our state workforce, regardless of where you live. Our plan is projected to save taxpayers over \$7 million every year while delivering another half a billion dollars in savings from deferred maintenance costs.

Wisconsin, we accomplished a lot this last year. We have shown we can get a lot of good things done when politics stay out of our way. There is, as always, more

work to do, and our work together continues here tonight. I will soon introduce our next state budget, laying out our state's top policy priorities for the next two years. ...

So, I will again propose historic investments in K-12 education. And I will again ask Republicans and Democrats to join me in doing what is best for our kids by making meaningful investments in public education at every level, from early childhood to our UW System and technical colleges.

The good news is that the Legislature need not wait until I introduce my budget to get to work. Republican lawmakers can start today by releasing the \$50 million we approved with bipartisan support nearly two years ago. These funds were already approved, they are available now, and they should not still be sitting in Madison. Folks, our kids and their futures are too important for petty politics. Republicans, release those investments so we can get to work improving reading outcomes statewide.

We have to do more to improve outcomes for our kids. And, yes, that means making meaningful investments in our public schools. But our kids' outcomes are as much a reflection of what happens within our schools as they are, importantly, a reflection of what happens beyond them. And that's a simple matter of math.

The average Wisconsin elementary school student, for example, spends less than 12 percent of their year receiving direct instruction in the classroom. ...

So, we have to recognize that our schools and educators cannot single-handedly fix our kids' circumstances beyond the school doors that nevertheless affect learning and success in the classroom every day.

Folks, the obligation to help address the challenges our kids are facing in the 80 percent of the time they are not in school falls squarely at the feet of elected officials in this building. So, tonight, I'm declaring 2025 the Year of the Kid in Wisconsin because I want everyone here to start taking that important responsibility seriously.

I will keep saying this until the folks in this building finally hear me – if we want to improve our kids' outcomes, then we have to shorten the odds. If we want our educators and schools to be able to do their very best work in the hours our kids are with them, we have to set them up for success. And we have to start by making sure our kids can bring their full and best selves to our classrooms.

Kids in class should be focused on learning, not wondering when or whether they'll eat next. Our kids should never go hungry, period, but especially not at school. In the Year of the Kid, the budget I will introduce next month will again include my "Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids" initiative. Let's end school meal debt and make sure every kid has a healthy breakfast and lunch at school with no stigma and at no cost.

And let's start treating our state's mental health crisis with the urgency it requires. Yes, for everyone of every age. But especially for our kids.

The state of our kids' mental health continues to be concerning for me, both as

a governor and as a grandfather. A kid in crisis may be distracted or disengaged and may not be able to focus on their studies, if they are able to get to school at all. I fought hard to secure \$30 million in our last state budget to support school-based mental health services in schools across Wisconsin. But that was just a fraction of what I asked the Legislature to approve.

Tonight, I'm announcing my budget proposal will invest nearly \$300 million to provide comprehensive mental health services in schools statewide, including support for peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs and expanded mental health training.

Making sure our kids are healthy – physically and mentally – is a crucial part of improving outcomes in our classrooms. But we have to connect the dots between school achievement and the challenges our kids are facing at home and in our communities.

Take lack of access to clean and safe drinking water, for example. There is no safe level of lead exposure for kids. According to the CDC, even the smallest exposure to lead can have serious, long-term consequences, and can even, "reduce a child's learning capacity, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement."

A 2019 study of kids over several early grade levels found that even low-level lead exposure during early childhood can affect a kid's achievement, including reading and math scores. It also showed that even additional schooling and physically maturing, "are not sufficient to offset the damage caused by early childhood exposure."

My Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids plan will also help modernize bubblers at schools across Wisconsin to remove harmful contaminants. And, as we kick off the Year of the Kid, I'm also announcing we're going to invest over \$6 million in our biennial budget to support lead poisoning intervention and response. And I'm announcing that this week I'll approve a Department of Health Services emergency rule strengthening Wisconsin's lead standards so more kids and families will be eligible for these critical resources.

With each day of inaction, addressing harmful contaminants in our water grows more and more expensive. So, I'm announcing tonight that I've directed an additional \$5 million to continue our work getting harmful contaminants out of water wells in 2025, the Year of the Kid. It's about doing what's best for our kids and families. Simple as that.

If we want our kids to bring their full and best selves to our classrooms, elected officials have to start acknowledging how policy decisions and investments – or lack thereof – here in this building affect kids, families, schools, and communities across Wisconsin every day.

Whether or not kids and families have access to safe, reliable housing affects kids at school. Whether or not kids and families have a way to safely and efficiently travel to and from home and work affects kids at school. Living in a traumatic or unsafe home environment affects kids at school. Lack of access to preventive healthcare and dental

and eye care affects kids at school.

The state cannot continue to shirk responsibility for the 80 percent of the time our kids are not in our classrooms – that 80 percent falls on us.

So, folks, that means we have work to do. We can start with the basics – making sure our kids are safe at home, at school, and in our communities is an area where we have much room for improvement.

Last week, I created our new Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention. We're going to work across law enforcement agencies and local governments and with school districts, nonprofits, and firearm dealers to help keep our kids, families, and communities safe. I also announced my budget will include sustainable, ongoing funding to make the Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention permanent so we can take a statewide approach to preventing crime and violence across our state.

