

Independent-Register

SHOPPING NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 2025

608-897-2193

Janesville farmer recently elected as WSA president

The Wisconsin Soybean Association (WSA) continues moving in a forward direction, as the organization elected Doug Rebout to serve as president. The election took place during WSA's annual meeting Thursday, Feb. 6 during the Wisconsin Corn-Soy Expo at the Kalahari Conference Center.

"I'm proud to be elected because as an organization, there are so many positive things we can do in today's political climate," said Rebout, WSA's District 3 director. "Both at the state and federal levels, we can continue to be a good voice."

Rebout replaces Sara Stelter, who stepped down after two successful years guiding WSA's policy efforts in Madison.

"Sara did a fantastic job as president. She has brought our organization to new places," Rebout said. "I'm humbled to step into her role."

Stelter, who will remain WSA's District 2 director, said she was proud of the strides WSA made during her tenure, including strengthening ties with state and national legislators, and WSA and the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board's joint efforts in promoting SoyFoam.

"WSA is in great hands with a strong advocate like Doug. We have an awesome board and some leaders who have



The Wisconsin Soybean Association Board of Directors gather following their annual meeting on Feb. 6 during Corn-Soy Expo. Doug Rebout (front row, second to left) was voted president, replacing Sara Stelter (front row, second to right).

PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

really stepped up," Stelter said. "They'll have new ideas, which is what we need."

Rebout grows soybeans and corn and raises custom heifers near Janesville with his brothers

Daniel and David and his nephews. He's also chair of the Wisconsin Board of Agriculture,

Trade and Consumer Protection. With deep ties to the state's agriculture community,

Rebout's WSA presidency will be his second stint leading a state commodity board: Rebout previously served three years as president of the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association.

"The issues are usually similar; I'm still saying the same things," Rebout said. "I'm glad to be able to continue advocating for our industry."

Rebout will be supported on the officer team by Vice President Matt Rehberg, Treasurer Dave Coggins and Secretary Daniel Linse.

"I'm excited for the opportunity because we're still sort of 'rebranding' as an organization," said Rehberg, who farms near Clinton and has served six years on WSA. "It seemed like a natural flow for me to try a new challenge, and I'm happy an experienced financial professional like Dave is coming onboard as treasurer."

With Wisconsin's 2025 legislative session entering its second month, WSA approved its

See FARMER, Page 4

BTC launches a new TechForward initiative

Blackhawk Technical College is launching a new initiative designed to close the skills gap and redefine workforce training by integrating hands-on, work-based learning into Blackhawk's Mechatronics

programs. Called the TechForward Initiative and funded by the National Science Foundation, this initiative offers students in Blackhawk's Mechatronics programs the opportunity

to take four new work-based learning courses utilizing an automated manufacturing cell at the college's new Innovative Manufacturing Education Center.

By closely tracking student performance and gathering feedback from industry partners, faculty will assess how work-based learning impacts career readiness.

"The TechForward Initiative represents a major step in redefining technical education. By integrating real-world, hands-on learning into our

Mechatronics program, we are ensuring that students graduate with the skills and experience employers need today," said Bryan Coddington, Engineering Technology Instructor and Manufacturing, Apprenticeship, Technology, and Transportation (MATT) Division Chair.

Mechatronics is the combination of mechanical, electrical and computer technologies and is used in the design of products and automation processes. Mechatronics technicians install, maintain and repair auto-

mated machinery and mechanical systems that are controlled by computers. At Blackhawk, Mechatronics-related programs include Electro-Mechanical Technology and Automation Systems Technology.

Mechatronics careers are classified as high wage, high skill and high demand occupations. Many regional businesses are hiring graduates starting at \$27 to \$35 an hour, and most Mechatronics students start their career as Controls

See BTC, Page 4

Eleven communities receive grants to plant trees

Alliant Energy named 11 Wisconsin communities including Bristol, Milton and Windsor to receive grants totaling over \$50,000 through the company's Community Tree Planting program, part of its One Million Trees initiative.

"Our commitment to supporting the communities we serve is unwavering," said David de Leon, president of Alliant Energy's Wisconsin energy company and senior vice president of operations. "The Community Tree Planting program grants advance our commitment to environmental stewardship and, more importantly, help these Wisconsin communities achieve tree restoration goals, improve energy efficiency and provide environmental benefits for generations to come."

Alliant Energy partners with Trees Forever to help commu-

nities develop, select and plant a diverse mix of trees. A tree expert works with the communities to select the best species for their areas and create care and maintenance plans to ensure the new trees have long, healthy lives.

"Our partnership with Alliant Energy has helped to create healthier and more vibrant communities across the state," said Michelle Beisker, CEO of Trees Forever. "Trees provide so many benefits to individuals and neighborhoods, and the volunteers that show up every year to plant with us and Alliant Energy knows this and experience the results directly."

Since 1990, Trees Forever and Alliant Energy have awarded over \$8 million in grants and planted more than 1.1 million trees through their partnership and programs in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Across Wisconsin, communities are eligible to apply for grants up to \$5,000 to fund new trees.

Below is a list of the communities awarded grants this year and their project plans. Some communities will begin to plant trees this spring; others will wait until fall.

- Baraboo, \$5,000, 42 trees
- Belleville, \$5,000, 28 trees
- Town of Beloit, \$5,000, 15 trees
- Blue River, \$4,900, 19 trees
- Bristol, \$1,950, 26 trees
- Fitchburg, \$5,000, 43 trees
- Milton, \$5,000, 43 trees
- Oregon, \$5,000, 20 trees
- Sheboygan, \$5,000, 75 trees
- Vesper, \$5,000, 37 trees
- Windsor, \$4,300, 30 trees

To learn more about Alliant Energy's Community Tree Planting program, visit alliantenergy.com/onemilliontrees.

Brodhead Parks & Recreation Department INDOOR YOUTH SOCCER

The Brodhead Parks & Recreation Department will be sponsoring a four-week youth indoor soccer program for boys and girls in kindergarten through first grade. The program will meet after school in the elementary school gym on Mondays for kindergarteners and Thursdays after school for first graders. The program begins on March 17 and ends on April 17. This program is for children at all skill levels and it will teach basic skills and fundamentals.

Forms are available at the elementary school, the Brodhead Parks & Rec Dept., or on the City of Brodhead website at www.cityofbrodheadwi.us. The cost is \$20. Forms need to be completed and turned in with the fee by Friday, March 14 to the school office or Parks & Rec Dept. Children are encouraged to wear tennis shoes and shin guards. Make checks payable to the City of Brodhead. If there are any questions, contact Tom at Parks & Rec at 608-897-2159.

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News briefs

Donkey basketball fundraiser in Orfordville

The Parkview FFA Alumni is hosting a Donkey Basketball Fundraiser Tournament on Thursday, March 6, at Parkview Jr./Sr. High School at 7 p.m. The doors will open at 6 p.m.

The cost is \$10 ahead or \$13 at the door. Tickets are available at the Bank of Brodhead in Orfordville, Knutes, Stables, Sather's Service, and ACE Hardware, or by emailing the FFA advisor at tsattler@email.parkview.k12.wi.us.

The teams are Parkview, Brodhead, Evansville, and the Albany FFA.

In-person job fair at Beloit Public Library

An in-person Job Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Be-

loit Public Library, 605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit.

As of now, 16 employers are registered to be in attendance from Rock County and the surrounding area with a reported 275+ job openings.

