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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

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## State farmers attend national convention

Hundreds gather in Oklahoma City to shape national policy

Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) members were in Oklahoma City recently for the National Farmers Union 123rd Anniversary Convention. Hundreds of farmers and ranchers from throughout the nation gathered March 9 to 11 to set the family farm organization's 2025 policy.

"This is a challenging moment for family farmers. Rising costs, corporate consolidation and uncertainty around federal programs – including the lack of a renewed farm bill – are creating real hardships," said NFU President Rob Larew. "Yet through it all, the state of Farmers Union remains strong, resilient and prepared to turn the policies set at this convention into action for a stronger future in agriculture."

"Family farmers face immense challenges, but by coming together, we shape policies that protect our livelihoods and ensure a fairer, more sustainable agricultural system for future generations," said WFU President Darin Von Ruden. "Wisconsin Farmers Union is proud to bring our state's priorities to the national stage, advocating for dairy policy improvements, fair markets, and strong rural communities."

On Monday morning of the convention, National Farmers Union awarded Membership and Leadership Awards recognizing Wisconsin Farmers Union Chapters including: Sauk, South Central, St. Croix, Jackson Trempealeau, Vernon-Crawford, Dane, and Dodge Fond du Lac Sheboygan Ozaukee.

WFU Member Anita Nelson received the Bruce Miller Membership Award. The award recognizes individuals within Farmers Union who display a true passion for family farming and rural America, while promoting the work of Farmers Union.

Following a full program of speakers and sessions, delegates took part in the democratic policy debate that is fundamental to Farmers Union's structure. This grassroots process informs NFU's advocacy work throughout the year.

The Wisconsin delegation was pleased to have expanded the dairy language in both the Family Farming and the Farm Bill, and the Fairness for Farmers special orders of business. Other policy topics discussed conservation easements, water management, and impacts of tariffs to agriculture. Representing

WFU as delegates in the deliberation of policy were: Jerry Croes, Deer Park; Sarah Lloyd, Wisconsin Dells; Dave Rosen, Glenwood City; Jen Schmitz, Cashton; and Darin Von Ruden, Westby. Krist Kvalheim of Sun Prairie guided delegates through the policy process as convention parliamentarian.

Other members of the Wisconsin delegation in attendance included Linda Caylor, Catawba; Charlotte Croes, Deer Park; Patty Edelburg, Scandinavia; Julia Keegan, Augusta; Rachel Kvalheim, Sun Prairie; Joshua Mechaelsen, Waukesha; Michelle Ramirez-White, Madison; and Cathy Statz, Fort Atkinson.

During the policy debate, delegates approved three special orders of business: Fairness for Farmers, Family Farming and the Farm Bill and Family Farming and Our Federal Government.

At the close of convention, during the NFU board meeting, Darin Von Ruden was nominated to continue on as the NFU secretary.

The full NFU policy book will be available online soon at [www.nfu.org](http://www.nfu.org). Learn more at [www.nfu.org](http://www.nfu.org) and [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com).



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

Representing Wisconsin Farmers Union at the National Farmers Union Convention in Oklahoma City on March 9 to 11 were, from left, in front row: Charlotte Croes, Deer Park; Cathy Statz, Fort Atkinson; Linda Caylor, Catawba; Jen Schmitz, Cashton; Sarah Lloyd, Wisconsin Dells; Michelle Ramirez-White, Madison; Julia Keegan, Augusta; in back row: Jerry Croes, Deer Park; Patty Edelburg, Scandinavia; Dave Rosen, Glenwood City; Krist and Rachel Kvalheim, Sun Prairie; Joshua Mechaelsen, Waukesha; and Darin Von Ruden, Westby.

NFU will host America's family farmers and ranchers again at the 124th Anniversary Convention in New Orleans, March 7 to 9, 2026.

National Farmers Union also announced a Farmers Union Week of Action to take place May 5 to 9. Farmers Union members will join together both in Washington, D.C., and in their communities across the nation to call on Congress to make farmers, ranchers and rural Americans a priority.

Wisconsin Farmers Union,

a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement.

## Rotary Botanical Gardens hosts Earth Day celebration

Family-friendly event features live animals, conservation groups

Rotary Botanical Gardens invites the community to celebrate Earth Day with a family-friendly event on Saturday, April 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will take place at the gardens and will feature interactive exhibits, local environmental organizations, and educational activities aimed at promoting sustainability and conservation.

Access to the event is at no charge, unless participants wish to purchase advance tickets for the Zoozort program. Zoozort, an engaging live animal program that gives attendees the chance to learn about exotic wildlife up close. Zoozort tickets are just \$5 per person, offering a unique experience for animal lovers of all ages.

Event highlights include interactive booths and activities from local environmental organizations, hands-on crafts and educational experiences for children and families, Zoozort Live Animal Program at \$5 per person, and food vendors serving delicious options.

"We are excited to bring the community together to celebrate Earth Day, learn about local conservation efforts, and inspire sustainable living," said Laura Kenyon, Commu-

nity Engagement Manager at Rotary Botanical Gardens. "This event is all about engaging families, connecting with nature, and supporting organizations that protect our environment."

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit booths from local environmental groups, sustainability advocates, and community organizations, including the following:

- Citizens Climate Lobby
- Rock County Health Department
- Protecting Wisconsin Waterways
- Rock Prairie Master Gardeners Association
- Basics Co-Op
- Rock County Ice Age Alliance
- Janesville Urban Forest Alliance
- Rock County Conservationists
- City of Janesville Recreation Department
- Salvation Army
- All Energy Solar (Presenting Sponsor)
- Rock County Bee Keepers
- Lions Club Eye Glass Stand

This year's Earth Day event is proudly sponsored by All Energy Solar, our Presenting Sponsor, helping to support

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## Skelly's Farm Market wins Governor's Tourism Award

Skelly's Farm Market in Janesville won the 2025 Governor's Innovation Tourism Award.

Skelly's implemented groundbreaking use of technology to enhance the visitor experience. A pioneer in corn maze design since 1998, Scott Skelly has continuously pushed the boundaries of visitor engagement. In 2022, Skelly developed a cutting-edge mobile app that integrates smartphone-based gaming with the corn maze experience, transforming traditional farm attractions into interactive, video-like adventures.

By 2024, Skelly and his wife Laura further advanced the app to include multi-level challenges and the nation's only known escape room within a corn maze. Skelly's Farm Market is a model of how technology can drive tourism, strengthen rural economies, and ensure farm sustainability. Their innovations attract tens of thousands of visitors annually, making the farm deserving of this prestigious award.

Skelly's highlights the transformative impact of agricultural tourism across the state, showcasing their contributions to economic growth and visitor experiences.

"Skelly's Farm Market exemplifies the spirit of Wisconsin tourism – bringing fresh ideas, exceptional service, and unforgettable experiences to visitors," WATA Executive Director Sheila Everhart said. "Their contributions drive economic growth and solidify our state's reputation



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

Skelly's Farm Market won the 2025 Governor's Innovation Tourism Award.

as a top-tier agricultural tourism destination."

Agricultural Tourism plays a vital role in Wisconsin's economy, blending the state's rich farming traditions with unique visitor experiences.

"Agricultural tourism is more than just a weekend visit to the farm – it's a key economic driver that supports local businesses, educates visitors about our farming heritage, and strengthens rural communities," Everhart said.

Destinations and organizations like

Skelly's Farm Market highlight the importance of agriculture in shaping Wisconsin's identity while providing hands-on experiences that resonate with visitors.

"With growing interest in authentic farm experiences, these nominees are leading the way in making Wisconsin a top destination for agricultural tourism," she said.

The Governor's Tourism Awards were created in 2010 to honor excellence, leadership and innovation in Wisconsin's travel and tourism industry. Across six categories, 66 individuals and organizations were nominated for the awards in 2025.