I will, again, be proposing significant investments in our next state budget to expand access to mental and behavioral health services across our state. Those investments should receive bipartisan support. And we also have to make sure crime victims, survivors, and their families have the support they need to recover. I directed millions of dollars to keep Victims of Crime Act providers afloat when their federal funds were cut. Tonight, I'm announcing I'm investing \$66 million to support services for crime victims in our next state budget.

But these actions alone cannot be our only effort to reduce crime and violence and keep our kids, families, and communities safe. Addressing gun violence must be part of our work, folks.

In recent years, Wisconsin has seen about a 21 percent decrease in homicide, a nearly 30 percent decrease in burglary, and an almost 50 percent decrease in motor vehicle theft. Major categories of violent crime are going down statewide.

And, yet, the rate of gun deaths in Wisconsin is trending in the opposite direction. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, the rate of gun deaths increased in Wisconsin by 54 percent from 2014 to 2023, compared to a 34 percent increase nationwide over that same time period.

Thirty-seven days ago, a shooting at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison took the lives of Erin and Rubi, a student and an educator, who woke up and went to school that morning and will never return home. Six others were injured, and countless lives will never be the same.

Folks, Wisconsinites sent us here to see big problems and fix them. We cannot let common sense get lost in debates over whether basic policies could have prevented the most recent shooting, or the one before it, or the one before that. We aren't here in Madison to quibble about the semantics of the last shooting; we are here to do everything we can to prevent the next one.

So, we can do better than doing nothing. This Legislature must do better than doing nothing.

This is Wisconsin. We hunt, we fish, we trap, and generations have grown up learning to appreciate our

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Address (Continued from page 4)

traditions. No one wants to change this proud part of our heritage. And we won't. Because we do not have to choose between respecting the Second Amendment or keeping kids, schools, streets, and communities safe. We can do both. And the truth is this: the vast majority of Wisconsinites, including gun owners, agree.

So, let's start with two basic policies that we already know Wisconsinites support.

We can take easy, simple steps to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. Let's ask everyone to play by the same set of rules. Let's close the loophole so that everyone goes through a background check no matter what kind of firearm they are buying or where they are buying it.

And the second thing we can do is pass a "red flag" law to give law enforcement and loved ones the tools they need to get guns out of the home when someone is a dangerous risk to themselves or others.

Just last month, we saw how crucial "red flag" laws can be to prevent tragedy. Shortly after the shooting at Abundant Life, law enforcement discovered the shooter had potentially plotted with a man in another state who was allegedly planning his own mass shooting. Because the lives in a state with a "red flag" law, law enforcement was able to get an emergency protective order requiring him to surrender his firearms before he could move forward with his plans. Their quick work almost certainly saved lives.

Without "red flag" laws, law enforcement in Wisconsin are often unable to intervene unless a crime has already been committed. At that point, sometimes it's too late. We have to change that.

So, let's do what an overwhelming majority of Wisconsinites, including gun owners, believe we should: let's give law enforcement and loved ones the tools they need by passing a "red flag" law here in Wisconsin.

And there are other easy steps we can take to keep our kids and our communities safe and keep guns off the streets. We can keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. We can help make sure that guns in homes where there are kids or someone prohibited from possessing a firearm are locked away or have a trigger lock engaged. We can help make sure that firearms at retailers are secured when their business is unattended.

We can help make sure that if a firearm is lost or stolen, law enforcement is immediately notified. We should be able to get this commonsense stuff done with bipartisan support, folks.

A lot of our work is not just to prevent people from hurting others, but to make sure people are safe from hurting themselves. These next two policies are personal for me, as I know they are for folks who are here and tuning in at home.

Please know that if you or someone you know is struggling, help and hope are always available. You can call or text 9-8-8 or visit 988LifeLine.org to get free, confidential help anytime, 24/7.

Just three years ago, as I delivered my State of the State address, State Representative Jonathan Brostoff sat right there in one of those seats. Jonathan had a heart of

service. He was always working to make someone else's life just a little bit better. And as fierce an advocate as Jonathan was, he was still always eager to learn about and understand others in order to bridge divides.

At the end of last year, Jonathan died by suicide. We are so deeply saddened that he is no longer with us. Jonathan's wife, Diana, and his parents, Phyllis and Alan, are here with us in the gallery tonight. Please stand and join me in recognizing them.

For too many Wisconsinites, even if they did not know Jonathan, the story of losing him is their story, too. Kathy and I share that story. The families, friends, and co-workers of veterans, farmers, construction workers, and law enforcement officers and so many others share that story. Kids, classmates, parents, grandparents, loved ones, and friends in every corner of our state – they share that story. This heartache has become far too common.

Wisconsin in 2022 reported 932 deaths by suicide, according to the Department of Health Services, nearly 60 percent of which involved a firearm. ...

If you talk to someone whose loved one died by suicide, many will tell you their loss was not a foregone conclusion. That maybe – just maybe – if the person they loved had just made it through one more dark night to see with certainty that the sun again would rise, things might have ended up differently. ...

