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RCSO 18th Annual Awards Ceremony held April 9

The 18th Annual Rock County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony was held on April 9 at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center in the Beckman Mill Room, located at 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville. This event is open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

This ceremony recognized Sheriff's Office staff and a citizen for outstanding public safety achievements in the past year.

Deputy of the Year: Deputy Zachary Anacker

Zachary Anacker started at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 23, 2015, as a deputy sheriff. He previously served as a police officer for the City of Milton Police Department and the City of Evansville Police Department. He completed a 520-hour Law Enforcement Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on Nov. 18, 2011. He worked in the Patrol Bureau and the Special Investigations Unit before receiving his current assignment in the Bureau of Identification as an Evidence Custodian in April 2023. In this capacity, he conducts crime scene investigations for complicated, large, or otherwise unusual incidents. He acts as a trained Evidence Technician locating, documenting, collecting, processing, and preserving evidence. Deputy Anacker serves on the Crash Reconstruction Team and the Peer Support Team and mentors the police cadets. He became certified as a General Law Enforcement Instructor through the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board in 2024 and obtained part-time employment as a Law Enforcement Academy Instructor at Blackhawk Technical College. Deputy Anacker resides in Janesville with his family. He graduated from George S. Parker High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla.

Deputy Anacker's supervisor nominated him for consistently exhibiting dedication to the agency and community. His supervisor described him as a well-rounded deputy with numerous areas of expertise. While working in the Patrol Bureau, Deputy Anacker re-

ceived a Lifesaving Award for reviving a subject ejected from a traffic crash with chest compressions in 2018 and a Unit Citation for taking a proactive approach towards fraud prevention in 2021. He earned a Commendation from Representative Bryan Steil in 2022 for his participation in a roundtable discussion on the dangers of Fentanyl. He received a second Unit Citation in 2023 for the effectiveness of the Special Investigations Unit. Deputy Anacker instructs In-Service Training as requested, including drug interdiction, investigative techniques, and evidence practices. Deputy Anacker participated in crime scene investigation, evidence collection, and evidentiary follow-through efforts for several major incidents in the recent past. Deputy Anacker assumed a lead role in several aspects of the Bureau of Identification's preparations for migrating evidence and property, storage, organization, equipment, and operations to the new Law Enforcement Services building. Deputy Anacker conducted case research to properly dispose of approximately 4,000 evidence and property items from 2023 until June 2024. Ultimately, approximately 10,000 pieces of evidence and property were successfully moved to the new building. Deputy Anacker led efforts with the Evidence Ambassador Committee to redo the Evidence Submission Handbook for Patrol Bureau personnel. In 2024, Deputy Anacker provided two school presentations, hosted a Drug Take Back event, and assisted with the donation of unclaimed abandoned bicycles to those in need. His supervisor praised his commitment in responding to incidents and picking up shifts outside of his regular work hours. Deputy Anacker regularly goes above-and-beyond the normal call-of-duty making personal sacrifices and continued contributions to the agency and community.

Correctional Officer of the Year: Correctional Officer Lingao Khang

Lingao Khang began employment at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on May 31, 2022, as a



See AWARDS, Page 12

Early season field day discusses innovations



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

On April 10, Farmers on the Rock, UW-Extension, and local producers met at the Rock County Farm for their early season field day. They discussed trials of hybrid rye, winter barley, and cover crops – innovations that help protect soil and water while boosting farm productivity. Cover crops and small grains are key components in efforts to build resilient agricultural systems that benefit both farmers and the environment. The Rock County Farm is on the north side of Janesville along Hwy. 14.

Phillips honored as Educator of the Year

Greg Phillips, Dean of Manufacturing, Apprenticeship, Training and Technology (MATT) at Blackhawk Technical College, was recognized as Educator of the Year at the Forward Janesville Annual Luncheon on April 9.

This honor, which is given to an individual or group who has actively encouraged partnerships between the business and education communities, comes on the heels of another major recognition for Phillips, who was inducted into the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Hall of Fame at the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Biennial Apprenticeship Conference held in February.

"It takes invested individuals to build a strong community. I thank you all for your support, your opportunities and partner-

ships and the privilege to be involved in the ongoing economic and educational development of the Janesville community. Without all of you, I don't get this award," Phillips said at the luncheon on April 9.

After graduating from Parker High School, Phillips joined the Marine Corps, where he trained in diesel and gasoline engine troubleshooting and repair. Afterward, he worked as a maintenance technician at Simmons Bedding Company before transitioning into education as a construction electrical apprentice instructor at Blackhawk Technical College in 2010. In 2020, Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk, appointed Phillips as the Dean of the MATT Division.

Throughout his career, Phillips has been a key architect

of vital partnerships between industry, community, and K-12 institutions, ensuring the alignment of training programs and educational resources essential for workforce development in Rock and Green counties. His work has been foundational in creating pathways to success for students and addressing the ongoing needs of employers in the region.

Phillips, who plans to retire in June, was also named the Milton Area Chamber of Commerce's Educator of the Year in March 2024.

"Greg's dedication to workforce education and community partnership has been nothing short of transformative. His impact will be felt long after his retirement, and this recognition is a testament to his incredible legacy," Pierner said.