Other recipients were Thomas Diehl, Tommy Bartlett Show owner, who won the Legacy Award; the Milwaukee Art Museum, who won the Bright IDEA Award; Will Jeffrey of American Pond Hockey, who won the Service Award; and Cory Bennett of the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce, who won the Rising Star Award.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association promotes and preserves the rural lifestyle, fosters partnership opportunities within the ag-tourism community, and provides tools which encourage sustainable economic growth while creating awareness of Wisconsin agriculture.

Skelly's Farm Market is located at 2713 S. Hayner Road in Janesville. When open they can be reached at 608-757-1200. More information can be found at [www.skellysfarmmarket.com](http://www.skellysfarmmarket.com).

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# News briefs

## Gap Church: Prepare cemetery for spring

A reminder that it is time to prepare the Gap Church Cemetery for spring.

Please remove any flowers and decorations one wishes to save by April 13 to allow adequate time to clean up.

Do not place spring or summer items until May 1.

The Gap Church Cemetery is at W2401 State Hwy 59 in Albany.

## Auto/diesel career fair on April 15 at BTC

Blackhawk Technical College is hosting the 2025 Auto/Diesel Career Fair, an opportunity for students, job seekers, and anyone considering a career in the automotive and diesel industries to connect with employers and explore career pathways.

The event will be held Tuesday, April 15, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Center for Transportation Studies at Blackhawk Technical College's Beloit-Janesville Campus.

Local and regional employers will be on-site to discuss job openings, internships, and apprenticeships. Whether one is a current student, a recent graduate, or someone looking to enter the field, this event is a great way to learn about

in-demand careers and make valuable industry connections.

The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring resumes and be prepared to network.

Questions? Please mail careercenter@blackhawk.edu for more.

## Rock County welcomes County Administrator

Kevin Leavy, Chair of the Rock County Board of Supervisors, announced an event to meet the new County Administrator, John Light, will take place on Thursday, April 3, 5 to 7 p.m., in the Beckman Mill Conference Room at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center. Light refreshments will be provided.

Mr. Light was previously the Interim Township Administrator for Lisle Township, Ill., through MGT/GovHr USA. Mr. Light has been the Director of Human Resources for Lake County, Ill., City of Des Plaines, Ill., County of Kent, Mich., Community Unit School District #300, Carpentersville, Ill., McHenry County, Ill., and Town of Parker, Colo. He also was the County Administrator for Stephenson County, Ill.

For further information, contact Rock County Board Chair Kevin Leavy at 608-346-2309.

## Milton student elected to join Phi Kappa Phi

Mustapha Bello of Milton, Wis., was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Louisiana State University.

Bello is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

## Easter Egg Hunt in Footville on April 19

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Footville Community Park. There will be

arts and crafts, face painting, a 50/50 raffle, and a basket raffle as well.

If the weather is bad, the event will be at the Footville Church of Christ.

Other upcoming events in Footville include the Village Rummage Sales on April 25 to 26, the Footville Fire and EMS Pancake Breakfast on April 26 from 6:30 to 11 a.m., Electronics Recycling on May 3 and 4, and the Footville Community Park Fundraiser on May 3 and 4.

## Falls prevention program at ADRC

The ADRC of Rock County/Aging Unit, in partnership with Mercy Health System, SSM Health and the ADRC of Green County, is pleased to offer Stepping On, a falls prevention workshop for adults ages 60+.

Stepping On is a seven-week series. In Stepping On workshops, attendees will learn how to build and maintain the physical strength and balance they need to walk confidently. From footwear to prescriptions, they'll learn what increases risk of a fall, how to avoid it, and make an individualized action plan to stay on one's feet the way one wants. Two sep-

arate workshop series will be held this spring:

- Brodhead location: Brodhead Public Library, 1207 25th St., Brodhead. Wednesdays, April 23 to June 4. Time: 1 to 3 p.m. Register by April 11. Green County residents call: 608-328-9499. Rock County residents call 608-757-5309.

- Janesville location: Mercyhealth Mall, 1010 N. Washington Street, Janesville. Wednesdays, April 30 to June 11, 2025. Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Register by April 18. Call 608-757-5309.

A suggested donation of \$15 is asked to cover the cost of class materials. Space is limited to 14 participants. Advanced registration is required to reserve a seat.

For questions, or to register, call the Health Promotion Coordinator for ADRC of Rock County/Aging Unit at: 608-757-5309 or email: Lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us.

## Boater safety course in Janesville in April

Sheriff Fell is pleased to announce that the Rock County Sheriff's Office will offer their second and final 2025 Boater Safety Education Course on April 15 from 6 to 7 p.m., and April 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Rock Sheriff's Office, 200 East U.S. Highway 14, in 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/recre](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/recre)

ational-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](mailto:trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us).

## Senior luncheon at Orfordville church

There will be a senior luncheon for locals at the Orfordville Lutheran Church on Wednesday, April 2 and May 7. The lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., and the program will be at 12:15 p.m.

The church is located at 210 North Main Street in Orfordville.

## Plant sale back at Rotary Botanical Gardens

Rotary Botanical Gardens invites the community to bring the beauty of the Gardens home at the Annual Spring Plant Sale, happening May 1 to 3. This highly anticipated sale offers a wide selection of high-quality plants, including heirloom vegetables, unique tomato and pepper varieties, herbs, perennials, woody plants, bagged mushroom compost, obelisks, and more.

On Thursday, May 1, the event is for members only and will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Non-members can come on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on the Spring Plant Sale or to become a member, visit [rotarybotanicalgardens.org](http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org).



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## Police briefs

### Vehicle almost crashes into RSCO deputy

On March 30, at approximately 2:33 a.m., a Rock County Sheriff's Office Deputy was driving northbound on S. County Trunk D near Balmoral Drive, when he was almost struck by a southbound vehicle crossing the centerline. The sheriff's deputy got behind said vehicle and observed the vehicle continue to cross both the centerline and the fog line. A traffic stop was initiated on the vehicle in the 5800 block of S. County Trunk D, in the Town of Rock, County of Rock.



**Manuel Lopez-Garcia**

The driver was identified as Manuel Lopez-Garcia, 36, from Fort Atkinson, Wis. Manuel displayed signs of impairment, and the subsequent investigation resulted in his arrest for Operating While Intoxicated 4th offense.

Manuel has three prior convictions for Operating While Intoxicated, making this arrest a felony.

Manuel was transported to the Rock County Jail and was scheduled for Jail Court on Monday, March 31, at 3 p.m.

"Pursuant to the directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as found in Supreme Court Rule 20:3.6, Trial Publicity, you are advised that a

charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

### Scam phone calls impersonate deputies

The Rock County Sheriff's Office was made aware of recent fraudulent phone calls to citizens within Rock County where the caller identifies themselves as a Rock County deputy. They have been using different names of active deputies/supervisors. The caller(s) indicate the person needs to send them money to clear up a legal matter. At this time, they are not aware of any monetary loss to the public.

These phone calls are fraudulent in nature, and neither the Sheriff's Office nor their representatives will call citizens asking for money. The Rock County Sheriff's Office encourages the public to let their family and friends know about these scams. The callers have even set up voice-mail messages identifying themselves as Rock County Sheriff's Office personnel so when the person tries to return the call it appears to be real.

Anyone receiving calls of this nature are urged to report it to the Rock County Communications Center at 608-757-2244. People should always use caution and are reminded not to give personal information or pay monies via phone unless they can verify the source of origin.



# State's net migration soars to levels not seen in decades

## WISCONSIN POLICY FORUM

Net migration to Wisconsin has seen a marked increase since 2022, rising far above pre-pandemic levels. During the 12-month period that ended June 30, 2024, Wisconsin saw an estimated net gain of 22,146 residents through international migration, recently released U.S. Census Bureau estimates show.