Studies show that the time between when someone decides to take their life and attempts to do so is often less than 24 hours – for about half, less than 10 minutes. The window for intervention is very short. Being able to purchase and possess a gun in minutes significantly increases the risk of firearm suicide – and firearm homicide, as well.

A decade ago today, Wisconsin had a waiting period law, requiring time between when a person purchased a firearm and took possession of it. That policy was repealed. It's time for Wisconsin to return to that commonsense policy. ...

I am also announcing tonight a new "Self-Assigned Firearm Exclusion" Program, or SAFE, to help reduce suicide by firearm. We can help make sure folks have a plan to keep themselves safe when they are in crisis. Our SAFE Program will allow Wisconsinites to temporarily – and voluntarily – register to prevent themselves from purchasing a firearm. Registering SAFE could make a real difference and even save someone's life. Let's get this done.

Folks, the Legislature must start doing its part to take gun violence seriously in this state. People don't expect us to be perfect in this building, but they do expect us to be pragmatic. People don't expect us to acquiesce to each concept in every policy put before us, but they do expect us to at least have the courage to engage in a conversation. People don't expect us to agree with each other 100 percent of the time, but they do expect us to have the guts to give reasonable policies a vote. Let's do better for Wisconsin than doing nothing.

Kathy and I raised three kids, including twins. We know that, for parents, noth-

ing is more important than our kids' safety, no matter where they are. So, keeping our kids, families, schools, and communities safe by reducing crime and gun violence should be a top priority for us in the Year of the Kid. Kathy and I also remember working to make ends meet so our kids were not just safe but had food on the table, a warm bed to sleep in, and clothes on their backs. So, a critical part of our work doing what's best for our kids in the Year of the Kid must be supporting the parents and families who raise them.

There are a lot of ways we can lower everyday, out-of-pocket costs to make sure Wisconsinites and working families can afford basic needs. So, I have good news. The plan I'm announcing tonight will support our economy and our workforce, lower out-of-pocket costs for working families and Wisconsinites, and help give folks a little breathing room in their household budgets.

Child care is too darn expensive. We have to make child care more affordable and accessible. This is as much about doing what is best for our kids as it is doing what is best for parents in our workforce and our economy, too.

After years of proposing similar efforts, I was proud last year to sign a bipartisan bill to expand our child and dependent care credit. That bill goes into effect this year, so parents and families, be sure to look out for that when you file your taxes. Over 110,000 Wisconsin taxpayers will see an average benefit of over \$650 per filer, totaling nearly \$73 million this year alone. ...

But we have to do more to lower the out-of-pocket costs working families are paying for child care every day. A 2023 report showed child care costs in Wisconsin can consume 18 to 36 percent of a family's household income. If those parents are under 25 and have two kids in child care, it's closer to 70 percent. The cost of putting two young kids in child care costs more than the average rent or mortgage in Wisconsin and exceeds the annual cost of tuition to send two students to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

And even if folks can find and afford care, families may be waitlisted for months. Child care providers across Wisconsin surveyed last fall had 48,000 kids on waitlists, with nearly 60 percent of providers having unutilized capacity, often because they needed more workers. Child care providers are stuck increasing costs while keeping classrooms closed and serving fewer kids as waitlists grow. Getting providers up to full capacity would mean serving another 33,000 kids.

Wisconsin's child care crisis affects not only our kids, families, and child care providers but our state's employers, workforce, and economy, too. I've repeatedly proposed plans to lower the cost of child care, much of which Republican lawmakers rejected. So, I directed \$170 million in emergency funding to keep our child care industry afloat. But, folks, that was 15 months ago. We must do better than nothing when it comes to making child care more affordable.

Our state budget will – once again – include sustainable, ongoing funding to

make our Child Care Counts program permanent, including investing over \$500 million aimed at lowering child care costs, supporting this critical industry, and investing in employer-sponsored child care.

And when we're looking at everyday, out-of-pocket costs, child care is not the only thing folks are struggling to afford. The costs of prescriptions and life-saving medication like insulin are also too darn high. According to a 2023 national survey, more than a quarter of adults in America are having a hard time affording their prescription drugs. It found 30 percent of adults aren't taking medications as prescribed due to cost.

No Wisconsinite should have to choose between paying bills and putting food on the table or getting their life-saving medication. Accessing healthcare and picking up basic prescriptions or insulin should not break the bank, folks.

Let's work to lower the costs of prescriptions and protect consumers from price gouging on life-saving medication. Through my "Less for Rx" plan, I will again ask Republicans and Democrats to work together to approve new state programs aimed at setting price ceilings for prescriptions and improving oversight of drug companies to make sure Wisconsinites are getting a fair shake. And let's remove the sales tax on over-the-counter medications and cap the copay on insulin at \$35 while we're at it.

Lowering everyday, out-of-pocket costs for Wisconsinites and working families must be a priority for us this session. Making child care and everyday prescriptions more affordable are two easy ways we can help Wisconsinites afford basic needs, help paychecks go a little further, and give parents, families, and seniors some breathing room in their household budgets. And my plan allows us to lower costs while supporting our workforce and our economy, too.