PHOTO COURTESY BLACKHAWK

TECHNICAL COLLEGE Rock Valley Publishing

On April 9, Greg Phillips was recognized as Educator of the Year at the Forward Janesville Annual Luncheon. He is the Dean of Manufacturing, Apprenticeship, Training and Technology (MATT) at Blackhawk Technical College.

Propel Forward hosts first ever STEAM/Career Day

Propel Forward, a Janesville-based non-profit organization dedicated to fostering curiosity and understanding through STEAM and aviation education, is excited to announce the first-ever Pistons and Props: STEAM/Career Day, in partnership with 18 local and national organizations.

This one-of-a-kind educational event will take place on Tuesday, April 29, at the Southern Wisconsin Region-

al Airport and will introduce students to real-world opportunities in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM).

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will engage seventh- and eighth-grade students in hands-on STEAM activities and career exploration. Students from Aldrich Middle School, Fruzen Middle School in Beloit, and St. John Vianney School in Janesville are ex-

pected to attend.

Students will be split into morning and afternoon sessions. Each session includes free-choice STEAM stations located at Revv Aviation at 4606 S. Atlantis Drive, and career speaker rotations held

in the Conference Room of the airport terminal at 1716 W. Airport Road. Groups will rotate between the two activity tracks during their session to ensure a comprehensive

See PROPEL, Page 3

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News briefs

Children's day in Juda features crafts and more

On April 26 will be Día del Niño, Children's Day, from noon to 3 p.m. at Juda High School. There will be free food, games, crafts, piñatas, face painting, and more.

Mind Over Matter program held in May

Half of women over age 50 experience issues with bladder or bowel control. These problems can be slightly bothersome or totally debilitating. For some women, the chance of embarrassment keeps them from enjoying many activities and can take control of their life.

A popular workshop in Rock County can help. Mind Over Matter: Healthy Bowels, Healthy Bladder is a workshop designed to give women the tools they need to take control of their bladder and bowel symptoms. The workshop pro-

vides information, group activities, and simple exercises and dietary changes to practice at home. The workshop consists of three, 2-hour sessions over the course of a month. Dedication to the series of three classes is required. This is a workshop for females, taught by a female for those age 60+.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Rock County is offering Mind over Matter workshops this spring in Beloit on three Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon on May 6, 20, and 29, and June 3, at Grinnell Hall Senior Center, 631 Bluff Street, Beloit. Facilitator is Sherri Gilbertson. Suggested donation is \$10 to cover cost of materials.

Space is limited; please register by April 30 to reserve a spot. Contact Health Promotion Coordinator, Lisa Messer, of the ADRC of Rock County at: 608-757-5309 or email: lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us.

Village of Albany issues dog license reminder

The Village of Albany would like to remind residents that if they have a dog that is at least six months of age, they are required to get a dog license. These licenses are good for one calendar year and are available for purchase at the Albany Village Hall.

Please bring proof of the dog's rabies shots. Fees are \$5 per license for spayed/neutered and \$10 for unaltered.

Licenses are now available for 2025, so please stop in at the village office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday. There is a limit of two dogs per property.

Run the Rock: Lace up for a cause on April 27

The Isaac Strong Foundation is excited to announce the return of Run the Rock, an annual run/walk event to benefit local families in Rock County battling

cancer. The event takes place on Sunday, April 27, 7 a.m., starting from Downtown Janesville's Festival Street.

Hosted by Velocity Multi-Sports and Cycling, this family-friendly event offers a variety of timed race options: Isaac's Super Dash; 2-mile family walk/run; 5k, 10k, half marathon and full marathon.

Participants will receive a commemorative event shirt and finisher medal.

Event proceeds go to the Isaac Strong Foundation, which provides financial and emotional support to Rock County families facing a cancer diagnosis.

Volunteers are needed along the race routes to cheer on participants and help the event run smoothly. It's a great way to give back and be part of something meaningful.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Local businesses can show their support and gain exposure by getting their logo

featured on event shirts, signage, and the race website.

Visit online at runsignup.com/Race/WI/Janesville/Run-theRockJanesville to learn more and sign up.

Upcoming events in Footville in April, May

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 and live life the way one wants. Two separate 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.

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 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.

Popular tours back at local botanical gardens

Rotary Botanical Gardens is delighted to announce the return of its popular "What's in Bloom" Tours for the 2025 season. Led by Michael Jesiolowski, Director of Horticulture, these exclusive guided walks offer visitors an opportunity to experience the ever-changing floral displays throughout the growing season.

Each month, attendees will embark on a one-hour tour through the Gardens, exploring seasonal highlights, hidden

gems, and the unique plant varieties that make Rotary Botanical Gardens an award-winning destination. Michael will provide expert insights, answer plant-related questions, and offer inspiration for home gardeners looking to cultivate their own stunning landscapes.

The 2025 tour dates are: May 21, June 18, July 23, Aug. 20, and Sept. 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. The location is the Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville.

Admission and registration is free for Rotary Botanical Gardens members, so please bring a membership card. It is \$10 for non-members. Space is limited, and advance registration is required.

For more information and to register, visit rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events.