That, coupled with a net gain of 6,332 residents through domestic migration, spurred an estimated net migration of 28,478 residents to Wisconsin during this period. These two sources accounted for the vast majority (93.2%) of Wisconsin's population growth during this period, estimated at 30,570 residents. The remainder came from natural population change, with births exceeding deaths by only slightly more than 2,000 residents.

Both forms of migration to Wisconsin – international, in which migrants arrive from abroad, and domestic, in which they arrive from another state – began to increase significantly during the 12-month period that ended June 30, 2022. (Unless otherwise noted, when a specific year is referenced in this brief, it means the 12-month period ending on June 30 of that year.) The Census Bureau estimates that migration remained at elevated levels during the following two years.

During the last three years for which data are available, Wisconsin's net migration levels were at their highest point since at least 2004, a Forum analysis shows. Each of the last three years, net migration to our state was at least 25,000 – more than twice the previous annual record during the last two decades. Recent changes at the federal level, however, might reduce future net migration nationally.

Demographic shifts appear likely to limit population growth in the coming years if birth rates continue to decline and as mortality rises among the Baby Boomer generation. With little net change in population expected from births and deaths, migration is likely to play an increasingly central role in Wisconsin's population trajectory.

Wisconsin's net migration increase is part of a national trend linked to a record influx of international migrants. The Census Bureau found that in the 12-month period that ended June 30, 2024, international migration resulted in a net population increase of 2.8 million residents

nationwide. This followed net international migration increases of 1.7 million in 2022 and 2.3 million in 2023. Notably, there is now some evidence that this national immigration surge has abated after peaking in calendar years 2022 and 2023.

This has translated to increased overall migration to all 50 states, including Wisconsin. Since July 2021, our state has seen a total population increase of 81,605 residents due to net migration. To put this in perspective, this tops the total amount of net migration Wisconsin saw during the preceding 18-year period from 2004 – the first year in our analysis – through 2021. Of the total net migration to Wisconsin since 2021, nearly three-fourths, or more than 60,000, came from international migration, Census estimates show.

The remainder, just over 21,000, came from domestic migration. This is also notable as it would appear to mark a significant increase from pre-pandemic years, when Census estimates showed Wisconsin experiencing domestic out-migration.

Wisconsin's recent net migration levels, on a per capita basis, place it roughly middle of the pack among the 50 states, a Forum analysis shows. Net migration figures are subject to volatility, so for our analysis, we calculated average annual rates of net migration for all 50 states for the most recent three years for which we have data, ending June 30, 2024. Wisconsin ranked 26th among the states for its average annual rate of per capita net migration during this period, at 45.9 per 10,000 residents.

In recent decades, the Midwest region has seen relatively low levels of net migration, particularly when compared to the South and West regions of the U.S. During this period, Wisconsin ranked second among the 12 Midwest states – and first among its neighboring states – in per capita rates of net migration.

We also compared this most recent period to the period immediately preceding the pandemic – the three years that ended June 30, 2019. Nearly all states, including Wisconsin, saw large increases in net migration. Our state saw total net migration of 32,522 from July 2016 through June 2019, compared to 81,605 during the most recent three-year period, a 151% increase.

The 12-state Midwest region

saw a whopping 21-fold increase in total net migration between these two periods, buoyed by particularly large increases in two of its three largest states, Illinois and Michigan. Notably, our western neighbor Minnesota was one of just six states nationwide – and the only one in the Midwest – to see a decline in net migration.

During the three pre-pandemic years, Minnesota was one of the Midwest's strongest net migration performers, as its per capita rate ranked second in the region. During the three post-pandemic years, by contrast, its net migration rate ranked 11th in the region.

Just 6.8% of Wisconsin's population growth in 2024 came from natural change, which is calculated as births minus deaths in a given geography during a given time period. This marks a major shift from nearly all pre-pandemic years during the period we analyzed – and likely going much farther back in time – when natural change accounted for the large majority of Wisconsin's population growth.

For most of state history, births predictably outnumbered deaths each year. This natural population growth added about 25,000 residents annually during the 2000s.

That number began to decline throughout the 2010s, but remained solidly in positive ter-

ritory, averaging around 10,000 annually by the end of that decade. But during the pandemic and post-pandemic era, it has plunged further, as births declined and deaths rose.

The impact was such that Wisconsin's natural change was net negative in 2021 and 2022 amid the devastating toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, mortality levels in Wisconsin and nationally have risen due to the advancing age of the Baby Boomer generation.

During the three-year period that ended on June 30 of last year, Wisconsin saw one of its largest influxes of new residents in recent history – almost certainly the largest since 2000. The available data make clear that this was largely a function of a nationwide increase in international migration.

These recent levels of immigration are a point of great contention in our nation's politics. Whatever one's views about them, these data make clear that the impact on our state's recent demographics has been significant.

This surge of immigration occurred under the Biden administration, and President Donald Trump campaigned on ending it. While it is not yet possible to know how successful his administration will be at accomplishing this, it seems likely that international migration to our state and nation will decline

from their recent high levels, potentially by a considerable amount.

Meanwhile, our state will continue to grapple with the reality of an aging population. Wisconsin's birth and death rate trends are on track to increase the likelihood that natural population change will become net negative in the near future.

Whether the state's population continues to grow, stagnates, or begins to decline could have major implications for its economy and quality of life. Employers already face significant worker shortages in key industries, including health care, education, agriculture, and construction. Some Wisconsin counties already have begun to grapple with a shrinking base of working-age residents supporting an expanding population of retired and elderly residents.

With two of the state's three sources of population growth – natural change and international migration – showing signs of vulnerability, Wisconsin and other states in similar positions may wish to double down on efforts to attract residents from other states and to retain those already here.

Expectations for increasing domestic migration to Wisconsin, especially via policy levers, should remain realistic. Factors such as weather and economic opportunity in the private sector are among the key drivers of

domestic migration and present challenges for Wisconsin and our neighboring states. Strategies also should vary locally, as some parts of the state anticipate solid population growth, while others may need to manage some degree of population decline.

Still, compared with international migration or natural change, domestic migration may be the area where state and local policymakers can have greater influence. In the past, the state has sought to entice residents of other states, primarily Illinois, through marketing campaigns. Additional strategies to consider may include measures to boost the supply and affordability of housing, attracting more out-of-state students to the Universities of Wisconsin, or tax or worker incentives. In particular, elected officials may wish to consider policies that are attractive to parents of young children since that could encourage both net migration and additional births among existing residents.

For nearly all of the period since Wisconsin's statehood, population growth was a given. Due to a convergence of demographic trends, we are entering an era in which it no longer can be taken for granted. Policymakers may wish to act with creativity and urgency to tackle this challenge, particularly at a time when state finances provide them the resources to do so.