In the coming weeks, I will announce my comprehensive plan to lower costs for Wisconsinites and working families. And this work is especially timely. We have already seen steps taken in Washington in recent days

that could significantly increase costs, hurt Wisconsinites and working families, and leave a lot of uncertainty for our economy. ...

So, let's talk about immigration. These lands were inhabited by Indigenous peoples for millennia before people from France, Great Britain, Norway, Holland, Sweden, Germany, and regions the world over came and settled here in the state as we now know and love it.

Wisconsin began as a land of many people, of many origins, each important and none any better than any other. And that is still who we are 177 years later.

The state of Wisconsin was born of immigrants. But today, there are those who would have us forget this fact. There are those who would have us rewrite the story of ourselves, and they would ask us to believe in a distorted and dishonest history. They would have us abandon the values that made us who we are and the people whose blood, love, and labor make our state great. ...

Let's agree to be honest about the fact that, in this state, some of our state's largest – and most important – industries and companies have always welcomed the hard work of immigrants. ...

Let's agree that we can continue to be a state that enforces our laws when and if they are broken but still embraces our shared history and all those who have helped write our Wisconsin story, from the Native Nations to the generations of immigrants who came after.

And let's agree that if you work, obey the law, pay taxes, contribute to our communities, and play by the rules just like everyone else, you should have a fair shot at continuing to pursue the American Dream.

Our current system is unworkable and unsustainable. There must be bipartisan work toward a solution that builds upon the strength of our country without threatening our economy's success. ...

Protecting access to affordable healthcare is one of them. The Affordable Care Act ensures coverage for millions of Wisconsinites, including folks who have pre-existing conditions. Women are no longer charged more than men. We no longer

have annual or lifetime limits on the care patients receive. So, I promise you this: I will fight every effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, just as I have since Day One as governor.

I fought like hell to make sure Wisconsin women have the freedom to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions without interference from politicians in this building who know nothing about their life, their faith, or their circumstances. And I fought like hell to restore access to safe, legal abortion in Wisconsin. And on the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I tell you tonight that I will fight like hell against every effort and veto any bill that makes access to abortion, birth control, infertility treatments, or any other part of reproductive care, any less accessible in Wisconsin than it is today. That's a promise.

Wisconsin will continue to be bold on clean energy, fight the climate crisis, and create good-paying jobs in innovative industries of the future. Because, in Wisconsin, we know we can't afford to choose between mitigating climate change and protecting our environment or creating jobs and economic development – we must do both. So, we will continue our work to do right by our kids by leaving them a better future and world than the one we inherited.

And to our LGBTQ kids and Wisconsinites. You know the promise I made to you – the promise I have always been proud to keep. I will veto any bill that makes Wisconsin a less safe, less inclusive, and less welcoming place. ...

My promise to the people of Wisconsin has always been to be a governor who works for all Wisconsinites, who does the right thing when it matters most. That is a promise I will continue to keep. ...

We must continue to make smart and strategic investments while staying within our means. We must continue to invest in needs long neglected while still finding ways to save where we can. And we must continue to go, as ever, forward, together.

So, let's get good things done for the people of Wisconsin this year, and let's get back to work.

Larry Huttenlocher Retirement Auction

Date: Febuary 12th 2025 – Time: 9:00 AM
Location: 2485 South Brown Road Stockton IL 61085

GREAT QUALITY LINE OF EQUIPMENT Contact: Mike Powers (608) 214-5761 – Dan Powers SR (608) 214-3765