Job seekers will have access to the library's public computer lab to complete online job applications and print resumes.

A list of registered employers can be found at: <http://wisconsinjobcenter.org/events/>. Individuals having questions can email DETWDA11BusinessServices@dwd.wisconsin.gov.

Guest lecture comes to UWW Rock County

A unique lecture by Beloit Historical Society Executive Director, Donna Langford, will be held at UW-Whitewater at Rock County's Hyatt Smith

Commons on Thursday, Feb. 27. The talk will start at 11:45 a.m. and end around 12:45 p.m.

In honor of Black History Month, the topic is "A Glimpse into Black History in Beloit." This talk will interest students, historians, and citizens interested in learning about an oft-overlooked aspect of the history of Beloit.

Director Langford has Masters' degrees in Anthropology and Textile History. Her museum career began as a Collections Manager focusing on the preservation and interpretation of historic objects. Donna has created programs on a wide range of topics, telling the stories that are contained within historic materials. She became the Executive Director of the Beloit Historical Society in 2019 and will share some of Beloit's stories.

Rock County yearly tree sale, shrub sale is back

The Rock County Land Conservation Department is taking orders for its yearly Tree and Shrub Sale. Inventory of trees and shrubs is low, order now to reserve trees for April pick-up. Trees and shrubs come in single species bundles of 25 for \$35, or 50 for \$60 plus tax. All seedlings are bare root. Current available inventory as of Feb. 20: 18-24 inch Red Oak, 18-24 inch White Oak (low quantities), 7-15 inch White Pine. Shrub: 12-18 inch Highbush Cranberry (low quantities). Call ahead for current availability on trees and shrubs.

Find the order form at the Rock County Land Conservation Department website www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/trees or call 608-757-5588 during normal

business hours.

Only 8 percent go to polls in Rock County

Eight percent (10,416) of the approximate 128,000 eligible voters in Rock County headed to the polls or voted absentee in the February Spring Primary. Frigid temperatures were a factor in voter turnout.

The unofficial results can be found at: <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/county-clerk/election-information/election-results-february-18-2025>

The Rock County Board of Canvassers met on Friday, Feb. 21, to certify the final results for Rock County.

The Spring General Election will be held on Tuesday, April 1. Offices will include: Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Rock County Circuit Court Branch 1 and 2, Municipal Judge, Town/Village/City Boards, and School Board Members, along with referendums.

Boater safety education course this March

Sheriff Fell is pleased to announce that the Rock County Sheriff's Office will offer their first 2025 Boater Safety Education Course on March 11 from 6 to 7 p.m., and March 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Rock Sheriff's Office, 200 East U.S. Highway 14, Janesville. Students must attend both sessions to graduate.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, is required to complete a Boater Safety Education Course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters. It is recommended that participants are 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 www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/recreational-patrol/boater-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.

Falls prevention and nutrition program soon

March is National Nutrition Month. Aging can decrease the sense of taste and smell that leads to reduced appetite. Dental problems and poor oral health, medication side-effects, decreased immobility and not being able to prepare meals are contributing factors as well. Add depression, isolation, loneliness, poor finances, and dementia which can all trigger malnutrition. Nationwide, 1 in 4 older adults age 65+ will have a fall this year. Wisconsin continues to lead the nation in "deaths from falls" in adults age 60+.

Everyone plays a big role in their own health. Consider participating in "Stepping Up Your Nutrition." SUYN is a one-time 2.5-hour class taught by a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist. Get meal and snack ideas and strategies to improve nutrition. SUYN is for men or women age 60+. The workshops will focus on:

- How nutrition affects risk of falls
- The importance of strong muscles for strength and balance
- Key nutrients for older adults – particularly protein and fluid
- How to determine personal nutrition risk
- How to create an action plan to improve nutritional health

The Beloit class is on March 4, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Grinnell Hall Senior Center at 631 Bluff Street, Beloit. Suggested donation is \$5.

Register by Feb. 28 by contacting the Health Promotion Coordinator of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Rock County. Call Lisa Messer at: 608-757-5309 or email: Lisa.Messer@co.rock.wi.us.

Registration is open for youth bowling event

Sheriff Fell is pleased to announce that the Rock County Sheriff's Office will offer a Gutter Busters youth bowling event on March 8 from noon to 2 p.m. at RiversEdge Bowl, 215 S. River Street, Janesville.

During this event, Sheriff's Office staff will bowl with kids.

Gutter Busters is a community-based program offered by the Cops and Kids Foundation to help steer youth away from crime. The primary goal of Gutter Busters is to teach kids how to bowl. Kids will learn proper bowling etiquette, technique, and scoring. The Gutter Busters Program promotes sportsmanship, integrity, and respect for others.

Advanced registration is required. There are twenty-five spots available for kids ages 6 to 12. These spots fill on a first come basis. Guardians can sign their kid(s) up at

<https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/recreational-patrol/gutter-busters>.

Upon submitting the online registration form, registrants will see an onscreen confirmation message with additional information. Two games of bowling, shoe rental, lunch, an event t-shirt, and a prize will be provided to all youth participants.

The Sheriff's Office is seeking sponsorships for the Gutter Busters Program. This event is free to participants due to the generosity of financial and in-kind sponsors. To learn more, email Deputy Trevor Lund at trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us or 608-373-3816.

'Telling Herstory' at local Women's Day event

Join the Zonta Club of Janesville in celebrating International Women's Day by "Telling Herstory." This is a free event, open to the public.

The event will happen on Thursday, March 6. At 4:30 p.m. will be social hour with complimentary wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres. At 5:30 will be the program "Telling Herstory" in which members of the Zonta Club will dress as various women from history and present their stories. Zonta invites attendees to come dressed as their favorite woman from history and to prepare a short story or speech.

For those that would like to be in the program, please contact Edie Baran at ediebaran@gmail.com.

The event will be at The Woman's Club at 108 S. Jackson in Janesville.

For more information visit the Facebook page: Janesville Zonta; email: janesville_president@zontadistrict6.org, call 608-931-5705, or message on Facebook.

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Albertson Memorial Library March events

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

It's "let's all go to the library" during March's Pre-school Story Time. Enjoy stories and crafts every Tuesday at 10 a.m. with our Children's Programming Specialist, Miss Laura. This month's stories will light a fire in your imagination with books about dragons, get you to leap into action with "ribbiting" tales about our froggy friends, create a cookie-crumbling blast listening to tales of mischievous gingerbread men, and make you "book, book, book" it down to the library for some farm-tastic tales!

The Albany Joint Library Board Meeting will be held at the library on March 4 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is open to the public. The agenda will be posted on our website and at the library the Friday before the meeting. Join us to learn about the library's future plans.

Join us for Craft Night with Diane, March 5 at 6:30 p.m., to make your own "Built in Bow Any Occasion Gift Bag." No gift bag? No tissue paper? No problem! You can create a beautiful wrap using any type of paper. Who needs elaborate packaging when your creativity can shine?

Join us for a one-hour workshop on March 12 at 6:30 p.m. to learn how to utilize ancestry for discovering your ancestral origins. Computers and instruction will be provided. We'll make researching your family origins simple.

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

Join us for our monthly book club, All Booked Up, on March 24 at 6:30 p.m. This month we will be discussing "Family Lore" by Elizabeth Acevedo, the story of one Dominican American family told through the voices of its women.