## Parkview wrestlers make it to state

**PARKVIEW ALBANY**  
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190 - Rylan Aasen 4X  
185 - George Perkins 1X  
172+ - Bridget Meshirer 1X  
150+ - Hayden Finley 1X  
150 - Joesiah Scott 1X  
132 - Olivia Medearis 1X  
130 - Nolen Reberman 4X  
125 - Emerson Schmidt 3X  
125 - Alyzah Scott 1X  
110 - Casen Cavitt 2X  
105 - Vivian Aasen 1X  
105 - Sara French 1X  
105 - Callum Calvert 1X  
105 - Bryson Miller 2X  
95 - Holly Wollin 2X  
90 - Madison Hendrickson 1X  
84 - Sawyer Allen 1X  
82 - Tatem Constantini 4X  
82 - Brynlee Keck 1X  
80 - Louis Perkins 1X  
75 - Tucker Medearis 1X  
75 - Kallen Miller 1X  
70 - Rylee Huffman 2X

Alternates: Jackson Allen & Deacon Spooner

IMAGE SUBMITTED The Independent-Register

The Parkview Albany Youth Wrestling Club sent 24 youth wrestlers on to the WWF Kids Folkstyle State Championships in Madison. A total of 24 out of 35 youth wrestlers made the Regional Podium in Oregon, River Valley, Westby, and Burlington. Advancing out to State will be: 70# Rylee Huffman 2X, 75# Kallen Miller 1X, 75# Tucker Medearis 1X, 80# Louis Perkins 1X, 82# Tatem Constantini 4X, 82# Brynlee Keck 1X, 84# Sawyer Allen 1X, 90# Madison Hendrickson 1X, 95# Holly Wollin 2X, 105# Callum Calvert 1X, 105# Sara French 1X, 105# Vivian Aasen 1X, 105# Bryson Miller 2X, 110# Casen Cavitt 2X, 125# Emerson Schmidt 3X, 125# Alyzah Scott 1X, 130# Nolen Reberman 4X, 132# Olivia Medearis 1X, 150# Joesiah Scott 1X, 150+ # Hayden Finley 1X, 172+ # Bridget Meshirer 1X, 185# George Perkins 1X, 90# Rylan Aasen 4X, 270# Jimmy Merritt 5X.

## \$50,000 goal set for CROP Hunger Walk

A goal of \$50,000 has been set for this year's Janesville Area CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, April 27.

The 2024 walk raised about \$49,000 with more than \$12,000 going to ECHO, a Janesville-based group that helps provide temporary housing, food, and transportation to people in need. The remaining funds will help the efforts of Church World Service, a faith-based organization that fights hunger and poverty in communities around the world.

"The need is greater than ever right now," said Nick Gliha, CWS community engagement specialist who works with the Janesville walk's planning committee. "Recent government policy shifts and funding changes have left a massive gap in support that has severely impacted CWS programs and put vulnerable communities,

here and abroad, at risk.

"CROP Hunger Walks are at the center of CWS's work. They embody our shared values of faith, hope, and compassion. During these uncertain times, we need that now more than ever."

People who want to participate in the April 27 Janesville walk can sign up individually or as a team at [www.crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi).

For those that have any questions, please contact Kathy Holcombe, event coordinator, at 608-752-8117 or [crophungerwalk@charter.net](mailto:crophungerwalk@charter.net).

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# Janesville celebrates a decade of revitalization

This year marks a significant milestone for downtown Janesville as the community celebrates ten years of transformation under the ARISE Plan.

First approved by the Janesville City Council in 2015, the ARISE Plan outlined a long-term vision to revitalize downtown as a vibrant hub for residents, businesses, and visitors. Through a collaborative public-private partnership, the plan has guided major infrastructure improvements, new public spaces, attraction of new businesses, and fostering of art and culture.

Major supporters of this plan include the City of Janesville, Forward Janesville, Downtown Janesville, Inc., Downtown Janesville Business Improvement District (BID), Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (JACVB), Janesville Performing Arts Center (JPAC), Janesville Farmers Market Inc., and the Rock County Historical Society.

Over the past ten years, the ARISE Plan has introduced strategic enhancements, including Town Square, which has become home to community events in every season. Blackhawk Community Credit Union Festival Street, Cope Ryan and J.P. Cullen Memorial Pavilions, the beloved Bubbler, and the Blain Gilbertson Family Heritage Pedestrian Bridge spanning the Rock River have all contributed to a more welcoming community space.

Key infrastructure projects included two-way street conversions, streetscape enhancements, and the removal of the outdated parking deck over the river to reveal one of downtown's most unique assets. Bridge improvements have also enhanced accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

Public art has been a vital piece of the ARISE Plan, adding to the beauty and cultural heritage of the downtown area. Currently, there are more than 30 murals and sculptures throughout downtown, made possible by Art in Place Alliance and Art Infusion. Art in Place Alliance is a non-profit subset of

ARISENow focused on celebrating local history, instilling civic pride, and promoting contemplation through public art. Art Infusion is an annual art festival in September, organized largely by the JACVB with help from local committee members and donors.

The plan has also helped drive economic growth, with new businesses, façade improvements through the Downtown Janesville BID grant program, and increased foot traffic that helps support the downtown economy. The downtown area has become a premier event destination, hosting more than 1,000 community gatherings and events every year such as the Janesville Farmers Market, Jolly Jingle, Janesville Town Square Gran Prix, Art Infusion, and many more.

Downtown Janesville, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose goal is to activate downtown. One way is through major community events like Music at the Marv, Flannelfest, Night on Festival, and Wine Walks – all taking place in downtown public spaces and businesses.

Downtown Janesville continues to grow as a destination with 25 restaurants and bars, 45 unique shops and boutiques, and 12 event venues – each contributing to the area's economic vitality. These businesses continue to draw residents and visitors to dine, shop, and be entertained.

Looking ahead, ARISE momentum continues with major downtown projects such as the Children's Museum of Rock County, set to open in 2026, and the riverwalk extension connecting downtown to Traxler Park and Court Street to JPAC. The City continues to work with developers both small and large to bring affordable and market rate housing to downtown to increase nighttime population. Continued building restorations and business investments will ensure that downtown Janesville remains a vibrant destination as the heart of the community for years to come.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

For over 20 years, Shake Rag Alley has been dedicated to providing creative opportunities for artists of all ages. They are gearing up for summer programs.

## Youth program kicks off at Shake Rag Alley

Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts is gearing up for another exciting summer of creative fun as its Youth Program kicks off this June.

For over 20 years, Shake Rag Alley has been dedicated to providing creative opportunities for artists of all ages. The organization's children's classes began with an after-school arts and crafts program and thanks in part to generous support from the United Fund of Iowa County, Mineral Point Community Chest, and other local partners, continues to inspire and engage young people with new skills and creative experiences each summer.

This year's summer programming will begin on June 9 with Cork and Twig Birdhouse. Other workshops throughout the summer include these classes: Pink Eraser Block Printing, Tinker Lab, Youth Blacksmithing, Let's Make Mosaics, Cementals, Finger Knitting and Arm Knitting, Soap Carving, Steampunk Owls, and more.

Additionally, the summer line-up will feature three five-day camps. Craft Camp: Birdie Bonanza will take place June 23 to 27. Throughout this week, students will make birdhouses, feeders, and a variety of bird-related crafts

while learning about feathered friends. This camp also creates costumes for the Mineral Point 4th of July parade. From July 14 to 18 tweens and teens can register for Finding Your Unique Story, an incredible experience of reflection and storytelling with Jeremy Payne. This storytelling adventure and creative expression workshop series will enhance connections, expand presence, and increase inner joy.

The annual Free Arts Camp returns with a dinosaur theme. From July 21 to 25, students will enjoy a week of dinosaur-themed arts and crafts projects. Students can practice their T-Rex roars on Alley Stage, use science in artwork, and hunt for fossils.

New this year is Teen Glassblowing. Students will take hot glass starting at 2,000 degrees with a consistency of honey, add color, and make it into a unique glass object. To register for workshops, see shakeragalley.org/youth-program, or call the office at 608-987-3292. To donate in support of the Youth Program, see shakeragalley.org/support/, and reach out for more information about scholarships.

### Events and workshops

- Volunteer Make a Fairy House Day on April 5: Drop in from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to make homes fit for fairies that will be featured throughout the 2.5-acre Shake Rag Alley campus during the annual Tour of Fairy Homes on June

- 7. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. All sorts of natural materials and tools will be provided, but attendees are welcome to bring goodies to add to the stash. This free workshop is great fun for artists of all ages.