2012 John Deere 7230R Tractor, MFWD, IVT Trans, 3pt, Quick Hitch, 4 Hyd Remotes, Front Suspension, Duals, ONLY 1,733 Hrs, Nice Tractor, 1966 John Deere 2210 Tractor, Gas, 3pt, PTO, Overhauled 927 Hrs Ago, 1936 John Deere Model A Tractor, Gas, NF, PTO, Restored, Cat D3C Series III Dozer, Orops, Canopy, Limb Risers, Shows 3,129 Hrs, 2020 John Deere 1765 12R Planter, 30", Hyd Drive, Insecticide, Pneumatic Down Pressure, Vacuum, Yetter Trash Whips, Corn & Bean Plates, John Deere 2630 Display, Approx 700 Acres On Machine, One Owner, 2008 Massey Ferguson 9790 Field Star II Combine, Chopper, Bin Ext, Rock Trap, Yield Monitor, 2 Owner Machine 1,930/1,305 Hrs, John Deere 693 Corn Head, Poly, Calamer Chopping Rolls, Electric Deck Plates, Massy Addapter Plate Can Be Unbolted, Massey Ferguson 8200-30 Flex Head, Full Finger, Single Point Hook Up, Agco SpraCoupe 4460 Sprayer, Perkins Diesel, Hydor, 60' Booms, 400 Gallon Tank, Auto Height Control, 2600 Mapping Monitor, Star Fire 3000 Globe, Hyd Adjust Rear Wheels, Tow Hitch, 2 Owner Machine, Only 649 Hrs, 2017 Kuhn Krause 7300 24' Disk, Hyd Fold, 22" Blades, Remlinger 3 Bar Spike Harrow, Only Done Approx 500 Acres, One Owner Machine, DMI Tigermate II 21' Field Cultivator, 7" Shovels, 5 Bar Spike Harrow, Rear Hitch, Very Nice DMI 22' Crumbler, Light Kit, Nice Unit, DMI 500 5 Shank 3pt Ripper, Spring Shanks, Coulters, Fast 11 Shank 28" Liquid Tool Bar, Hyd Drive 1000 Gallon Tank, Spring Gangs, Ground Drive Pump Sold With The Unit, Sukup 9400 High Speed 6R Cultivator, Spring Shanks, Sukup Slide Guide 3pt Hitch & Monitor, 2012 Chandler PT-10 Fertilizer Spreader, Tandem Axle, Scale, Dual Spreader, Variable Speed Control, One Owner Very Nice, 2017 J&M Seedrunner Pro250 Seed Tender, Tandem Axle, Honga Gas, Poly Flighting Auger, Digistar Scale, One Owner, 2 – Brent 544 Gravity Wagon, Fenders, Brakes, Light Kit, Hydra-Gauge Dynamomet P355 Dyno, 540 PTO, Titan 24' Tender Trailer, Gooseneck, Tandem Axle, 2 Pumps, Chemical Pump, Induction Tank, 1300 Gallon Poly Tank, Hyd Jacks, Miller 10T Equipment Trailer, Tandem Dual, Tilt Top, Pin Hitch, Used On The Farm, 1995 Dodge Ram 3500 Flat Bed Pick Up Truck, V10 Gas, Automatic, Standard Cab, 4x4, Gooseneck Ball, 80,250 Miles, - Great Quality Line Up SMALL SHOP ITEMS, TOOLS, WEIGHTS, PARTS, SOLD FIRST @ 9:00 AM – ONLINE BIDDING STARTS @ 10:30 Online Bidding Available At www.powersauction.com – Great Line Of Quality Equipment

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN GREEN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Terry Sedbrook
N3740 Park Rd.
Brodhead, WI 53520

Plaintiff

And,
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave.
N.W. Ste. N2625
c/o Office of Solicitor
Washington, DC 20210

Subrogated Plaintiff,

-vs-

Amanda Sperry
705 E. 5th Ave.
Brodhead, WI 53520

And,
ABC Insurance Corp.

Defendant(s)

Personal Injury - Other #30107
Amount claimed is
greater than \$5,000.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To each person named above as
a defendant:

You are hereby notified that
the plaintiff named above has
filed a lawsuit or other legal
action against you. The complaint,
which is attached, states the
nature and basis of the legal
action.

Within (45) days after receiving
this summons, you must
respond with a written answer, as
that term is used in chapter 802
of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the
complaint. The court may reject
or disregard an answer that
does not follow the requirements
of the statutes. The answer must
be sent or delivered to the court,
whose address 2841 6th Street,
Monroe, WI 53566 and to Paul
Benson, plaintiff's attorney,
whose address is 14 N. Parker
Dr., Suite 110, Janesville, WI
53545. You may have an attorney
help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper
answer within (45) days,
the court may grant judgment
against you for the award of
money or other legal action
requested in the complaint, and
you may lose your right to
object to anything that is or may
be incorrect in the complaint.
A judgment may be enforced
as provided by law. A judgment
awarding money may become a
lien against any real estate you
own now or in the future and
also may be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

DATED December 19, 2024

Paul Benson Law Firm
Attorney for Plaintiff
Terry Sedbrook
/s/ Paul Benson
Paul M. Benson
Wis. State Bar No. 1106118
14 N. Parker Dr. Ste. 110
Janesville, WI 53545
608-352-6800
pmb@paulbensonlawfirm.com

The Independent Register
1/15, 1/22, 1/29/2025
WNAXLP 466726

**ZONING AND
PLANNING MEETING**
Town of Avon
Avon Town Hall
16513 W Beloit Newark Road,
Brodhead, WI 53520
February 4, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

The Zoning and Planning Board
for the Town of Avon will be
meeting February 4, 2025 to
hear and review the application
submitted by Cameron Basina
for Conditional Use Permits for
the property located at 17618
W State Road 81, Brodhead,
WI 53520 (E ½, 1/4 Sec 7).
The application requests two
(2) Conditional Use Permits; 1 -
Doggy Daycare and 2 - Salon.
If you approve or have an
objection to this request, please
express your actions by letter,
telephone, or in person. If we
do not hear from you, we will
infer that you have no objections.
Letters can be mailed to 15444
W Skinner Rd, Brodhead, WI
53520. For a telephone number
of one of Zoning and Planning
Board members, please contact
Stephanie Schwartzlow at 608-
921-3656.