Whether you're a word wizard or just starting out, everyone's invited to join the fun on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. to share and be inspired while working on their writing projects with the Sugar River Writers. Please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AlbertsonMemorialLibrary, Instagram at www.instagram.com/albertsonmemoriallibrary or check out our calendar of events on our website at www.albertsonlibrary.org for additional information.

Library learnings

Want to encourage and motivate reading? Explore how goals, rewards, and recognition can enhance reading motivation. The Albertson Memorial Library offers free access to Beanstack, a platform designed to help individuals understand and cultivate their reading habits. Best of all, it's easy to use. Simply download and launch Beanstack on your device. Set up either an individual or family account. Enroll in any available reading

challenges you'd like to participate in. And start logging the books and times you've read to progress toward your goal.

To open Beanstack 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 "Beanstack", which you can find on our homepage under the section titled "Library Links". On Apple iPhones and iPads download "Beanstack Tracker" from the App Store. On phones and tablets with Google Play download "Beanstack Tracker" from Google Play.

Once you've downloaded and opened the app select "Register an Individual or Family" under the "Create an Account" section. Respond to a few simple questions. Questions like - "Have you ever used Beanstack to take part in a reading challenge?" and "Who would you like to register?" Complete the required information and click "Next" when finished. If you are creating an account or logging in via a smartphone, the app will prompt you to "Find your Library". Type in Albertson Memorial Library and hit "Search". When Albertson Memorial Library of Wisconsin appears, click on it.

To add additional adults or children to your account, click on the name listed in the upper right side of the screen. Choose "Add a Reader". Complete the required information. You will then be prompted to decide if you would like to add another adult or child. Complete as appropriate.

To log reading on a laptop or desktop, click on "Log Reading" located at the top left corner of the screen. Choose the type of data you wish to log: books, minutes, or pages. Input the relevant information. Click on "Log Reading" to save your entries. On a smartphone, tap the + icon at the bottom center of the screen. Select "Reading", highlight the reader's name, and then press "Choose Reader". To track time read, number of pages read, or titles read choose "Log Without a Title". Fill in the appropriate requested data and then click "Done". To track the title read, click on the QR scan button at the top right side of the screen. When using the QR scan button, scan the ISBN number; typically found on the back of the book. (The Albertson barcode will not work.) This feature will provide the option to track your progress through the title. Simply log the first page and last page number read that day. If the entire book was read, toggle the "Track Progress" button to the off position.

Using Beanstack is a fun and easy way to track books read to complete reading challenges and collect prizes. One of the library's most popular reading challenges, "1000 Books Before Kindergarten", is open to any child who has not yet started kindergarten. For every 100 books read, kids earn a free book. When they complete the program, they'll snag a bag bursting with goodies! Visit the library for additional information about this program. Also be on the lookout for our summer reading challenge. This six-week challenge kicks off in June and welcomes participants of all ages, with the competition divided into various age categories. This is a fabulous way to kick back and chill during the sizzling summer hustle!

We wish you success in achieving your reading goals with the support of Beanstack! Enjoy your reading journey!

UW-Whitewater places 169 student teachers in the region

A total of 169 students from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater are representing the university as student teachers at schools in Wisconsin, Illinois, and other neighboring states during the 2025 spring semester.

The following students will represent the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater as student teachers during the spring 2025 semester:

Beloit

- Rachel Barry, who is majoring in Undeclared and will work in Early Childhood Education at Converse Elementary School in the Beloit school district.
- Eric Funk, who is majoring in Music and will work in Music at Jefferson Elementary in the Janesville school district.
- Hope Hopper, who is majoring in Early Childhood Education and will work in ECE 4U at Wilson Elementary in the Janesville school district.
- Alexandra Norris, who is majoring in Physical Education and will work in Physical Education at Lincoln Elementary in the Janesville school district.
- Marcus Smith, who is majoring in Physical Education and will work in Physical Education at Delavan-Darien High School in the Delavan-Darien school district.

Edgerton

- Cole Jensen, who is majoring in Elementary Education and will work in Elementary and Middle at Nikolay Middle School in the Cambridge school district.
- Jesse Jensen, who is majoring in Physical Education and will work in Physical Education at Cambridge High School in the Cambridge school district.
- Clayton Morrison, who is



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA ROTH *Rock Valley Publishing*

It was all about tractors at Albertson Memorial Library's Pre-School Story Time last week. They reread *Go Dogs Go* and had a great time guessing why the dogs climbed the tree. Then, Otis the tractor saved his friend the calf from Mud Pond, and Tractor Mac arrived at the farm. They put tractor puzzles together and ran toy tractors through brown and black paint. Next, they are "going to the library" featuring *Do Not Bring Your Dragon to the Library*. There may or may not be a fire breathing dragon or two in the library as well as some dragon puppet-making.

majoring in Business Education and will work in Business Education at Jefferson High School in the Jefferson school district.

Janesville

- Melinda Arensdorf, who is majoring in Business Education and will work in Business Education at Beloit Memorial High School in the Beloit school district.
- Raquel Flippin, who is majoring in Elementary Education and will work in Elementary and Middle at Roosevelt Elementary School in the Janesville school district.
- Kayla Frei, who is majoring in Elementary Middle Education and will work in Elementary and Middle at Harmony Elementary in the Milton school district.
- Madison Gilbank, who is majoring in Art Education and will work in Art at Milton West Elementary School in the Milton school district.
- Caitlyn Harrison, who is majoring in Elementary Education and will work in Elementary and Middle at Todd Elementary in the Beloit school district.
- Olivia Hunt, who is majoring in Art Education and will work in Art at Monroe Elementary School in the Janesville school district.
- Tasha Arnold Kolovitz, who is majoring in Early Childhood Education and will work in Early Childhood Education at Jefferson Elementary in the Janesville school district.
- Sarah Parker, who is majoring in Music and will work in Music at Elkhorn Middle School in the Elkhorn school district.
- Justin Pratesi, who is ma-

joring in History Education and will work in Social Studies at Craig High School in the Janesville school district.

• Aaron Roach, who is majoring in Physical Education and will work in Physical Education at Parkview Elementary School and Evansville High School in the Parkview, Evansville school districts.

• Parker Rundquist, who is majoring in Music and will work in Music at Parker High School in the Janesville school district.

• Autumn Tullar, who is majoring in Elementary Middle Education and will work in Elementary and Middle at Eagle Elementary in the Palmyra-Eagle school district.

• Eliya Vanevenhoven, who is majoring in Spanish Education and will work in World Languages at Delavan-Darien High School in the Delavan-Darien school district.

Juda

- Cole Mahlkuch, who is majoring in Physical Education and will work in Physical Education at Juda School in the Juda school district.

Milton

- Amelia Clarquist, who is majoring in Elementary Education and will work in Elementary and Middle at Jefferson Middle School in the Jefferson school district.

New Glarus

- Emily Olson, who is majoring in Early Childhood Education and will work in Early Childhood Education at Belleville Elementary in the Belleville school district.

Students from the universi-

ty's College of Education and Professional Studies will serve as student teachers through the end of the school year.

"Our students are highly sought after," said Fred Trotter, administrative director in UW-Whitewater's Office of Clinical Experiences. "School districts really appreciate the caliber of our graduates."

A total of 169 UW-Whitewater students were placed in school districts around the region starting in January. Student teaching is the final activity before teacher candidates earn their degree and license.

UW-Whitewater will partner with 220 cooperating teachers across 104 schools in 65 districts over the course of the semester.