Walk for MS event on May 18 in Janesville

The Walk for MS will be held on Sunday, May 18. The site will open at 9 a.m., with the ceremony held at 9:50 a.m., and then the walk kickoff time will be at 10 a.m. The event will talk place at Palmer Park, 2105 Palmer Drive, in Janesville. There will be an after party at Sidelines Pub and Grill immediately following.

Healthy living series is focused on wellness

Rotary Botanical Gardens invites the community to embrace a healthier, more balanced lifestyle through its new Healthy Living Series, launching this spring. This engaging lineup of demonstrations and discussions offers practical, accessible tips to support physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

From kombucha brewing and natural food swaps to meal planning and juice blending, this series delivers hands-on guidance and expert insights from local wellness leaders who are passionate about helping others live well – on any budget or schedule.

All programs are held at Rotary Botanical Gardens at 1455 Palmer Drive in Janesville. Each session is from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

- May 13 – Holistic Healing and Self Care Presented by Sue Schumacher owner of Beyond Salt Spa, Lynette Rodriguez, owner of Skinpeccable Boutique and Nicole Tietz, owner of North Star Massage and Essentials

- June 3 – DIY Kombucha Healthy Living Demo Presented by Katie Kuznacik, aka The Booch Witch Discover how to make your own kombucha at home, learn about its benefits, and taste test creative flavor combos.

- July 8 – Budget-Friendly Natural Food Swaps Presented by Amber Glass, Management Team at Basics Cooperative Learn how to make smart, simple food swaps that are healthier, affordable, and easy to implement.

- Aug. 5 – Meal Planning Made Easy Presented by Sarah Hotchkiss, Catalyst Wellness Coaching Get tips and templates to simplify your weekly meals, save time, reduce stress, and eat well with intention.

- Sept. 9 – Explore the Benefits: Drink Your Fruits and Vegetables With Us Presented by Sarah Bruhn, Owner of Janesville Juice Bar Discover the power of fresh juice, smoothie-making basics, and ways to get more nutrients in every sip.

Registration cost is \$10 for RBG members and \$15 for non-members. No advance registration is required. Seating is first-come, first-served. For more details, visit rotarybotanicalgardens.org.



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How to make outdoor living spaces more comfortable

Private backyards are now go-to spaces for recreation and entertainment and great places to recharge the body and mind.

One ripple effect of the COVID-19 pandemic was more time spent outdoors, even if it was predominantly on one's own property. OnePoll, in conjunction with the lawn care company TruGreen, surveyed 2,000 American homeowners and found participants spent 14 hours outside every week in 2021, which was three hours more than prior to the pandemic. In addition, respondents admitted that time spent outdoors was therapeutic.

A separate survey conducted for the International Casual Furnishings Association found that people now spend more time relaxing, gardening, exercising, dining, and entertaining outside than in years past. Though COVID-19 may no longer dominate headlines,

the desire to enjoy outdoor spaces has not waned.

While enjoying outdoor living areas, homeowners can do all they can to make these spaces comfortable and welcoming. The following are some good starting points.

Get all lit up

Outdoor spaces can be enjoyed no matter the hour when there is ample lighting. That could be why the International Casual Furnishings Association reports those who plan to renovate their outdoor spaces list outdoor lighting as a priority. Outdoor lighting not only sheds light on entertaining spaces, but also makes spaces safer and more secure.

Increase privacy

No matter how friendly homeowners are with their neighbors, there comes a time when privacy is paramount. Fencing, whether

it is wood or vinyl, or even a natural fence made from closely planted hedges, can ensure residents feel comfortable venturing outdoors to swim, take a cat nap or even star gaze in private.

Address the elements

Homeowners should note the direction their backyard faces and the typical daily conditions of the space. For example, a yard that faces southwest may get plenty of strong sun during the day, requiring the addition of shade trees, covered patios or arbors to cut down on the glare and heat. If the yard is often hit by winds, trees or bushes planted strategically as windbreaks can help.

Sit comfortably

High-quality comfortable seating increases the likelihood that homeowners will want to stay awhile in their outdoor spaces. A deep seating set complete with plush chairs, outdoor sofa or love seat and chaise lounge chairs gives people more opportunity to sit and stay awhile.

Take a dip

A pool can be the perfect gathering spot on a warm day, while a spa/hot tub can bridge the gap to cooler weather. According to the Family Handyman, soaking in hot tubs can relax tired muscles after a long



METROCREATIVE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

While enjoying outdoor living areas, homeowners can do all they can to make these spaces comfortable and welcoming.

What attracts pests to a home?

No homeowner wants pests to invade their homes or their yards. However, it's easy for pests to find their way into and around a home. In fact, certain conditions may be inviting pests to a property.