Stephanie Schwartzlow
Avon Town Clerk
608-921-3656

The Independent Register
1/22, 1/29/2025
WNAXLP 466985

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
Barbara J. Olson-Menehan

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25PR02

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/07/1949 and date of death 11/22/2024 was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1306 West 4th Avenue, Brodhead, WI 53520.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 28, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th St., Monroe, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

Electronically signed by
Jennifer Prien
Probate Registrar

Michael A. Faust
Consigny Law Firm, S.C.
303 East Court Street,
Janesville, WI 53545
(608) 755-5050
Bar Number 1024665

The Independent Register
1/29, 2/5, 2/12/2025
WNAXLP 467118

CITY OF BRODHEAD 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT

The following 2025 Budget
Amendment was approved by
the Brodhead City Council on
Monday, January 20, 2025

Park Maintenance & Supplies
Expense increase \$6,661.88
from 2024 carryover funds per
Resolution 2025-002

Keri Miller, City Treasurer
Date Adopted:
January 20, 2025
Date Published:
January 29, 2025
Effective Date:
January 20, 2025

The Independent Register
1/29/2025
WNAXLP 467198

VILLAGE OF ORFORDVILLE

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT Spring February Partisan Primary Election, February 18, 2025

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing or online at MyVote.wi.gov.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter or you may apply for an absentee ballot online at MyVote.wi.gov. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application to our municipal clerk for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by email, by fax, or at MyVote.wi.gov.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is: Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely

confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

**Sherri Waege Village Clerk
608-879-2004
Orfordville Village Hall
303 E. Beloit Street,
Orfordville, WI 53576
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday.**

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is: Tuesday February 4, 2025.

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office: Friday, February 14, 2025 by 5:00 P.M.

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on February 18, 2025. . . Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

Sherri Waege
Village of Orfordville
Village Clerk

The Independent Register
1/29/2025
WNAXLP 467237

ORDINANCE 001-2025

A ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF BRODHEAD

A full copy of this ordinance is available at the City of Brodhead City Hall, located at 1111 W 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, WI 53520, or by calling 608-897-4018.

Effect of Ordinance: The following described property is hereby rezoned from R-2 One-and Two-Family Residential District to R-3 Multiple-Family Residential District: Original Plat Block 207 N 96 FT Lots 3 & 4; N 96 Ft of W1/2 Lot 2 (96 Ft x 165 Ft), 1104 17th St Half, 1104 17th St. in the City of Brodhead, Green County, Wisconsin. The Official Zoning Map of the City of Brodhead is hereby amended to show this change

Thomas L. Simpson, Mayor
Attest: Kristin Covert, City Clerk
Date Adopted: 1/20/2025
Date Published: 1/29/2025
Effective Date: 1/20/2025

The Independent Register
1/29/2025
WNAXLP 467276

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held before the City of Brodhead Planning Commission on February 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Brodhead Municipal Building located at 1111 W. Second Avenue, Brodhead, Wisconsin to consider an Ordinance amending Sections 480-10, 480-15, 480-16 AND 480-110 Code of Ordinances in the City of Brodhead to provide for two-family twin dwellings and townhouse dwellings.

A full and complete copy of the Ordinance is on file in the office of the City Clerk-Treasurer for the City of Brodhead.

Dated this 24th day of January 2025

Kristin Covert, Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register
1/29, 2/5/2025
WNAXLP 467316

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425137

School choice programs serve thousands of disabled students

An estimated 14% of students in Wisconsin school choice programs have a special needs disability, according to a new analysis conducted by the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) and School Choice Wisconsin (SCW).

Will Flanders, Research Director at WILL, stated: "The data are clear. Wisconsin's school choice programs serve thousands of students with disabilities - far more than choice opponents acknowledge. The Department of Public Instruction's method of counting grossly undercounts these students. This fuels a false narrative about private schools' commitment to serving children with disabilities."

Mike Metoff, Director of Research at SCW, added, "This research shows why official state estimates greatly understate the actual number of choice students with disabilities. Our data

are consistent with prior scholarly work and dispel misinformation circulated in some media outlets and by opponents of school choice programs."

Despite claims by opponents and media outlets that Wisconsin's choice schools under-serve students with disabilities, a report reveals the opposite. DPI's flawed identification method significantly undercounts these students, misrepresenting the reality that choice programs serve thousands of students with disabilities. A study provides data to correct the record and dispel these persistent myths.

Report highlights

- Current DPI identification requirements guarantee undercounting of students with disabilities who are enrolled in one of the state's choice programs. Even some students in the Special Needs Scholarship Program

(SNSP) are not counted as having a disability.

- More than 14% of students in choice schools likely have a disability. This is seven times greater than DPI reports.

- Private schools in the choice programs may not deny admission based on disability status. In contrast, disability discrimination is widespread in Wisconsin's public school open enrollment program.

- School choice opponents wrongly claim that private schools in the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) receive reimbursement for 90% of costs. In fact, of the 3,068 students using a SNSP scholarship in 2024-25, only 11 (0.36%) are eligible for 90% reimbursement. The majority of the 8,653 choice students estimated to have a disability are funded at about 70% of public funding for the general student population.

DBA reveals priorities for the 2025-26 legislative session

Dairy Business Association announced on Jan. 21 its priorities for the upcoming legislative session, focusing on protecting Wisconsin's dairy industry, ensuring fair regulations, enhancing rural communities, promoting economic support, supporting clean water initiatives and building lasting agricultural transportation infrastructure.

"The priorities we've set for 2025-26 are strategically designed to strengthen Wisconsin's dairy community," Chad Zuleger, Director of Government Affairs, said. "DBA collaborates with farmer members and agricultural partners to promote sensible policies and common-sense regulations that will enhance the overall success of the dairy industry in our state. These key priority areas will help keep dairy moving forward."