"We couldn't do this without a lot of the great partnerships we have with those pre-K through 12 schools - their partnerships are very much appreciated," Trotter said.

Student teachers assist cooperating teachers with lesson planning, instruction and assessment. This spring, 35 UW-Whitewater teacher candidates were hired by school districts as student teaching interns as part of the Department of Public Instruction's Wisconsin Improvement Program (WIP). Interns are licensed by the DPI to teach up to 50 percent of each day on their own and receive a stipend for the semester.

UW-Whitewater licenses the most teachers in the state of Wisconsin. Educating teachers was the university's original mission during its founding in 1868. To learn more about the College of Education and Professional Studies at UW-Whitewater, visit uw.edu/coeps.



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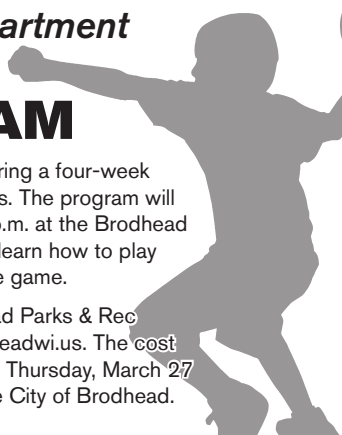
Brodhead Parks & Recreation Department

THIRD & FOURTH GRADE

DODGEBALL PROGRAM

The Brodhead Parks & Recreation Department will be sponsoring a four-week dodgeball program for boys and girls in third and fourth grades. The program will be on Tuesday afternoons, April 1, 8, 15 and 22, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Brodhead Elementary School. They will form new teams each week and learn how to play the original version as well as some variations of this awesome game.

Registration forms are available at the schools, at the Brodhead Parks & Rec Dept., or on the City of Brodhead website at www.cityofbrodheadwi.us. The cost is \$20. Forms need to be completed and turned in with fee by Thursday, March 27 to the office or Parks & Rec Dept. Make checks payable to the City of Brodhead. If there are any questions, please call Tom at 608-897-2159.



State dairy markets look mixed heading into 2025

Trying to predict what the dairy market will do in 2025 is not easy. There's the threat of higher tariffs, the danger of avian influenza and losing employees due to immigration reform, but there's also room for growth.

During a 2025 dairy market outlook presentation at Dairy Strong, Mike North, president of Ever.Ag, said tariffs are a big deal for farmers and something they should pay attention to since it may decrease exports and lead to lower sales.

North said it is possible the government may supplement farmers' income if tariffs hit the industry hard. "I know no one likes a handout but we may need it to get through this," he said.

Dr. Marin Bozic, Edge board advisor, said that dairy trade is just a fraction of all agricultural trade, and that agricultural trade is small relative to overall US international trade.

"It is likely that the Trump administration will look to reduce overall US trade deficit, but I am confident farmers will be made whole against short-term turmoil such reset may cause," he said.

Immigration reform is another concern among farmers who worry about losing some of their workforce. Here too, Bozic said the president may look elsewhere for changes, knowing how much farmers rely on immigration for their labor.

Farmers have been concerned about immigration and their workforces since the late 2000s, North said.

"We keep looking for a solution and I'm not sure we'll find one in the next four years. I agree with Marin that we won't see any big changes because

the Republicans in Congress need the votes of farmers again in two years," he said.

Avian influenza is another threat to the dairy industry. California's cow herds have been hit hard by bird flu and North predicts the disease will show up in Wisconsin. Infected cows produce less milk and most recover with treatment. Milk from infected cows can be safely used if it undergoes pasteurization.

"We need to be prepared," he said.

Growth outlook

While the industry has challenges, North said there are several positives in the dairy market, such as the growth in consumption of protein shakes and bars.

"We've seen 20% of whey production growth due to the popularity of protein products," he said. "It's a nice addition to the market."

Consumption of cheese is also on an upward trend. North pointed out the increase in cheese exports.

"We saw a new record in cheese exports in 2024 and hopefully that is something we will see continue in 2025," he said. "It's been great for the industry."

Demographics also play a role in the increase of cheese consumption. As people get older, they tend to drink less fluid milk and eat more cheese, North said.

"The population is aging so I expect higher cheese sales," he said.

With more people consuming cheese, there are several new cheese plants coming online from South Dakota to Texas. Some are replacement plants while others are new



Dr. Marin Bozic, Edge board advisor, speaking at Dairy Strong.

PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

with owners hoping to cash in on opportunities, North said.

"It's important for farmers to maintain open lines of communication with their processors so they know what changes may be coming," he said.

This year's Dairy Strong conference brought over 400 attendees, representing over 150,000 cows, and industry professionals, to Green Bay for the annual conference.

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, ven-

dors 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.

BBB gives tips on data privacy

The possibility of a cyber-attack by a foreign country or domestic group has gone from being the stuff of science fiction to a common threat that is often reported in the news. While it may seem like there is nothing an individual can do to stop a cyberattack, there are some best practices that consumers and businesses can use to help guard against losing important personal information to cyber thieves.

A lot of personal information is already shared on the internet by cell phones, tablets, laptops or any other device that connects through wifi or an internet provider. These access points make it easier to shop, bank, make travel arrangements, and keep in touch with friends or family. When online, safeguard your information to help avoid scams, fraud, and identity theft. Periodically, it is a good idea to review who has your information. The Better Business Bureau and the National Cyber Security Alliance offer the following tips to help secure the privacy of critical information:

- Share with care. Posts on social media last a long time. Consider who will see the post, how readers might perceive it, and what information it might reveal about the individual posting it.
- Manage privacy settings. Check the privacy and security settings on web services and apps and set them to your comfort level for information sharing. Each device, application, or browser used will have different features to limit how and with whom you share information.
- Personal info is like money: Value it. Protect it. Personal information, such as purchase history, IP address, or location, has tremendous value to businesses – just like money. Make informed decisions about whether or not to share data with certain businesses by considering the amount of personal information they are asking for and weighing it against the benefits you may receive in return. Avoid accessing sensitive accounts (like banking or email) on public Wi-Fi networks, as they are often insecure and vulnerable to hackers. Use a virtual private network (VPN) to secure your connection when using public networks.
- Make your passwords long and strong. Use long passwords with a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols – eight characters for most accounts and twelve characters for email and financial accounts. Don't use the same password for multiple accounts, especially email and financial. Keep a paper list of your passwords in a safe place, not on or near your computer. Consider using a password vault application.
- Keep tabs on apps. Many apps ask for access to personal information, such as geographic location, contacts list, and photo album, before using their services. Be thoughtful about who gets that information, and be wary of apps that require access to information that is not required or relevant to the services they offer. Delete unused apps on your internet-connected devices and keep others secure by performing updates.
- Lock down your login. For your online accounts, use the strongest authentication tools available. Your user names and passwords are not enough; consider two-factor authentication for key accounts like email, banking, and social media, especially for access on mobile devices.
- Don't click on unfamiliar

links. Whether at home or at work, don't click on links from unfamiliar sources or unexpected correspondence. One false click can infect a whole computer... or a whole business. Be vigilant about suspicious emails, messages, or calls asking for personal or financial information. Double-check the sender's address, avoid downloading unexpected attachments, and never provide sensitive information unless you're certain of the source.

Pay attention to internet-connected devices. Smart thermostats, voice control systems, cars, and even refrigerators are just the beginning of the growing list of devices that watch our homes and track our locations. Read the privacy pol-

icy and understand what data is being collected and how it will be used.