- Garbage: Piles of garbage offer food and shelter to pests. Removing garbage piles and cleaning up food waste promptly can make a difference.
- Stagnant water: Mosquitoes breed in standing water, which is water not affected by waves, current or a filtration system. Anywhere water has pooled, mosquitoes may be breeding.
- Moisture or standing water: Additional sources of water and moisture may attract pests like gnats, mosquitoes, stink bugs, and certain spiders. Damp areas are of particular concern, especially when combined with darkness.
- Firewood: Firewood may attract a variety of pests, including termites and weevils. Firewood also may contain eggs that were laid before trees were cut down. If firewood is needed, it should be stacked far away from a home.
- Clogged gutters: Ignoring clogged gutters can lead to pest problems. Mice, squirrels, birds, ants, and spiders may be attracted to damp leaves in clogged gutters. Leaves offer shelter, nesting material and possible food sources of insect life.
- Dirty dishes and indoor trash: Leaving food-covered dishes in the sink invites pests. Leftover food attracts cockroaches, flies, ants, and more. Even if time is short, it's best to wash dishes or load them into the dishwasher. Overflowing trash also

See PESTS, Page 5

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Three modern kitchen features to consider

It's well documented that kitchens are the most popular rooms in many homes. Kitchens are where families tend to congregate during holiday celebrations, and many a child has tackled their homework as mom or dad prepares dinner just a few steps away.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's no wonder kitchen renovations are popular. In fact, data from the National Association of Home Builders indicates kitchens are the most popular room to remodel. Whether homeowners are planning a full scale remodel or a few tweaks to update the room, the following are three popular features of modern kitchens.

1. Kitchen island

A recent survey from the interior design experts at Houzz found that kitchen islands are popular for a variety of reasons. Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated they enjoy eating at kitchen islands, while 49 percent reported they like islands for entertaining. Forty-five

percent of respondents like socializing around kitchen islands. Islands provide a versatile functionality that comes in handy when preparing meals on typical weeknights and when hosting friends and family on special occasions like the holidays and birthdays. Islands come in a variety of shapes and sizes and can be customized to fit just about any space. Mobile islands can be utilized in small kitchens when homeowners want the extra prep space but think the kitchen would be too cramped if a permanent island were added.

2. Deep sink

The popularity of farmhouse style sinks is proof that large and deep sinks are sought-after among today's homeowners. Farmhouse sinks may be best suited to a particular aesthetic, but a 2021 study from the National Association of Home Builders found that side-by-side double sinks and walk-in pantries were the most popular of 30 listed kitchen features. That study surveyed more than 3,200

recent and prospective home buyers. Deep sinks are especially useful for people who love to cook, making them a solid addition to any kitchen where home chefs ply their trade most nights of the week.

3. Storage

As the NAHB study indicated, kitchen storage space is sought after among modern homeowners. As home cooks expand their culinary horizons and cook more elaborate meals, they need extra places to store specialty pots and pans, ingredients and other materials. Homeowners looking to add more storage in the kitchen can consult with a local contractor about how to create such space. A walk-in pantry can do the trick, but homeowners with kitchens where space is more limited may need to get a little more creative. Sliding-door pantries and roll-out shelving in existing cabinets can add functional space in kitchens with close quarters.

Modern kitchens are visual marvels and highly functional



METROCREATIVE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Whether homeowners are planning a full scale remodel or a few tweaks to update the room, the following are three popular features of modern kitchens.

spaces. A new island, a deep sink and some extra storage space can help homeowners transform their existing kitchens into spaces that cater to their every need.

(METROCREATIVE)

What to know about replacing gutters

Certain home renovation projects are more glamorous than others. A remodeled kitchen is sure to garner its share of "oohs and aahs," while a newly paved driveway is much less likely to dazzle guests.

A gutter replacement is another job that might not have the wow factor. But fully functioning gutters are a must and can help to prevent potentially expensive roof damage. Gutters rarely draw attention, but homeowners can keep an eye out for signs that indicate gutters need to be replaced.

Signs gutters should be replaced

Various signs indicate it's time to replace existing gutters. Homeowners should act promptly if any of the following signs arise, as poorly functioning gutters can make it hard for water to get into the downspouts, ultimately pushing it backward and likely underneath roof shingles, where the result can be costly water

• Pests

(Continued from page 4)

draws pests into a home.

- Clutter: Clutter provides hiding places for all sorts of rodents and insects, which can hide out in cluttered areas and remain comfortable. Going room to room and clearing out extraneous items may help reduce pest populations. Focus on the garage and basement, in particular.
- Pests are attracted to certain conditions, and remedying these issues can help reduce pest infestations.

(METROCREATIVE)

- damage.
- Peeling paint
 - Cracks
 - Pooling water in the gutter
 - Mildew in the gutter, which can sometimes be seen even from the ground
 - Water damage: Water damage on the gutter can be limited to certain spots and will be noticeable on the underside of the gutter
 - Soffit damage
 - Sagging gutters
 - Detached gutters, which can be detached from other pieces or the house
 - Rust

Who should replace gutters?

Many home improvements can be completed successfully by skilled do-it-yourselfers,

but a gutter replacement is best left to the professionals. Homeowners who live in single-story homes may be able to replace gutters on their own, but the issues that can arise when gutters are not functioning at optimal capacity make this a job best suited to professionals, even in residences without high roofs.

Some gutters may be under a manufacturer's warranty, so homeowners can check to see if their gutters qualify for a free upgrade. Experience is one of the best reasons to work with a professional gutter installation team. Experienced professionals can identify which gutters are the best fit based on a host of factors, including the pitch of the roof, local conditions and the size of the house. In addition, gutter installation re-

quires the use of various tools that many DIYers may not have on hand, which can cut into the cost savings of doing the project yourself.