Key priorities

- Protect the Integrity of Wisconsin Dairy - Protecting the dairy industry from disruptions that could impede

its growth and sustainability while encouraging essential research initiatives. This includes attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, as well as providing educational opportunities for future generations.

- Ensure Regulatory Fairness and Enhance Rural Communities - DBA promotes policies that encourage regulatory consistency and fairness while fostering the growth and resilience of rural communities through infrastructure investment and support for agriculture-friendly initiatives.

- Promote Economic Support and Development - Dairy farms are the driver of Wisconsin agriculture and the backbone of the state's economy. Ensuring farmers have policymakers' support to invest in new technologies and initiatives is necessary for industry advancement.

- Support Clean Water Initiatives - DBA supports efforts that address concerns about nitrates in groundwater, including existing programs that help farmers improve

water quality. They strive for balance between environmental protections and economic vitality for Wisconsin dairy farmers.

- Build a Lasting Agriculture Transportation Infrastructure - Supporting policies aimed at improving transportation infrastructure for dairy producers and processors in Wisconsin is crucial for enhancing efficiency and competitiveness in the industry.

For more information about DBA or to become a member, please visit dairyforward.com.

The Dairy Business Association is Wisconsin's leading dairy advocacy group, championing smart and sensible regulations affecting the dairy community. The nonprofit organization is comprised of farmers, milk processors, vendors and other business partners who work collaboratively to ensure that dairy farms of all sizes have the support they need to keep America's Dairyland strong. More information: www.dairyforward.com.

UWW names Greek chapter presidents

A total of 25 students from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater are serving as Greek chapter presidents during the 2024-25 academic year.

The following students are UW-Whitewater's 2025 Greek chapter presidents:

- Karlo Briz, of Beloit, who is studying History Education and is president of Lambda Alpha Upsilon

- Perla Yescas, of Janesville, who is studying Elementary-Middle Education and is president of Omega Pi Lambda

Ranging from two members to 70, the 24 Greek chapters at UW-Whitewater stem from a rich history and are affiliated with national, international, and local organizations. While the individual goals of each chapter are different, the overall mission of the presidents of the chapters is largely centered around service, engagement and commitment to their

members and campus.

"Being a president of any organization is an important role," said Jacob Foulker, Greek Life and Community Outreach Manager. "In the Greek community, presidents play a vital role in the operations and oversight of their chapter. A president of a fraternity or sorority chapter is a leader on campus. They oversee everything from finances, to recruitment, to social activities along with other executive board members."

When a student joins Greek Life, they meet other young professionals looking to develop long-lasting relationships on campus. By joining a Greek organization, students can meet and network with individuals through conventions, conferences and other campus and national events. On average, members of fraternities and sororities have a higher GPA and are more likely to re-

main in school and graduate than average students.

Greek students provide thousands of community service hours annually. Their organizations raised more than \$20,000 for local and national philanthropy efforts in the 2023-24 academic year.

"Greek presidents are necessary to foster the type of dedication and commitment needed for Greeks to complete the amazing work their organizations accomplish," Foulker said. "They are ambassadors not only for their respective organizations, but for the entire university."

UW-Whitewater's Greek community offers a sense of accomplishment and ways to make the world a better place. For more information on the presidents of the Greek chapters or the Greek community at UW-Whitewater, please contact Jacob Foulker at FoulkerJA10@uww.edu.

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Burial Needs

7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.

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Distinguished explorer award recipient for 2025 announced

The Roy Chapman Andrews Society is proud to present Dr. John Hawks, American Paleoanthropologist and Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Vilas-Borghesi Distinguished Achievement Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as the 2025 Distinguished Explorer Award recipient.

John Hawks is a world expert on human evolution and genetics. He is Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Vilas-Borghesi Distinguished Achievement Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also serves as a visiting professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Hawks' research covers seven million years of human origins. His work in human genetics helped un-

cover the very rapid recent pace of genetic evolution with the rise of agriculture. He was one of the first to show how genes from ancient groups like the Neanderthals could make a difference in today's people. For the last decade, he has worked with scientists and explorers in South Africa to bring to light new hominin fossils. Among the best known have come from the Rising Star cave system, where the team discovered the new species, Homo naledi in 2013. Hawks has done fieldwork in Africa, Asia and Europe, combining skeletal evidence from fossils with new information from genetics to uncover how humans evolved.

Hawks is the coauthor of two books (with Lee Berger), *Almost Human*, and *Cave of Bones*, three lecture

series, and more than 100 scientific articles. His work has been featured in documentaries from PBS Nova, PBS Secrets of the Dead, National Geographic Channel, Science Channel, and the BBC. Print coverage of his work has included cover and feature articles in Discover, Scientific American, Archaeology, Science News, New Scientist, coverage in the New York Times, USA Today, Time, Der Spiegel and many others.

A powerful advocate of open science, Hawks has the mission of bringing the heritage of human ancestry to the public, both in the U.S. and internationally. His lectures, blogs, YouTube channel, and educational materials have reached millions of people worldwide. He lives in Wisconsin with his wife,

Gretchen, and their family includes four adult children and their cat, Kenobi.