Charitable organizations should be aware of data privacy. Donors and others communicate online with charities via their websites, emails, and other online means and need to be informed about what policies are in place to address privacy concerns.

•Farmer (Continued from front page)

2025 legislative agenda during the annual meeting. Through a grassroots process that encourages input from all active members, WSA approved 2025 resolutions, which included policies related to:

- Transportation infrastructure
- Conservation
- Crop input protection
- Biofuels
- Trade policy
- Animal agriculture
- Improving market access
- Protecting the soybean checkoff

"A successful year to me will mean achieving those policy goals while also expanding our outreach to organizations and businesses and our members and getting more involvement from non-board members when we're not out advocating," Rebut said.

During the meeting, WSA lobbyist Jordan Lamb briefed

the members on the latest legislative news from Madison. Tanner Johnson, who sits on the American Soybean Association's Executive Committee, delivered a federal policy update. Growers also heard soy checkoff reports from state and national leaders.

WSA delegates will gather in late February and early March in Denver, Colo., for ASA's Delegate Session during Commodity Classic.

"It's so gratifying to work with this board of leaders. Sara set a really high standard, and I think everyone feels Doug is going to continue that momentum," Executive Director Adam Kask said. "Certainly, there are a lot of challenges facing our industry but we're fortunate to have a very active board that's eager to do their part in improving the farm economy for our producers."

•BTC (Continued from front page)

or Maintenance Technicians in a processing or manufacturing environment. Technicians work closely with others to install, maintain and repair automated equipment and component parts to ensure a facility is running efficiently and effectively.

Students accepted into the TechForward Initiative will have access to exclusive scholarship opportunities, including a limited number of full-ride

scholarships and a total of \$100,000 in financial aid.

"By joining the TechForward Initiative, students not only prepare for high-paying careers in advanced manufacturing and automation but also contribute to an innovative educational model that could reshape workforce training," Coddington said.

Learn more at blackhawk.edu/techforward.

Social Security slashes cooperative agreements

The Social Security Administration announced on Feb. 21 the termination of their Retirement and Disability Research Consortium (RDRC) cooperative agreements. This action supports the President's Executive Order, Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferring.

"Terminating our RDRC cooperative agreements aligns with President Trump's priorities to end fraudulent and wasteful initiatives and contracts," said Social Security's Acting Commissioner Lee Duke. "We will continue to root out waste and abuse to earn back America's trust and confidence in our agency."

Social Security previously entered into RDRC cooperative agreements with research centers that included a focus on research addressing DEI in Social Security, retirement, and disability policy. Terminating these cooperative agreements results in about \$15 million dollars in cost savings for Americans in fiscal year 2025.

For more information on the President's Executive Order, see www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferring/

To learn more about Acting Commissioner Duke's commitment to agency transparency and protecting benefits and information, see his statement at www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2025/#2025-02-19.

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Poll: Packers fans highly likely to be buried with team flag, memorabilia

Sports fandom runs deep in America. For many, supporting a team isn't just a pastime – it's a lifelong commitment. But for some, that devotion goes even further, transcending life itself. A survey by Gambling 'N Go of 3,021 sports fans uncovered the ultimate sign of loyalty: supporters so dedicated that they'd want their team's flag draped over their coffin or memorabilia immortalizing their fandom in their final farewell.

From NFL dynasties to legendary basketball franchises, these teams have inspired an unbreakable bond with their fans, proving that true devotion never dies. Here are the top 10 teams that fans are most loyal to – even beyond the grave.

- #1. Dallas Cowboys: America's Team lives up to its name, with Cowboys fans as devoted as ever. Through triumphs and heartbreaks, their loyalty remains unwavering, and for many, taking their Cowboys pride to the grave is a given. With five Super Bowl titles and a legacy of star players, the Cowboys' fandom runs deep in Texas and beyond.

- #2. New York Yankees: Baseball's most storied franchise, the Yankees are more than just a team – they're a symbol of greatness. With 27 World Series titles, a long line of legendary players, and an unmistakable pinstripe legacy, it's no surprise that die-hard Yankees fans want their devotion to be remembered for eternity.

- #3. San Francisco 49ers: From the golden era of Joe Montana and Jerry Rice to today's powerhouse team, 49ers fans bleed red and gold. Their loyalty extends far beyond Levi's Stadium, with some supporters choosing to take their Niners pride with them into the afterlife.

- #4. Green Bay Packers: The Packers' fanbase is one of the most passionate in all of sports. The iconic green and gold, the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field, and a legacy of Super Bowl victories make the Packers more than just a team – they're a way of life. Cheeseheads don't just cheer; they dedicate themselves to Green Bay for eternity.

- #5. Miami Heat: From the Shaq and Wade era to the Big Three dominance with LeBron, the Miami Heat have built a dedicated following. Heat fans are known for their intensity, and some are so committed that they want to make their love for the team permanent, even in the afterlife.

- #6. Chicago Bulls: Thanks to Michael Jordan's dominance in the '90s, the Bulls became a global phenomenon, and their fanbase remains one of the strongest in basketball. For many, the red and black isn't just a team color – it's an identity that lives on, even after they're gone.

- #7. Chicago Bears: Bears fans know what it means to be loyal. Through decades of highs and lows, their dedication never wavers. The Monsters of the Midway have left such an impact that many Chicagoans plan to rep their Bears pride forever.

- #8. Ohio State Buckeyes: College football rivalries run deep, and Buckeye Nation is among the most passionate fanbases in the country.

“Sports fandom runs deeper than many realize – it's not just about watching games; it's about identity, passion, and lifelong commitment. This poll highlights just how much these teams mean to their fans, with some willing to make their devotion a part of their final farewell. Whether it's a Cowboys flag, a Yankees cap, or a Buckeyes jersey, these symbols represent more than just sports; they're a reflection of loyalty that lasts a lifetime – and beyond.”

– Leo Coleman of Gambling 'N Go

Whether it's singing “Carmen Ohio” or living for The Game against Michigan, Ohio State fans are devoted for life – and beyond.

- #9. Los Angeles Lakers: Few teams have the legacy, star power, and championship pedigree of the Lakers. From Magic Johnson to Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, Lakers fans have followed the purple and gold with an unshakable commitment, making it no surprise that some want their fandom to be eternal.

- #10. Inter Miami CF: Despite being a newer franchise, Inter Miami has already built a fiercely loyal following, thanks in large part to the arrival of Lionel Messi. Soccer passion runs deep, and for some fans, their love for the pink and black is something they want to carry with them forever.

Fans from two other Wisconsin teams are among the most likely to want to be buried with their team's flag or memorabilia:

- #44. Wisconsin Badgers: There's nothing like a game day at Camp Randall, and Badgers fans live for the thrill of college football Saturdays. The Jump Around tradition, the love for their red and white, and the pride of Wisconsin ensure that some fans carry their passion far beyond the gridiron.

- #45. Milwaukee Bucks: From the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar era to Giannis Antetokounmpo's dominance, the Bucks have built a fiercely loyal following. Whether celebrating an NBA championship or standing by their team through tough seasons, Bucks fans keep the green and cream pride alive – forever.

“Sports fandom runs deeper than many realize – it's not just about watching games; it's about identity, passion, and lifelong commitment. This poll highlights just how much these teams mean to their fans, with some willing to make their devotion a part of their final farewell. Whether it's a Cowboys flag, a Yankees cap, or a Buckeyes jersey, these symbols represent more than just sports; they're a reflection of loyalty that lasts a lifetime – and beyond,” says Leo Coleman of Gambling 'N Go.