- Spring Garage Sale from April 11 to 12: Shake Rag Alley wants garage sale donations, such as furniture, kitchenware, art, supplies, and eclectic items. All proceeds directly benefit the arts and craft programming and operating expenses. For those that would like to volunteer for set-up and staffing during the sale, contact the office at 608-987-3292. Volunteers earn 15% off workshop tuition after just 10 hours. The annual Spring Garage Sale runs in conjunction with Mineral Point City-wide Sales on Friday, April 11, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, April 12, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Jewelry Boot Camp from May 2 to 4: At this year's Jewelry Boot Camp, choose from 11 different workshops with 9 different jewelry artists all in one weekend. Workshops are selling out fast so they have added a Sunday Jewelry Lab. And there's still space in Intro to Silver Metal Clay, Messy Memory Wire Bracelet, Broken China Pendants, Embossed Enameling, and Fused Loop Earrings. This lovely weekend is just in time for Mother's Day, and the perfect way to kick off a summer of creativity.

- Mining Our Stories Writing Retreat from May 16 to 18: Join in for the ninth annual Writing Retreat at Shake Rag Alley, open to writers of all levels. They will kick off the weekend with a visit from Kao Kalia Yang reading from *The Latehomecoming: A Hmong Family Memoir*. Explore storytelling, fiction, memoir, flash, poetry, and small press publishing with retreat faculty Sheree L. Greer, Raki Kopernik, C. Kubasta, Rebecca Jamieson, and Kristin Mitchell, with immersive workshops, manuscript consultations, and engaging talks. This weekend of writing in community will challenge attendees to explore new forms, deepen their writing practice, and are led by award-winning published authors and active, experienced teachers of writing.

A non-profit school of arts and crafts founded in 2004 by local artists and community members, Shake Rag Alley's 2.5-acre campus at 18 Shake Rag St. in Mineral Point is a national destination for participants of adult workshops, a robust summer youth program and a host of annual special events. In addition, Shake Rag offers on-site lodging and custom facility rentals for meetings, events and celebrations. For additional information about Shake Rag Alley's workshops and events, or to request a catalog and information about facility rentals and volunteer opportunities, see [www.ShakeRagAlley.org](http://www.ShakeRagAlley.org) or call 608-987-3292.

### LIVE AUCTION

## VALLEY AUTO CARE RETIREMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 • 9:30 A.M.

5999 N. COX RD., STILLMAN VALLEY, IL

PREVIEW: FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

### COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SHOP LIQUIDATION!

#### THIS IS A VERY PARTIAL LISTING!

ITEMS INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO: (6) 2 post automotive lifts, 4 post automotive lift/alignment rack, numerous SnapOn tool boxes (most like new or new), HUGE like new SnapOn tool wagon, SnapOn Zeus+ diagnostic center, NEW SnapOn wire welder, NEW SnapOn parts washer, SnapOn transmission flushing system, numerous SnapOn wrench sets, specialty tools alignment machines, SnapOn tire changer, SnapOn balancer, SnapOn puller sets, air hose reels, automotive parts, SnapOn advertising pieces, signs, displays, antiques, oil cans, cash registers, Polar cool air conditioners, sandblasters, pressure washers, parts washers, creepers, jacks, portable lifts, 2008 Harley Davidson, 2002 Mustang convertible, tow dolly, antique cars and parts, enclosed semi trailer, 150cc scooter, 40' storage container, and much, much more.

This will be a great auction with something for everyone. Mostly all SnapOn or Matco tools.

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** There will be a very small online bidding catalog. Check [www.KitsonAuctions.com](http://www.KitsonAuctions.com) for more information.

## 2nd Annual Spring Classics Auction

Date: April 11, 2025 – Time: 9:00 AM – ONSITE & ONLINE INDOOR AUCTION

Location: 110 E Murray Street Browntown, WI 53522

### Featuring Classic Cars, Trucks, Tractors, Motorcycles, & More!



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# Learning about the sounds of farm animals



The preschool story time at Albertson Memorial Library had a noisy time this week, making farm animal sounds to go with the book titled **Book! Book! Moo Dog** was another favorite story. Who knew a dog could moo? The youngsters then went around the room making farm animal sounds using a chanting cadence. Finally, a pig in a Ziploc with pink paint and a mess-free paint project, suitable for the 18 story time participants. Next is the beginning of "April Showers." The children will read stories about rain, and even create rain in a jar. There will be a project involving the kids' names in raindrops, even. And splashing in mud puddles, hopping from one to another. Preschool story time meets every week on Tuesday at 10 a.m.

PHOTOS COURTESY LAURA ROTH Rock Valley Publishing



## • Rotary (Continued from front page)

clean energy initiatives and sustainability education. They also thank Bin There Dump That for their sponsorship and commitment to environmental responsibility.

The event will be held at Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville. This event is open to all

ages. Visitors are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles and eco-friendly shopping bags to support sustainability efforts.

Rotary Botanical Gardens is a 20-acre non-profit botanical garden featuring unique garden styles and over 4,000 plant varieties. Located in Janes-

ville, the Gardens provide a serene and inspiring space for visitors to connect with nature, engage in educational programs, and support conservation efforts. The Gardens rely on community support, donations, and events Earth Day to continue their mission of horticultural excellence.

## Step into nature with morning walking club

Rotary Botanical Gardens is excited to introduce the Morning Walking Club: Step Into Nature, a new wellness initiative designed to encourage physical activity, mindfulness, and community engagement in a peaceful outdoor setting. Participants can enjoy a self-paced walk through 20 acres of beautifully maintained gardens, offering an opportunity to stay active while experiencing the changing landscapes throughout the seasons.

This program is open to all fitness levels and is ideal for individuals looking to embrace a healthy start to the day through movement and time in nature. The program will be held at the Rotary Botanical Gardens at 1455 Palmer Drive in Janesville. The dates will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – except on major holidays when the Gardens are closed – be-

ginning April 2 through October 31, from 9 to 10 a.m.

The cost is free for Rotary Botanical Gardens members. Non-members pay the daily admission rate.

No advance registration is required; check in at the entrance before beginning the walk. Track steps/miles to be entered for drawings. There are free maps to plan a walking path.

For more information: check out the Facebook event online at [www.facebook.com/share/1MjVdhL6wh/](http://www.facebook.com/share/1MjVdhL6wh/) or the website for more details

at [rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events](http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events).

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## Stateline Consignment Auction

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**APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 AM - 101 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522**

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## Baldwin presses USDA to reverse canceled local food purchases

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and a group of her colleagues are demanding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) immediately reverse the cancellation of local food purchase programs that allow states, territories, and Tribes, including Wisconsin, to purchase food from Wisconsin farmers to be used by local emergency food providers, schools, and childcare centers. Specifically, Baldwin is calling on the administration to reverse course on the cancellation of the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS). Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers announced earlier in March that the Trump Administration had reneged on contracts with the state that

support Wisconsin farmers and food banks through the LFPA program.

"We ask that you reverse the cancellation," wrote Baldwin and the lawmakers in a letter to USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins. "We have grave concerns that the cancellation ... poses extreme harm to producers and communities in every state across the country. At a time of uncertainty in farm country, farmers need every opportunity to be able to expand market access for their products."

In their letter, the lawmakers warned of the harmful impacts this move by the Trump Administration will have on American farmers and families. According to Governor Evers' Office, as of the end of 2024, nearly 300 Wisconsin farmers had participated in the Wisconsin LFPA Pro-

gram, which distributed more than \$4 million in food and served all 72 of Wisconsin's counties. More than half of the participating farmers – 55 percent – were new or beginning farmers. The program was set to enter its third year in just a few weeks based on Wisconsin's contractual agreement with the federal government. USDA also told school nutritionists that it would end a companion program that connects farmers with local schools. The loss of the two programs is estimated to cut off farmers nationwide from more than \$1 billion in support and would cut Wisconsin's promised funding by nearly \$6 million.

The letter was led by Senators Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.) and Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and co-signed by 29 other Senate colleagues.