Homeowners also should not underestimate the challenges of working on ladders that are high up off the ground. Professionals are accustomed to such challenges, while DIYers may not be comfortable or used to climbing ladders with materials and tools in hand.

A gutter replacement is a worthwhile investment that can ensure rain water efficiently and effectively runs through gutters and away from the roof. Leaving this task to the professionals can ensure the job is done right.

(METROCREATIVE)



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Hittin' the Links 2025

Prairieview Golf Course: Winding through the beautiful prairie in Byron

Just a chip shot south of Rockford along beautiful Illinois Route 2 in easy-going Byron lies a magical golf course that plays like the best country clubs in the region, but costs like a muni. Sculpted out of an ancient landscape once home to majestic bison and other denizens of the wild, this is a big course with a big, generous heart.

Weaving its way through remarkable tall grass prairie and the remnants of old oak savanna and other hardwood stands, PrairieView is a golf course where you can breathe, relax and enjoy the beauty of the natural environs remarkably untouched by architect

James Spear's design.

As is the case with most exceptional golf courses, what Spear left is as important as what he added. What he removed was minimal – and what remains is an amazing, naturalistic example of God's hand relatively untouched by man's: a true rarity in the world of golf.

A mid-course pond menaces the right side of tricky par four #5, feeding a narrow, bubbling creek that comes into play on the long, lazy par five #2 and the somewhat more menacing par five #6. The creek feeds another, smaller pond that comes into play for long hitters on the dogleg par four

#7 and gets everybody's attention on the lengthy, challenging par three #8.

In all, 63 strategically placed sand bunkers dot the PrairieView's 18 fascinating holes. Home to many local, state and regional tournaments, PrairieView Golf Club stretches from just shy of 5,300 yards from the for-

ward tees to nearly 7,200 yards from the daunting tips.

Simply put, this golf course has game to spare for golfers of any level – but is fair enough from the appropriate tees to make play fun for players of all levels.

At an average of 8,000 square feet, "sprawling" accurately characterizes the

Penncross bent grass cultivar greens while the tee boxes and fairways consist of a Penneagle/Seaside/Emerald bent grass cultivar blend. The primary rough is Kentucky bluegrass – which you will be happy to be in rather than the tall grass prairie and abundant wildflowers and woods lining the rough on

many holes.

Immaculately maintained by a talented GCSAA-certified superintendent and his dedicated crew, PrairieView's conditions easily live up to those of the region's finest clubs – while surprising golfers in the pro shop

See PRAIRIEVIEW, Page 7



18 Holes w/ Cart
Weekdays - \$32
Weekends - \$40



3069 N. Hill Rd., Oregon, IL
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prairieviewgolf.com



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6734 N German Church Road, Byron, IL
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RESERVE YOUR BAY TODAY!

Hittin' the Links 2025

continued

Silver Ridge Golf Course offers casual golf, play days, lessons

Silver Ridge Golf Course in Oregon, Ill. can accommodate outings both big and small. Whether its a small outing of 12 with a few friends or a larger fundraising outing with 150 participants, Silver Ridge is ready to make your day run smoothly from golf to dining.

Our scenic 18-hole golf course is sure to offer plenty of enjoyment for the casual golfer but also plenty of challenge for your more serious golfers.

With two different banquet rooms and bar area Silver Ridge has more than enough space to accommodate both small and large outings comfortably. Let the staff at Silver Ridge handle the day so you can relax and enjoy the day with everyone else.

Silver Ridge features the following amenities:

- 18 Hole Scenic Golf Course
 - Bar Area
 - Beverage Cart Available
 - Driving Range
 - Golf Instruction
- Contact Head Golf Professional Shane Stuart for individual or group instruction for all ages and abilities.

Pricing

- \$30 - 30/40 min. Individual Adult Lesson
- \$15 - 30/40 min. Junior Golf Lesson (Under 18)
- Lesson Packages Available for Multiple Lessons

Summer prices:

Prices valid for 2025 Season (May 26-Oct 8)



son (May 26-Oct 8)

*Prices subject to change

Weekdays:

- 9 Holes - \$15/\$15
- 18 Holes - \$20/\$20
- Twilight Golf After 3 p.m. - \$25
- *Seniors take \$2 Off Green Fees

Weekends/Holidays:

- 9 Holes - \$21/\$15
- 18 Holes - \$28/\$20
- Twilight Golf after 1 p.m. - \$30
- *Seniors take \$2 Off Green Fees
- Range Bag (Approx 50 Balls) - \$7

Spring/fall prices:

Prices Valid for 2025 Shoulder Seasons (Oct. 15 - Closing Date)

*Prices subject to change

Weekdays:

- 9 Holes w/cart - \$18
- 18 Holes w/cart - \$25
- 9/18 Holes Walking - \$15

Weekends:

- 9 Holes w/cart - \$23
- 18 Holes w/cart - \$33
- 9/18 Holes Walking - \$18

Silver Ridge Golf Course is located at 3069 North Hill Road, Oregon, Ill. For more information, call 815-734-4440.

Sunset Golf: Established in 1937 by local leaders

Sunset Golf Course, home of the famous Lyle Towns Old Home Week 4th of July Scramble, was founded in 1937 by the Kable brothers and other prominent figures in the Mount Morris township. In 1990 the course layout changed with the addition of four holes, which now play as # 4, 5, 6, and 8.