Supporting survivors of domestic abuse



On Jan. 30, Sen. Mark Spreitzer was honored to join Governor Tony Evers in Beloit for a roundtable discussion with Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, Inc. and DEFY Domestic Abuse Beloit on supporting survivors of domestic violence and strengthening community resources. Bottom photo, Gov. Evers, far left, recently signed an executive order to create a state Office of Violence Prevention. Sen. Mark Spreitzer is located at the right.

PHOTOS COURTESY SEN. MARK SPREITZER Rock Valley Publishing



Don't forget flooding awareness week

Flooding is one of the most common and devastating natural disasters with the potential to affect people, families and communities across Wisconsin.

ReadyWisconsin is urging everyone to take steps to understand the risks flooding can bring. To encourage everyone in the state to be prepared, Gov. Tony Evers has declared Feb. 28 as Flood Safety Awareness Week in Wisconsin.

“Flooding can happen without warning, whether it's caused by heavy rain or snowmelt,” said Greg Engle, Wisconsin Emergency Management administrator. “As extreme weather events become more frequent and unpredictable, it is important for Wisconsinites to be aware of flooding risks and take steps to protect themselves and their property.”

Home and property owners can assess the potential for flooding on their property if they live in a flood plain, near a body of water, or have a basement. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a Flood Map Service Center to find official flood maps and access other tools to understand flood risk.

While some areas are more susceptible to flooding, every part of the state has a potential risk. In fact, roughly 25% of all national flood insurance claims come from properties outside designated flood plains, according to the National Flood Insurance Program.

While you can't always stop waters from rising, the following tips can reduce the devastating effects of flooding:

- Stay informed. Be aware

of weather forecast information, whether its heavy rain or a warmup that causes snowmelt. Have more than one way to receive weather warnings. Enable Wireless Emergency Alerts on your cell phones to be alerted of imminent threats in your area.

- Protect your family. Create an emergency plan so you and your loved ones know what to do and where to go in case there is a flood. Practice the plan and make sure everyone knows what to do when a flood warning is issued. Make a list of emergency numbers and important contacts.

- Consider flood insurance. Most homeowner, rental, and business insurance policies generally do not cover flooding. Don't wait until it's too late. Most flood coverage requires 30 days to take effect. Find more information about flood insurance options online

at www.floodsmart.gov

- Keep water out of and away from your house. Clean gutters regularly, direct downspouts away from your foundation, repair cracks in your foundation, improve grading so water flows away from your house, and cover window wells.

- Move valuables out of the basement. Elevate or flood-proof your washer, dryer, water heater, and HVAC systems. Relocate electrical outlets to three feet above the floor.

Follow these tips during and after a flood:

- Never drive or walk through flooded areas. Turn around, don't drown! It takes 12 inches of water to carry away a small car. Be especially careful while driving at night. It is important to also not walk through floodwater. Just six inches of fast-moving water can sweep adults off their feet.

Floodwater may also be contaminated by sewage or chemicals and can hide downed power lines or debris that may cause injuries.

- Take steps to protect your health: if your home floods, follow cleaning and disinfection guidelines to avoid mold growth; if the power goes out for more than four hours, throw out refrigerated food or any food that came into contact with floodwater; if your drinking water well is flooded, disinfect the well and test the water to make sure it's safe before drinking it; if you use a generator, keep it outside at least 20 feet from your home to avoid illness or death from carbon monoxide, which can occur in enclosed spaces.

ReadyWisconsin is a public safety campaign of Wisconsin Emergency Management, a division of the Department of Military Affairs.

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State sues Trump Administration for defunding medical and public health research

Gov. Evers and Attorney General Kaul and 21 other states recently sued the Trump Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Institutes of Health for unlawfully cutting funds that support cutting-edge medical and public health research at universities and research institutions across the country.

The coalition is challenging the Trump Administration's attempt to unilaterally cut "indirect cost" reimbursements at every research institution throughout the country. These reimbursements cover expenses to facilitate biomedical research, like lab, faculty, in-

rastructure, and utility costs. Without them, the lifesaving and life-changing medical research in which the United States has long been a leader could be compromised.

Indirect cost reimbursements are based on each institution's unique needs, negotiated with the federal government through a carefully regulated process, and then memorialized in an executed agreement.

The Trump Administration's purports to toss those agreements aside, putting public health and medical advancements at risk. The coalition's lawsuit seeks to prevent that reckless and illegal conduct.

"To think that the Trump

Administration wants to gut funding to help find cures and treatments for things like cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes - it's unconscionable," said Gov. Evers. "The University of Wisconsin System is a national and global leader in helping solve real problems for people here in Wisconsin and the world over, and ensuring UW System's success is a critical part of ensuring Wisconsin's future economic success. The Trump Administration's reckless federal funding cuts will be devastating for Wisconsin and a setback for millions of people who hope and pray every day for a cure or treatments that might save their

life or the life of someone they love."

"This really should go without saying, but making drastic and rushed cuts to funding that supports the fight against cancer and other dangerous diseases is wrong. And what makes cuts like these all the more appalling is that they're clearly being made in order to fund tax cuts that will disproportionately benefit the ultra wealthy," said AG Kaul. "Our health and well-being shouldn't have to suffer so that folks like Elon Musk can get massive tax breaks."

On Feb. 7, the NIH announced it would abruptly slash indirect cost rates to an across-the-board 15% rate, which is significantly less than the cost required to perform cutting edge medical research. The NIH purported to make this cut effective the very next business day, Monday, February 10, giving universities and institutions no time to plan for the enormous budget gaps they are now facing. Without immediate relief, this action could result in the suspension of lifesaving and life-extending clinical trials, disruption of research programs, layoffs, and

laboratory closures.

The coalition argues that this action violates the Administrative Procedure Act, federal regulations, and a directive Congress passed during President Trump's first term to fend off his earlier attempt to drastically cut research reimbursements. That statutory language, still in effect, prohibits the NIH from requiring categorical and indiscriminate changes to indirect cost reimbursements. The coalition is seeking a court order barring the Trump Administration and NIH from implementing the action.

The NIH is the primary source of federal funding for medical research in the United States. Medical research funding by NIH grants have led to innumerable scientific breakthroughs, including the discovery of treatment for cancers of all types, the first sequencing of DNA and the development of the MRI. Additionally, dozens of NIH-supported scientists have earned Nobel Prizes for their groundbreaking scientific work.

Most NIH-funding research occurs outside of federal government institutions such as both public and private univer-

sities and colleges.

In Wisconsin, for example, research at UW-Madison is supported by \$513 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the proposed NIH funding cuts would eliminate approximately \$65 million in funding for the current year. The loss of these funds will immediately impact UW-Madison's federally funded research that is intended to promote national security interests and maintain the nation's competitive edge through export controls and measures to prevent malign foreign influence; protect human and animal participants in research; protect public investments in research; and ensure the safe conduct of research involving hazardous biological agents, recombinant DNA, and radiation.

States joining Wisconsin in filing the lawsuit include Arizona, California, Connecticut, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Green County: City of Brodhead, Town of Decatur, Town of Spring Grove, Town of Albany, Village of Albany
Rock County: City of Brodhead, Town of Avon, Town of Spring Valley, Town of Magnolia

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen who:

- will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- has resided in the ward or municipality where they wish to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election.