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**NOTE:** Moyer's Inc. is holding an online equipment & fleet reduction auction of their underutilized items for efficiency's sake & to make room for replacements. All equipment is well maintained & has been recently used in their business. For complete catalog & photos, log on to [www.georgeauction.com](http://www.georgeauction.com). First lots start closing at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 10.

**VIEWING:** April 5-10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**PICKUP/PAYMENT:** Friday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Loading available.

**TERMS:** No buyer's fee. Cashier's check, cash or wire transfer. 4% courtesy charge for purchases using credit card. All sales final.

Reg. WI Auctioneers: Dean George #486 (cell 608-751-5703), Kale George #2811 (608-882-6123)

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# DNR: Be careful burning brush this spring

WISCONSIN DNR  
Spring wildfire season is officially upon us. If your spring cleanup plans involve fire, make sure you check the fire conditions before conducting any outdoor burning activities.  
Debris burning continues to be the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin, which usually takes the form of brush burning or leaf piles this time of year.

Burning permits are required in DNR Protection Areas anytime the ground is not completely snow-covered – which could be now, depending on where you live.  
Permit holders are authorized to burn vegetative materials such as leaves, brush and needles. The permits are designed to ensure residents burn safely with minimal wildfire risk. They are free

and can be obtained through an online application or by calling 1-888-WIS-BURN.  
Some areas of the state are not regulated by the DNR so it's important to check with local municipal or fire department officials for any ordinances or other burning restrictions.  
Head to WisBurn to see the current fire situation in your community, including any burning restrictions.

PHOTO SUBMITTED *Rock Valley Publishing*

**Don't spark a wildfire during spring cleanup this year. Be mindful of fire conditions and obtain the proper permits before starting a burn.**

## Wood duck wins again

In sports, it's what causes franchises to become dynasties. It's something that only teams that defy the odds by continuing to perform at the highest levels year after year can achieve.  
It's the vaunted two-peat.  
For the now back-to-back winner of the DNR's Marsh Madness bracket on Instagram, this feat has officially cemented the wood duck in the annals of the animal kingdom. In the second year of this annual competition, this vibrant marsh dweller has once again won the week-long contest to claim the hearts of the public and knock out all competition.

Wood ducks are common in Wisconsin's marshes, ponds, flooded timber and creeks. In fact, during the DNR's 2024 spring waterfowl surveys, biologists estimated that there were nearly 100,000 of these championship-winning birds in the state.  
These colorful waterfowl captivate outdoor recreators and birding enthusiasts alike with their bright breeding plumage. If you want to see one in the wild, look for locations with wood duck boxes or visit a marsh near you.

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## Volunteers needed

We're looking for volunteers for the annual Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey to help document frog and toad breeding calls throughout the state this spring and summer.

Formally launched in 1984, this project is the longest-running community-based frog calling survey in North America. This survey helps the DNR follow trends in Wisconsin frog and toad populations, and over the years, volunteers have helped DNR conservation biologists better define the distribution, status and population trends of all 12 the state's frog and toad species.

Since the survey began, volunteers have collectively spent more than 10,500 nights surveying 103,400 sites across the state. These efforts have helped document increasing trends for American bullfrogs and Blanchard's cricket frogs and are also contributing substantial knowledge into the unique calling patterns and distribution of mink frogs throughout the Northwoods.

Survey dates vary, and some depend on the changing seasons. Find more information on how to get involved in a survey on our website.

## Gear up for fishing

The spring walleye run is right around the corner, and the opening of the general inland fishing season is about a month away.

That means that now is the perfect time to gear up and get ready for spring fishing. Buy your license online through Go Wild or in person at a license agent near you.

If you're trying to target a new species or area of the state, plan ahead using our Find A Lake webpage. It allows you to find fishing opportunities based on location, waterbody type, boat access and the fish species present.

It also includes maps with information on additional amenities like public restrooms, picnic areas and family-friendly shore fishing sites.

# LEGAL NOTICES

## NOTICE OF JOINT REVIEW BOARD MEETING

CITY OF BRODHEAD, WISCONSIN

Notice is Hereby Given that the City of Brodhead will hold a Joint Review Board meeting on April 7, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

The meeting will be held at the Brodhead City Hall, located at 1111 W 2nd Ave and via Go To Meeting.

<https://meet.goto.com/734839093>

You can also dial in using your phone.  
Access Code: 734-839-093  
United States: +1 (408) 650-3123  
One-touch: tel:+14086503123,,734839093#

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Approval of the resolution adopted by the Brodhead Council creating Tax Incremental District No. 9.

- Review a Cash Flow Analysis showing that Tax Incremental District No. 6 cannot repay project costs within its maximum life, in order to allow for additional time to pay incurred project costs, and consider approval by resolution; Wisconsin State Statutes 66.1105(7)(am)1, 2, 3 ("Standard 3 Year Extension").

- Review a Cash Flow Analysis showing that the Tax Incremental District No. 6 increment was negatively impacted, in order to allow for additional time to pay incurred project costs for TIDs affected by 2013 Act 145, and consider approval by resolution; Wisconsin State Statutes 66.1105(7)(am)4 ("Technical College 3 Year Extension").

- Review the annual reports and the performance and status of each Tax Incremental District governed by the Joint Review Board as required by Wis. Stat. § 66.1105(4m)(f).

By Order of the City of Brodhead, Wisconsin

The Independent Register  
4/2/2025  
WNAXLP 469773

## AGENDA

**BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**  
**2501 WEST 5TH AVENUE, BRODHEAD, WI**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**  
I. REVIEW BILLS  
II. REVIEW BUDGET UPDATE  
III. ADJOURN

The Independent Register  
4/2/2025  
WNAXLP 469993

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
GREEN COUNTY

Blackhawk Community Credit Union Plaintiff,  
v.  
John Chapman XYZ Unknown Defendant, Defendants.

Case No. 25CV39  
Code No. 30301

## PUBLICATION 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 for the legal action.

Within 40 days after March 26, 2025, of 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 is Clerk of Circuit Court, Green County Courthouse, 2841 6th St, Monroe, WI 53566, and to Plaintiff's attorney, whose mailing address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-1473. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper Answer within 40 days after March 26, 2025, 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 may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.  
Dated this 18th day of March 2025.

Bates Legal Group, LLC,  
Attorney for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Attorney Justin J. Bates  
Justin J. Bates  
State Bar No. 1066128

PO Box 1473  
Wausau, WI 54402-1473  
(715) 843-5599

The Independent Register  
3/26, 4/2, 4/9/2025  
WNAXLP 469535

## AGENDA BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**  
**DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM**  
**2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI**  
**7:00 P.M.**

*This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the Agenda.*

**JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET:**  
<https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-thn>  
**JOIN BY TELEPHONE:**  
**+1 727-325-2066**  
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I. CALL TO ORDER  
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
III. ROLL CALL  
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
V. INFORMATION REPORTS  
VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

## AGENDA

VII. CONSENT AGENDA  
1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
2. APPROVAL OF BILLS  
3. ACCEPT DONATION(S)  
4. RESIGNATION(S)  
5. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)  
6. VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)  
VIII. ACT 20 PRESENTATION – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## IX. REPORT ON ELECTION RESULTS

X. REFERENDUM UPDATE  
XI. APPROVAL OF STUDENT HANDBOOKS

XII. CONSIDERATION TO MAKE FRIDAY, JUNE 6 A NON-STUDENT DAY

XIII. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT HEALTH PLAN

XIV. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE BUILDING AND GROUNDS PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

XV. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE 34.1 POLICY UPDATES  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/wil/brodhead/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=D2NHQG49005B>

XVI. CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET CUTS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

XVII. FUTURE AGENDA  
XVIII. ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WIS. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(e)(f)

a. Teacher Negotiations  
b. Support Staff Negotiations  
c. Administrator Negotiations  
d. Staffing Considerations  
e. Bus Contract

XIX. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS  
XX. ADJOURNMENT

Persons needing special accommodations should call (608) 897-2141 at least twenty-four [24] hours prior to the meeting.