The course's most well know attraction is the 7th hole which is a 100 yard par 3 that requires golfers to hit their shot over

a giant ravine known by locals as the Pit. On the original course layout this played as the final hole, but today it is the 7th.

What seems like such a simple hole has played mind games with golfers for years. Even the best golfers have managed to ruin their rounds after challenging this hole.

Sunset Golf Course is located at 216 Sunset Hill, Mt. Morris, Ill. For more information, call 815-734-4839.

•Prairieview

(Continued from page 6)

with surprisingly low greens fees.

A member club of the Chicago District Golf Association and proudly enrolled in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, PrairieView is home to more than just golfers; it hosts many species of wildlife and bird life, as well – much to the delight of golfers. There are no modern day live bison, however!

Just a short, pleasant drive south from Rockford along the meandering Rock River and Highway 2, PrairieView Golf Club is set on the edge of peaceful Byron astride a lofty hill that offers dramatic elevation changes on several holes on the challenging back nine, including a tight but potentially ego-pleasing downhill tee shot on home-ward-bound #18.

Todd Tucker, Executive Director of Byron Forest Preserve District, had this to say about PrairieView Golf Club.

“PrairieView Golf Club is a gem. Honestly, it's no coincidence the club is owned and operated by a respected, award-winning Forest Preserve District that restores and maintains so much land

here in Byron. First and foremost, we are naturalists. Our mission is to save land for the benefit of nature itself and the enjoyment of the citizens of Byron – as well as visitors to our community. In that spirit, we decided to make the best golf course we possibly could, while altering the landscape as little as possible.”

“Here at PrairieView Golf Club,” Tucker continued, “your game will be challenged. And, all players are amazed at the experience of just being on this beautifully maintained property. It's peaceful and relaxing here at PrairieView. It's a wonderful place to get away from the daily grind.”

Tucker also addressed the new logo change PrairieView Golf Club recently pursued.

“We were inspired to chose the bison as our symbol,” he said. “Why? Because those majestic animals, which can weigh a ton, stand six feet tall and run 35 mph were at the very center of the biodiversity of this region up until the 1830s. They were very common here.”

“To tell the truth, I wish

we could have live bison here now,” Tucker said. “But the bison silhouette in our logo will have to do. It serves as a reminder of the true grandeur of the land we are blessed to enjoy here in Byron – and our pledge to keep it as pristine as possible. The bison is an uniquely American animal, a true part of the heart and the heartland of our nation. It is a symbol of our natural heritage: of power, speed and biodiversity. We think it's the perfect icon for PrairieView Golf Club.”

If you love the game of golf and you've never played PrairieView Golf Club – treat yourself soon. We suspect you'll be planning your return visit before you make the turn. And, when you do visit PrairieView, be sure to check out the newest addition to our facility – our incredible new eight-bay Toptracer range: PrairieFire Golf + Grill. Complete with a full-service kitchen, fireplaces, a cozy bar and temperature-controlled hitting bays, PrairieFire will keep your passion for golf burning year 'round – winter, spring, summer and fall.



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1962 VINTAGE SHASTA CAMPER Started to restore inside for a she shed! Removed old wood and floor, exterior was painted a few years ago! Can be towed with a pickup. \$1,500. OBO. Call Pam 262-210-2222.

2002 WINNEBAGO 32' Motorhome, Class A. Cummins Turbo Diesel motor with Allison transmission. 2 slideouts, Onan generator. ACDC or propane refrigerator, 2 TV's. Everything works. \$27K 608-345-7806

Burial Needs

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

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Motorcycles

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

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32523

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 29, 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/my/pschearings

- 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", and select item labeled "Broadcasts".

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>, 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, May 1, 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, May 1, 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
4/16, 4/23/2025
WNAXLP

470461

NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given to each and every person who owns, occupies, or controls land in the following named towns and city, counties of Green and Rock, State of Wisconsin, to cut or destroy all Canada Thistle, field bindweed commonly known as "Creeping Jenny", and leafy spurge on all lands occupied or controlled by you at such time and in such manner as shall effectively prevent them from bearing seed, or spreading to adjoining property as required by Section 66.0407 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

CITY OF BRODHEAD TOWN OF DECATUR
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The Independent Register
4/23/2025
WNAXLP

470715

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
District Office Board Room

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board President Mike Krupke at 7:00 p.m. The meeting agenda was published in the Wednesday, March 5, 2025 edition of the Independent Register and properly building posted on Wednesday, March 7, 2025.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Krupke, Elizabeth Kempel, Michael Oellerich, Al Schneider, Jodi Kail, Jenny Flory, and Don Buchanan [virtually]
Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Jodi Kail, to amend the Agenda to move the WEB presentation to item V. with all other items coming thereafter.
Motion carried, 7-0.

WEB PRESENTATION – MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM

Fifteen [15] Middle School WEB Team Leaders, Mrs. Tresemer, Mrs. Kammerer, and Ms. Gardipee gave a presentation on the activities and the success of the WEB program.