The Society invites the public to save-the-date for the Distinguished Explorer Award Presentation and Acceptance Lecture featuring John Hawks to be held on Friday, April 11, at 4:30 p.m. at Beloit College with the fundraising celebratory dinner immediately following. More information will be available on the Roy Chapman Andrews Society website at a later date, along with tickets for the fundraising dinner.

To learn more about The Roy Chapman Andrews Society, please visit www.roychapmanandrewssociety.org or contact Program Coordinator Danica Keeton via email at danica@roychapmanandrewssociety.org.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing
Dr. John Hawks, American Paleoanthropologist and Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Vilas-Borghesi Distinguished Achievement Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was recognized as the 2025 Distinguished Explorer Award recipient.

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative makes plans to work with new administration

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, the nation's third-largest milk cooperative by volume, congratulates President Donald J. Trump on his inauguration as the 47th president of the United States.

The dairy industry plays a vital role in the strength of America's economy and the well-being of its citizens. As an organization representing dairy farmers and their partners across the country, Edge looks forward to collaborating with the Trump administration to implement policies that will strengthen

and sustain the U.S. dairy industry.

"We extend our congratulations to President Trump on this historic day and are eager to work with his administration to address critical issues facing our dairy farmers," said Tim Trotter, Edge CEO. "From ensuring access to fair trade markets to addressing workforce challenges and fostering innovation, we are optimistic that the new administration will prioritize policies that allow America's dairy farmers to thrive."

Edge remains commit-

ted to advocating for forward-thinking solutions that enhance the livelihoods of its members while supporting the broader agricultural community.

Edge looks forward to engaging with the administration on key priorities, including:

Rural workforce for rural prosperity

The dairy industry faces significant labor shortages, particularly in rural areas, making workforce accessibility and reliability a top policy priority.

Trade and supply chain

The Upper Midwest is a powerhouse for cheese production. Ensuring opportunities for dairy through existing, expanding or emerging markets is essential to healthy growth.

Sustainability measures

Clean water and resilient farms can go hand-in-hand. Edge stands with our farmers in their commitment to seek effective and financially viable ways to protect and improve the environment, water quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Farm bill priorities

Federal dairy programs can greatly affect our farmers' ability to earn a living. Farmers want to utilize the tools our government provides for success, but it is important these programs are judicious with our farmers' and the nation's resources.

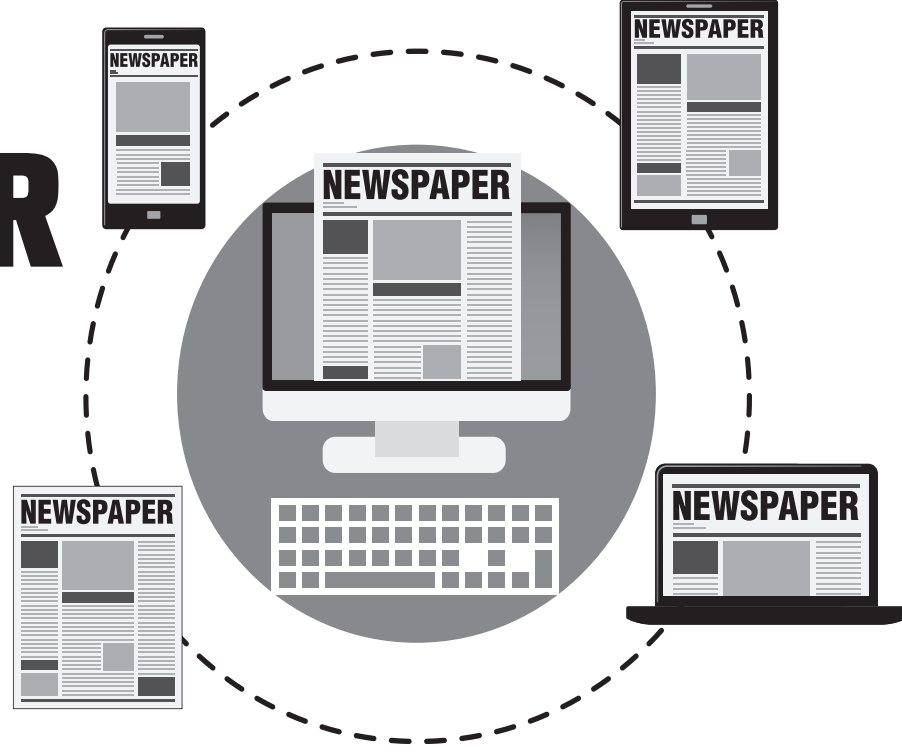
As they welcome this new administration, Edge remains steadfast in its commitment to representing the voices of dairy farmers across the nation and working collaboratively to shape a prosperous fu-

ture for agriculture.

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative provides dairy farmers throughout the Midwest with a powerful voice – the voice of milk – in Congress, with customers and within their communities. Edge, based in Green Bay, Wis., is one of the top cooperatives in the country based on milk volume. Member farms are located in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. For more information, visit www.voiceofmilk.com.

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