The Independent Register  
4/2/2025  
WNAXLP 469994

## ZONING AND PLANNING MEETING

**Town of Avon**  
**Avon Town Hall**  
**16513 W Beloit Newark Road, Brodhead, WI 53520**

**April 15th, 2025 at 6:15 p.m.**

The Zoning and Planning Board for the Town of Avon will be meeting on April 15th at 6:15 p.m. to hear and review the Conditional Use Application submitted by John Haile to construct a mobile service support structure at 15334 State Road 81, Brodhead, WI 53520.

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  
4/2, 4/9/2025  
WNAXLP 470008

## TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY

**Annual Meeting of the Electors**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2025**  
**at 6 PM**  
Orfordville Fire District Meeting Room  
173 N. Wright St., Orfordville, WI

## AGENDA

1. Call to order  
2. 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes  
3. 2024 Financial Report  
4. Old business  
A. Historical Society  
5. New business  
A. Set date for 2026 Annual Meeting (4-21-26)  
B. Other items interest to electors

6. Adjournment  
2nd Saturday of the month  
Rock Co. Public Works Bldg.  
Hwy 213  
Orfordville 9am-noon.  
[www.townofspringvalley.com](http://www.townofspringvalley.com)

The Independent Register  
4/2, 4/9/2025  
WNAXLP 469637

## PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE ORFORDVILLE MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY

The Orfordville Municipal Water Utility (Utility) has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) to change its method of cost recovery for providing public fire protection (PFP) service. The Utility currently collects an annual amount of \$143,168 for providing PFP to the Village of Orfordville (Village). This cost covers the additional storage, pumping, and distribution required to provide the high flows and pressures needed to fight fires. Currently, the Village collects a municipal PFP charge of \$143,168 from property taxes and pays this charge to the Utility. The Village has requested Commission authorization to allow \$71,584 or 50.00 percent of the total PFP cost be collected directly from water customers and the remaining \$71,584 or 50.00 percent be collected as a municipal PFP charge. The resulting direct charges to each water customer are based on the equivalent meters method, in accordance with Wis. Stat. Sec. 196.03(3)(b), which reads as follows:

196.03(3)(b). Unless the governing body of the city, village or town adopts a resolution providing that the city, village or town will pay the retail charges for the production, storage, transmission, sale and delivery or furnishing of water for public fire protection purposes that are not included in general service charges:

1. A public utility shall include the charges in the water utility bill of each customer of the public utility in the city, village or town.

2. A municipal utility may, in addition to including the charges in water utility bills under subd. 1., bill the charges to any person who meets all of the following conditions:

a. The person is not a customer of the municipal utility  
b. The person owns land that is located in the city, village or town and in an area in which the municipal utility has an obligation to provide water for public fire protection. If the person owns 2 or more parcels that are adjacent to each other or divided only by a roadway or brook, creek, river, or stream, the municipality may bill the person for only one parcel.

This change in billing for PFP will allow for the collection of PFP charges from property owners who are not subject to property taxes. The Utility does not intend to charge non-general service customers as defined in subd. 2. above.

If the request is granted, the water bill for an average residential customer with a 5/8-inch or 3/4-inch meter who uses 10,000 gallons of water per quarter will increase from \$115.20 to \$139.14, or 20.78 percent, including the PFP charge.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. This hearing has no physical location. Parties and Commission staff appear by Zoom. Parties and Commission staff may use the telephone connection as a backup or if no practicable internet connection exists. Members of the public attend by Zoom or by audio-only telephone connection.

Join Zoom over the internet at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/pscheearings>

To join Zoom telephone:  
1. Dial: +1 312 626 6799  
2. Enter: 809 513 2930 # (Meeting ID)

The Commission intends to livestream and record this hearing on YouTube. To access the livestream, go to the Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click the dropdown menu labeled "News & Events", select the item labeled "Commission Calendar", navigate to the hearing for docket number 4450-PFP-100, and select the "Stream Video" link that appears under "Observe".

A person may testify in this proceeding without becoming a party and without attorney representation. A person may submit this testimony in only one of the following ways:

- Web Comment.** File a comment on the internet. Go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, and click the dropdown menu labeled "Commission Action". Select the item labeled "File a Public Comment". On the next page select the "File a comment" link that appears for docket number 4450-PFP-100. Web comments shall be received no later than Thursday, April 17, 2025.

- Live Comment.** Make a live comment at the hearing. The ALJ may receive live comments from any member of the public in attendance after the close of any party and Commission staff testimony. The ALJ will receive such comments by stating the name of each member of the public connected to the hearing one at a time and asking if they would like to comment.

- Mail Comment.** Send a comment by U.S. Mail. All comments submitted by U.S. Mail shall be received no later than Thursday, April 17, 2025 and shall be addressed to: Attn: Docket 4450-PFP-100 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854.

To access the documents, schedule, and other information about this docket, go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, select the dropdown menu labeled "eServices". Select the item labeled "Docket Search (CMS)". On the next page enter 4450-PFP-100 in the spaces labeled "Case #" and select "Search".

If you have any questions, please contact the Utility at (608) 879-2004.

The Independent Register  
3/26, 4/2/2025  
WNAXLP 469494



# Classifieds

AD DEADLINE:  
Friday  
at 4 pm

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

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## help wanted

### DATA ENTRY CLERK

This individual will be inputting information from a variety of sources into documents as well as performing other clerical functions in our Creative Department. The 20-25 hour/week flexible position is available now. The successful Data Entry Clerk applicant will possess the following:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Data entry experience
- Knowledge of correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Ability to be detail-oriented while working under a deadline
- Good communication skills

**Knowledge of Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word, Excel, and/or Filemaker Pro is a plus**  
**Daytime hours (M,T,W,F) in our Delavan office**  
**No nights or weekends**

Please send a resume, questions or to request an interview time to Heidi Schulz at:

hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com



467200

### EVANSVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Position:** Housing Specialist

**Job type:** Permanent part-time, 20 hours per week

**Benefits:** Pro-rated vacation, paid holidays and, if applicable, mileage reimbursement for driving to/from inspections

**General Description:** This position assists with the implementation of the federally funded Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program and multi-family housing program (South Meadow Apartments).

**The ideal candidate will:**

- have excellent communication skills
- work well with a diverse population
- possess strong organizational skills
- possess strong computer skills
- possess problem solving skills
- have the ability to sit, stand, walk and climb

Interested candidate must submit by email resume and cover letter to: director@evansvilleha.com by April 8.

Equal Opportunity Employer

469579

## real estate

### Other Real Estate

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



## business & service

### Auctions

#### April All-Must-Go Auction

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13  
Starts at 10 am CT

Preview noon-5 pm on Friday, April 11

Live in Union, Illinois & Online at  
**DonleyAuctions.com**

Call Randy Donley to Consign at 815-790-9435  
or Email Photos to Consign@DonleyAuctions.com

469908

### Home Improvement

**HANDYMAN-HONEY-DO-LIST** Tree/shrub trimming, Painting, Power Washing. 608-897-2410. JACK OF ALL TRADES.US

### Misc Services

**CONSUMER CELLULAR** - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-518-2155

**PREPARE FOR POWER** outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-355-6955 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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Call 608-897-2193

Independent-Register

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422794

## for sale

### Announcements

**CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.**

**DISCLAIMER NOTICE** This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

### 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.

### Misc. For Sale

**DONATE YOUR CAR,** truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-425-2108 today!

### Agriculture

**DEER HUNTING LEASE** Three deer hunters looking to lease property for Archery deer hunting. Call Bob 630-306-7454.

### Auction Deadline is Noon Friday!

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

## transportation

### Automobiles

**2001 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE** Blk on Brn, 90K miles, new tires, new brakes, mechanically sound throughout, minor scratches on body, leather seats, V-6 engine, premium sound system and ice-cold A/C and hot heat. \$6000. call 262-496-5739.