INFORMATION REPORTS

The Administrative Team presented reports on their respective buildings and departments.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one was present to give public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION ITEM

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - a. Regular Meeting: February 26, 2025
2. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**
3. **ACCEPT DONATION(S)**
 - None at this time
4. **RESIGNATION(S)**
 - a. Terri Lenz, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher
5. **EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)**
 - a. Nancy Marchant, Middle School Track Coach
 - b. Tiffany Kramer, from both HS/ES SpEd Para to just High School SpEd Paraprofessional
 - c. Karissa Wahl, increase in hours as Elementary School SpEd Paraprofessional
6. **VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)**
 - a. Blake Senobe, HS Baseball

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.
Motion carried, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF ELEMENTARY BID PACKAGE

ACTION ITEM

Kyle Robers, project manager from Nexus Solutions, presented the Elementary School bid package and other alternates throughout the District.
Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to approve the Elementary School bid package, with selected alternates, as presented.
Motion carried, 7-0.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE

MATH CURRICULUM

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to approve the new Badger Math curriculum for the High School.
Motion carried, 7-0.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL

EXCHANGE STUDENT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to approve an additional exchange student at the High School for the remainder of the school year at Principal Matthys's discretion.
Motion carried, 7-0.

RESCIND POLICY 2264 – NON-DISCRIMINATION

ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Jodi Kail, second by Jenny Flory, to rescind School Board Policy 2264.
Motion carried, 7-0.

MID-YEAR GOALS REPORT

DISCUSSION ITEM

District Administrator Novy and Building Principals presented reports related to their annual goals.

APPROVAL OF NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL LMC

HVAC ROOFTOP UNIT

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to approve the LMC HVAC Rooftop Unit bid, as presented.
Motion carried, 7-0.

COLLEGE/TECH CREDIT APPROVALS

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Elizabeth Kempel, second by Jodi Kail, to approve the early college credit applications as presented.
Motion carried, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTED &

VOLUNTEER COACHES

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Elizabeth Kempel, second by Al Schneider, to approve the lists of contracted and volunteer coaches, as presented.
Motion passed, 6-0 [M. Oellerich abstained].

REFERENDUM UPDATE

PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM

District Administrator Novy presented information on efforts related to the upcoming Operational Referendum, including press releases and other public information meetings that have been held.

FUTURE AGENDA [April 9, 2025]

- Approval of the Minutes
- Approval of Bills
- Accept Donation(s)
- Resignation(s)
- Employment Recommendation(s)
- Volunteer Recommendation(s)
- Act 20 Presentation – Elementary School
- Report on Election Results
- Approval of Student Handbooks
- Referendum Update
- Consideration to Make Friday, June 6 a Non-Student Day
- Consideration of Changes to the District Health Plan
- Consideration to Approve Building and Grounds Project Recommendations
- Consideration to Approve 34.1 Policy Updates
- Consideration of Budget Cuts for the 2025-2026 School Year

ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(e)

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to go into Closed Session under WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(e) at 8:53 p.m. for the discussion of:

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Bus Contract

Roll Call vote: All ayes (7-0).

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to return to open session at 9:34 p.m.
Motion carried, 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Jodi Kail, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.
Motion carried, 7-0.