The elector must also be registered to vote to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued*.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

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 make written application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov. Or you may apply in person at the clerk's office during the In-Person Absentee Voting period listed below.

Your written request must include:

1. your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote
2. the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the address above
3. your signature
4. a copy of your photo identification*

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is:
 5:00 p.m. on the fifth day before the election, Thursday, March 27, 2025.

*Voters who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability may not be required to provide photo ID. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

**Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined, 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.

- City of Brodhead, Kristin Covert, 1111 W 2nd Ave. PO Box 168, Brodhead, WI 53520 (608)897-4018, **9:00 am - 3:30 pm**
By Appointment
- Town of Albany, Deb Cline, N6065 Cty Rd E, Albany, WI 53502 (608)558-4787,
By Appointment
- Town of Spring Grove, Arlinda Faessler, N2475 Cty Road GG,

Brodhead, WI 53520 (608)897-4643,
By Appointment
 • Town of Decatur, Emma Brugger, 1408 14th St, PO Box 333, Brodhead, WI 53520 (608)897-4965,
Wednesdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm or By Appointment Only
 • Village of Albany, Michelle Brewer, 206 North Water Street, Albany, WI 53502 (608)862-3240,
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
 • Town of Avon, Stephanie Schwartlow, 15444 W Skinner Rd, Brodhead, WI 53520 (608)921-3656,
By Appointment
 • Town of Magnolia, Graceann Toberman, 13343 W Cty Rd B, Brodhead, WI 53520 (608)751-6743,
By Appointment
 • Town of Spring Valley, Dela Ends, 17310 Footville Brodhead Rd, Brodhead, WI 53520 (608)897-4288,
By Appointment

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is:
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is:
Friday, March 28, 2025

(Note: This may be no later than the Sunday before the election.)

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 April 1, 2025. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

The Independent Register
 2/26/2025
 WNAXLP 468352

BIDS
 Brodhead School District will receive bids via Procure for: **Albrecht Elementary School Building Additions and Renovations Bid Package #04 until 2:00 p.m. on February 27th, 2025.**

1. WS #1 - Excavation, Site Utilities, Site Demolition, Landscaping
2. WS #2 - Concrete
3. WS #3 - Masonry
4. WS #4 - General Trades
5. WS #5 - Aluminum Windows, Doors Frames, and Glazing
6. WS #6 - Roofing and Sheet Metal
7. WS #7 - Plumbing
8. WS #8 - HVAC Piping and Ventilation
9. WS #9 - HVAC Controls
10. WS #10 - Electrical
11. WS #11 - Testing and Balancing

Nexus Solutions LLC proposes an 8,200 square foot addition and over 12,000 square feet of interior renovation to Albrecht Elementary School. The planned addition will include space for four classrooms. One area of renovation will be the main office, which will be upgraded to enhance school security. The renovation will also include improvements and renovations to the current 5k classrooms. This will create additional classroom spaces for all day 4k programs. Existing bathrooms will be updated with improved finishes, increased efficiencies, and en-

hanced ADA accessibility. The original windows in the current classroom and learning spaces will be upgraded to further enhance overall building efficiency.

CONTRACTOR WALK THROUGH: Thursday February 13th, 2025, starting at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the main office.

Questions regarding the bidding documents can be directed to:

Kyle Robers
 Nexus Solutions LLC
 Phone: 262.492.3209
 Email: krobers@nexusolutions.com

Bids shall be submitted on the bid form provided by the Bid Documents. The completed bid form shall be submitted without alterations, additions, or erasures to Nexus Solutions, LLC., Project Manager Kyle Robers via the Nexus Solutions project management software Procure.com. Each bidder will receive a bid invitation email which provides instructions for logging on to Procure.com and the process for submitting secure bids.

To access the bidding documents, please email the Project Manager, Kyle Robers and the Project Coordinator Kathy Slater at kslater@NexusSolutions.com.

Nexus Solutions looks forward to the opportunity to work with your project team in our new bidding process. The Independent Register
 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, & 2/26/2025
 WNAXLP 467407

EXHIBIT A
 NOTICE OF ELECTION
 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
 BRODHEAD
 APRIL 1, 2025

Referendum Details
 At an election in the School District of Brodhead on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

"Shall the School District of Brodhead, Green and Rock Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, on a non-recurring basis, by \$1,750,000 in each of three (3) consecutive years, for the 2025-2026, the 2026-2027 and the 2027-2028 school years, to maintain school district facilities and programs?"

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing submission of the question set forth above to the electorate and information concerning District boundaries can be obtained from the District Clerk at the School District offices located at 2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, Wisconsin.

Additional Information
 Acceptable photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact David A. Novy, District Administrator.

Done in the School District of Brodhead on February 26, 2025
 Michael Oellerich
 District Clerk

The Independent Register
 2/26/2025
 WNAXLP 468319

Law firm announces growth with three new partners

Nowlan Law is proud to announce the election of three new partners: Micheal Hahn and Evan Tenebruso to Equity Partner, and Maddie McCue to Income Partner.

Managing Partner Tim Lindau states, "These outstanding attorneys play a pivotal role in the life and growth of our firm, and they all do extraordinary work on behalf of our clients and the community. We are excited to see how they will continue to grow as Partners of Nowlan Law."

Micheal Hahn is a trial lawyer whose practice involves with a focus on Civil Litigation, Municipal Law, and regulatory matters. He has represented clients at all levels of the Wisconsin court system and currently serves as the Chair of the Beloit Chamber of Commerce.

Evan Tenebruso is a trial lawyer whose practice focuses on Personal Injury Law, Insurance Coverage, and Insurance Bad Faith Claims. In addition to extensive trial experience, Evan has also prevailed on appeals to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

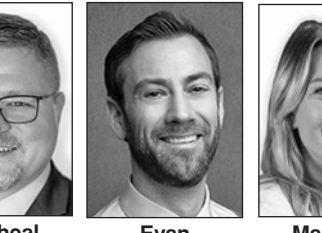
Maddie McCue has focused

her practice in the areas of Estate Planning, Business and Corporate Law, and Real Estate Law. Maddie graduated from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater (Magna Cum Laude) and from Wisconsin Law School.

Nowlan Law is a full-service law firm that has served Southern Wisconsin for over 160 years. It currently has offices in Janesville, Beloit, and Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. With a team of experienced attorneys, Nowlan Law is committed to delivering strategic legal counsel and achieving optimal results for clients, prioritizing integrity, client-centric service, and innovative solutions to complex legal challenges. For further information, visit www.nowlan.com.

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Micheal Hahn
Evan Tenebruso
Maddie McCue

College news

University of Minnesota Duluth announces Dean's List for Fall

The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Fall Semester 2024. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

The four colleges within UMD are: College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS); College of Education and Human Service Professions (CEHSP); Labovitz School of Business and Economics (LSBE); Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE).

One of five campuses that comprise the University of Minnesota System, the University of Minnesota Duluth integrates liberal education, research, creative activity, and public engagement and prepares students to thrive as lifelong learners and globally engaged citizens. With an enrollment of nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the Duluth campus offers 87 undergraduate and post-baccalaureate degrees, and graduate programs in more than 24 different fields. See UMD's Land Acknowledgement statement. Visit d.umn.edu.

Janesville student graduates from Millikin

Breanna Grubb of Janesville graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Art from Millikin University.