**2010 CADILLAC DTS** Mint condition inside & out. No issues, just turned 140,000 miles. Asking \$6,800. 262-742-4333.

**2012 HONDA CIVIC** 5 spd manual trans, A/C, Cruise, roof rack, hitch, 125K. \$6,000 OBO No Dealers! Text to inquire 920-723-2148.

**2016 VW PASSAT SE** Excellent cond, inside & out, no rust, remote start, tinted windows, newer Michelin tires. 2nd owner. Well maintained. Dave @ 262-325-2457.

### Boats

**2003 ALUMACRAFT 175 TROPHY W/ Trailer.** 90 HP, 9.9HP & equip. 815-389-2480.

### Campers and RVs

**2016 FLEETWOOD TERRA 34B MOTOR HOME** 35' 27,000 Miles 3 Slideouts 2 New WI-FI TV's 5.5k Generator. \$79,000 262-206-4164.

**2021 JAYCO JAYFLIGHT SLX** 264 Bunk house. In new condition. Loaded. NO SLIDE. Price to sell \$18,500. Call 815-494-8309

### Motorcycles

**1994 350 SUZUKI CLIMBER** Asking \$1300. Call/text (262) 210-3147

### Trucks & Trailers

**1955 CHEVY PICK UP** Peacock Blue, dry, New Mexico truck. Runs great. Stored in my heated Elkhorn garage. \$19,975. (262) 949-6997.

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Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com

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444841

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## The Wheel Deal

Place your car, truck, motorcycle, boat or RV for one price and it runs for up to 16 weeks.

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1<sup>st</sup> three lines

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17 Papers

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422785



## Spreitzer meets with a constituent about suicide prevention



PHOTO COURTESY SEN. MARK SPREITZER *Rock Valley Publishing*

On March 11, Sen. Mark Spreitzer had the pleasure of meeting with a constituent, Catherine Smith, who represents the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Wisconsin Chapter. Catherine was also crowned Miss Rock River Valley 2025 in January. During the meeting they discussed important funding proposals related to suicide prevention infrastructure and programming outlined in Governor Tony Evers's 2025-2027 state budget proposal. These proposals include initiatives for school mental health and firearm-related suicide prevention. They also discussed the critical need for sustained funding for the Wisconsin 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. As call volumes continue to rise, ensuring that trained professionals are available to provide immediate support is essential. For those that need to talk to someone, or have thoughts of harming themselves, please call 988.

# Conference touts the rights of crime victims

A two-day virtual event bringing together criminal justice professionals, victims' rights attorneys, and victim advocates will focus on advancing and enforcing crime victims' rights across the state.

Marsy's Law for Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Justice will host the 2025 Wisconsin Crime Victims' Rights Conference this week. The free virtual event is scheduled for April 3 to 4. It will feature a diverse group of presenters that will focus on efforts to improve the implementation, enforcement, and accessibility of crime victims' rights throughout the state.

The conference will be held shortly before the fifth anniversary of the ratification of Wisconsin's crime victims' rights constitutional amendment, commonly known as Marsy's Law. The conference will also serve as the kick-off event for Wisconsin's recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), which begins Sunday, April 6.

"This conference brings together folks who work to protect victims' rights and will include presentations and discussions about important topics," said Attorney General Josh Kaul. "With the reduction in federal funding, we're at a critical juncture for victim services in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Justice is proud to support this vital work."

This year's conference will feature a panel discussion on the impact of Marsy's Law on

victims and the criminal justice system over the last five years. The panel will include Milwaukee County Deputy District Attorney Matthew Torbenson, Dane County Circuit Court Judge John Hyland, Executive Director of the Dane County Rape Crisis Center Dana Pellebon, and Crime Victims Rights Board Operations Director and Policy Initiatives Advisor Anne Kessenich.

Other speakers at the conference include:

- Attorney General Josh Kaul
- Renee Williams, Chief Executive Officer of the National Center for Victims of Crime
- David Adams, Co-Founder of Parnall and Adams Law, LLC, a firm dedicated to civil rights, wrongful death investigations, and various matters related to tribal law, including the investigation of neglected cases involving Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)
- Irvin Waller, prize-winning author, professor, and champion of victim's rights, collaborative policing, and violence prevention

The virtual conference is open to stakeholders throughout and beyond the criminal justice system, including victims' rights attorneys, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, community-based advocates, victim-witness professionals, and survivors. Those interested in attending the 2025 Wisconsin Crime Victims' Rights Conference

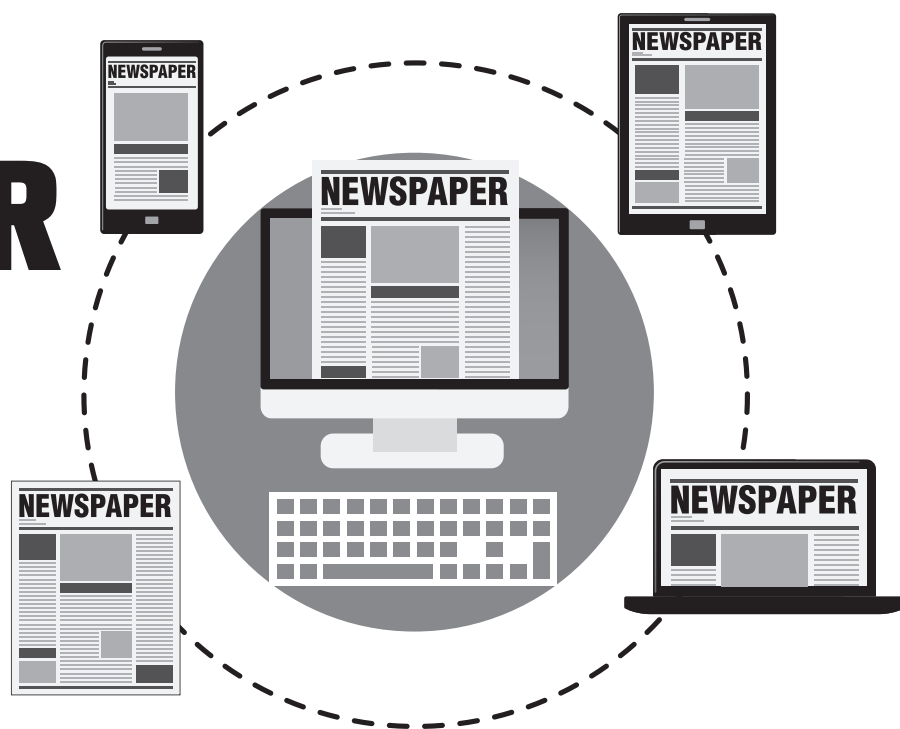
can register at <https://whova.com/portal/registration/PykmhyhZNR0rbJTHh18r/>.

"The annual Wisconsin Crime Victims' Rights Conference is an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to share knowledge, collaborate on new strategies, and develop a unified effort that supports victims of crime in Wisconsin," said Marsy's Law for Wisconsin Director Nela Kapic.

Marsy's Law for Wisconsin is a grassroots coalition that championed a unique proposal to give victims of crime equal rights in this state, building on Wisconsin's laws and history of leading on this issue. The crime victims' rights state constitutional amendment, also known as Marsy's Law for Wisconsin, was ratified during the April 7, 2020, election with an overwhelming 75 percent of voters in support. Marsy's Law is named after Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas of California who was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. Only one week after her death, Marsy's mother and brother, Henry T. Nicholas, walked into a grocery store where they were confronted by the accused murderer. The family, who had just come from a visit to Marsy's grave, was unaware that the accused had been released on bail. In an effort to honor his sister, Dr. Nicholas has made it his life's mission to give victims and their families constitutional protections and equal rights.

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