Breanna was one of 80 graduates recognized during the 2024 Winter Commencement ceremony at the Kirkland Fine Arts Center on Dec. 15, 2024.

Millikin University is a private university that provides undergraduate and graduate education to a diverse student body of approximately 1,700 students on a 75-acre residential campus in Decatur, Ill. Millikin's unique approach to education, known as Performance Learning, allows students to perform the work of their future careers through hands-on, real-world experiences starting on day one. Through these experiences, students gain access to a professional network they will carry throughout their careers. This commitment to innovation and excellence propels students to career success, with 99% of Millikin graduates gaining employment or entering graduate school within six months of graduation.

Janesville student graduates from UWW

Veena Johnson from Janesville earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at winter commencement, held Dec. 14, 2024.

Approximately 633 students crossed the stage to receive their degrees at the ceremony, held at Kachel Fieldhouse in the Williams Center.

Johnson graduated with the following degree: Communication - MS.

The 815-member graduating class included three international students, 58 military veterans and 138 nontraditional students, defined as undergraduate students who are 25 years of age or older. In addition, 80 self-identified students with disabilities received degrees.

A total of 47 students participated in the university's Hired Before Graduation campaign, which celebrates students who landed a job, earned a job promotion, were accepted to graduate school, or started their own business before commencement.

Classifieds

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Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
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real estate

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2025 Senate Scholar



PHOTO COURTESY SEN. MARK SPREITZER *Rock Valley Publishing*

In January, Sen. Mark Spreitzer welcomed Lauren Higgins, the 2025 Senate Scholar for the 15th Senate District, to the State Capitol. Lauren is a senior at Beloit Memorial High School, who plans to attend law school and potentially run for elected office. Spreitzer also got a cup of coffee with Lauren at Bushel and Peck's in Beloit and had a great conversation about her future plans and my experience as an elected official. The Senate Scholar Program allows high school juniors and seniors from around the state to participate in a week-long, intensive program at the State Capitol. Only 33 students are admitted to this program every year – one for each Senate district.

Local students graduate from UW-Madison

Just over 2,000 students received degrees during the University of Wisconsin-Madison Winter 2024 Commencement at the Kohl Center on Dec. 15, 2024.

Nearly 1,400 of them took part in the ceremony at the Kohl Center, where commencement speaker and "Top Chef: Wisconsin" finalist Dan Jacobs donned a Badgers apron and demonstrated on stage how to spatchcock and roast a chicken during the ceremony.

"[This] might possibly be one of the most important lessons you ever learn," Jacobs told a chuckling audience. "Everyone should be able to make a good roast chicken."

While the tutorial offered a light-hearted nugget of useful advice, Jacobs made sure to also pepper the graduates with guidance they could apply to their careers and relationships following graduation: remain curious and open to new experiences.

"The thing I love most about cooking is that the learning never stops; as chefs, we're constantly evolving, experimenting, and refining our style," said Jacobs. "That endless curiosity is what keeps us inspired. Take that same thirst for knowledge and apply it to

whatever you're passionate about."

Student speaker Sawyer Getschman was one of 1,545 bachelor's degree recipients following the fall 2024 semester. An additional 373 students earned master's degrees and 116 students were awarded doctoral degrees, for a total of 2,034 graduates. Getschman, who earned her bachelor's in East Asian languages and cultures, said she nearly left UW-Madison after a freshman year marred by the pandemic.

"A hundred little reasons made me stay, but the main one was the people," said Getschman. "We have encountered so much uncertainty and oddity in our college careers, but we have come out on the other side, stronger and with better stories to tell because of it."

One powerful source of strength that Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin highlighted in her remarks before the audience of more than 7,500 graduates, friends and relatives centered on "the incredible variety of people" that the graduates met, lived with and worked alongside every day during their time in Madison.

Mnookin implored the graduates to hold onto that co-

operative spirit as they entered their next chapter, whether it be a new career, continuing education or something else.

"You are ready," said Mnookin. "You have had experiences here that you will be able to draw upon in whatever comes next for you. You are prepared, not only by your academic experiences here but also by your many engagements with our community and one another."

For more information about UW-Madison, visit www.wisc.edu. View the ceremony at www.wisc.edu/commencement/ and read about it at <https://news.wisc.edu/practical-life-lessons-help-provide-recipe-for-success-at-uw-madison-winter-2024-commencement/>.

Here are local degree recipients:

Albany

- Lily Brewer, School of Human Ecology, Bachelor of Science-Personal Finance, Personal Finance

Brodhead

- Trent Anderson, College of Engineering, Bachelor of Science-Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Graduated with Highest Distinction

Police news

Name released in death after Janesville incident

The Rock County Medical Examiner's Department is releasing the name of the individual that died following an incident on Dec. 17, 2024. The incident occurred in the 300 Block of North High Street, in the City of Janes-

ville, and was reported to authorities at or about 7:30 p.m.

The individual can be identified as: Tywon L. Cannon, 51, of Janesville.

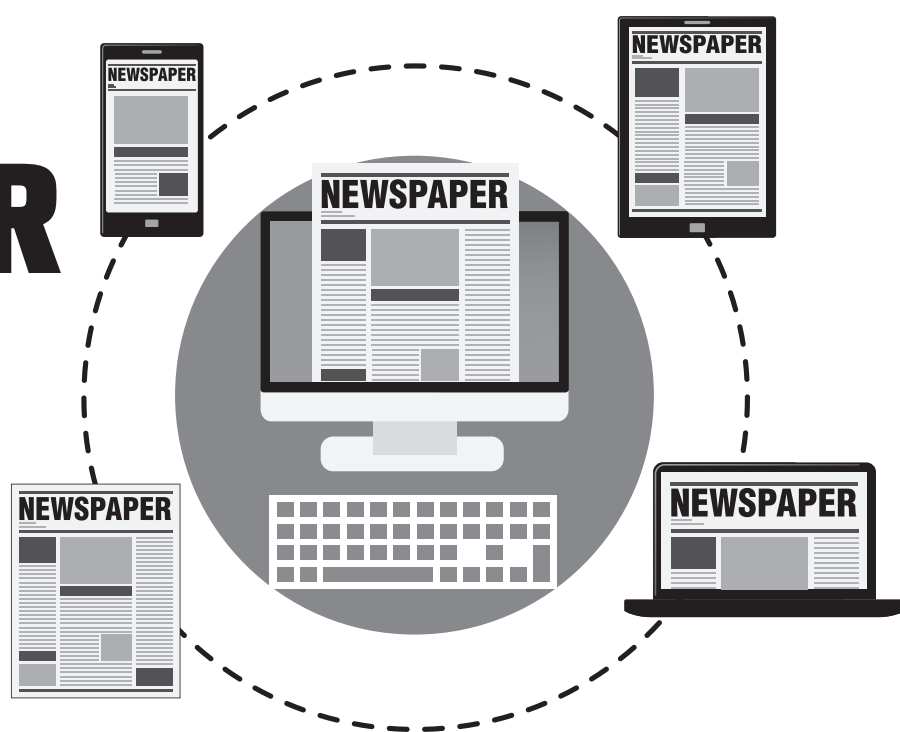
Mr. Cannon was pronounced deceased at the hospital on Feb. 4. A forensic autopsy was completed on Feb. 6. Preliminary results of

the examination confirm that Mr. Cannon died as a result of homicidal firearm related trauma. Additional testing is underway at this time.

This incident remains under investigation by the Janesville Police Department and the Rock County Medical Examiner's Department.

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