Date: 03-12-25 \$100 Bill List

Vendor Name	Check Amount
AIRGAS USA, LLC	246.24
BUILDING AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS	283.00
CESA #2	5,923.60
CESA #3	780.00
CESA #6	6,092.00
EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES	1,230.71
FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS LLC	626.18
NASCO	1,015.61
OFFICE PRO	4,697.40
RENNING, LEWIS & LACY, S.C.	335.00
SYMMETRY ENERGY SOLUTIONS, LLC	15,775.00
WALECHKA, THERESA A	250.00
BLICK ART MATERIALS	569.69
BRODHEAD WATER & LIGHT COMM	10,556.07
CEDAR CREEK LANDSCAPING	750.00
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	584.99
CITY OF BRODHEAD SEWER DEPT	1,930.80
DELL MARKETING L.P.	46,436.00
DWD-UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	740.00
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY	104.40
MONONA PLUMBING AND FIRE PROTECTION	430.00
QUIZZZ.COM	4,253.00
RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS LLC	869.94
SECURITY ALARM OF ROCKFORD LLC	150.00
SSM HEALTH MEDICAL GROUP	2,636.57
SSM HEALTH MEDICAL GROUP	860.00
WASTE MANAGEMENT	882.22
WIL-KIL PEST CONTROL	142.54
AMERICAN DEPOSIT MANAGEMENT	2,500.00
AMERICAN DEPOSIT MANAGEMENT	1,895.50
AMERICAN DEPOSIT MANAGEMENT	626,422.83
AMERICAN DEPOSIT MANAGEMENT	10,000.00
AMERICAN DEPOSIT MANAGEMENT	189,537.95
AMERICAN DEPOSIT MANAGEMENT	122,949.88
AMERICAN DEPOSIT MANAGEMENT	184,424.82
ASSOCIATED BANK	688,040.00
EVANSVILLE COUNTRY CLUB	315.06
BADGER SPORTING GOODS	1,660.67
CDW GOVERNMENT INC	10,557.54
CESA #2	2,888.40
CESA #6	1,218.40
FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS LLC	360.78
MARTENSON, LAUREL B	120.00
NEOLA, INC.	200.00
OFFICE PRO	1,605.69
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	855.98
VOIGT MUSIC CENTER	676.05
APPLE COMPUTER INC	3,822.00
C&M PRINTING INC	573.00
GOODHALL, ABBY	120.00
HUNTINGTON & SON WELL PUMPS & PLUMBING INC	425.00
SSM HEALTH - MONROE CLINIC MEDICAL GROUP	7,235.34
U.S. CELLULAR	123.72
WI SKYWARD USER GROUP	500.00
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	1,400.00
FOLLETT CONTENT SOLUTIONS LLC	312.24
GORDON FOOD SERVICE INC	14,706.78
JW PEPPER & SON INC	329.99
KOBUSSEN BUSES LTD	68,903.80
KOMPAS CARE	496.42
MENARDS - JANESVILLE	158.81
PAN-O-GOLD BAKING CO	538.03
PRAIRIE FARMS DAIRY INC	6,830.95
SYSCO FOOD SERVICES OF BARABOO	12,764.28
VOIGT MUSIC CENTER	496.00
BRODHEAD FREE PRESS	234.50
BURTON & MAYER INC	692.95
CITY OF BRODHEAD SEWER DEPT	1,812.26
NEXTGEN FURNITURE, INC.	8,896.00
PEPSI-COLA	1,118.24
PIGGLY WIGGLY	837.51
REILLY, PENNER & BENTON LLP	20,400.00
RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS LLC	5,047.93
ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING LLC	677.70
SPEICH OIL INC	372.76
SSM HEALTH MEDICAL GROUP	4,077.82
AHRENS ACRES	180.00
BODELL, PAUL	132.60
BOWN, WILLIAM	300.00
EWELL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	228.00
JARVIS, NICHOLAS L	373.20
LAMAR COMPANIES	635.00
MUSICBOX ENTERTAINMENT LLC	200.00
NASCO	778.94
PEPSI-COLA	357.29
PIGGLY WIGGLY	263.13
PIGGLY WIGGLY	296.50
ROEMER, PAUL	540.00
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD	483.86
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD	447.28
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD	626.09
HOLIDAY WHOLESALE	650.76
HOLL, MIKE	106.03
MARTENSON, LAUREL B	180.00
MIDWEST HORSE FAIR	275.00
MILES, MICHAEL	106.03
NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION	468.00
PHILBIN, SEAN	106.03
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS	1,367.95
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD	184.17
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD	158.81
DEPPLER WOOD SUPPLY	209.40
PIGGLY WIGGLY	198.94
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD	166.54
ALLTEAM SPORTSWEAR	924.00
PIGGLY WIGGLY	206.79
PIGGLY WIGGLY	353.82
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BRODHEAD	647.06
VOIGT MUSIC CENTER	203.00
WISCONSIN ASSOC OF FFA	320.00

The Independent Register
4/23/2025
WNAXLP

470721

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
District Office Board Room

Monday, March 17, 2025
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice-President Elizabeth Kempel at 5:00 p.m. The meeting agenda was properly building posted on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Elizabeth Kempel, Michael Oellerich, Al Schneider, Jodi Kail, Don Buchanan, and Mike Krupke and Jenny Flory [virtually]
Absent: None

Continued on next page

High-wheeled bicycling, spring planting, baby chicks, and much more await day-trippers looking for an affordable getaway filled with fun activities for the whole family, all set within the 600-acre living history attraction at Old World Wisconsin.

Old World Wisconsin, recently voted as Milwaukee Magazine’s “Best of the Burbs” first place winner in the attraction category, is thrilled to announce it will open for the spring season on May 3 with an array of family-friendly experiences and outdoor fun for all ages. With returning favorites like goat yoga and hands-on workshops where visitors hone skills from a bygone era, Waukesha County’s gem of the countryside is a great value, delivering a full day of enjoyment whether you’re embarking on a special daytrip for the general admission experience or returning to a beloved annual event.

“Old World Wisconsin of-

fers a variety of activities for guests, from exploring our historic 19th-century Crossroads Village to discovering one or more of our many historic working farmsteads. Adults and kids alike love meeting our heritage breed animals, planting seeds in our spring gardens, or hiking on one of our nature trails,” said Emily Duval, guest services manager at Old World Wisconsin. “We can’t wait to welcome visitors back to the site on May 3, or join us later in the month to celebrate a special grand opening for Wittnebel’s Tavern and the expanded brewing experience on May 17 and 18.”

Spring and summer admission rates are \$20 for adults and teens, \$18 for seniors (65+), \$13 (children five to 12) and free under five. Wisconsin Historical Society members receive free general admission to all sites, including Old World Wisconsin, and 10% off ticketed events.

Wisconsin Historical Soci-

ety membership starts at \$60 annually and members are encouraged to pick up a Passport for the 2025 season to start earning stamps towards special prizes for every Wisconsin Historical Society site visited.

Old World Wisconsin’s spring season occurs May 3 through June 8, with hours of admission from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., every weekend. The summer season starts on June 11 through Aug. 24, with admission from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each week on Wednesday through Sunday.

In addition to grand opening festivities for the grown-ups to mark the opening of the site’s expanded beer and brewing experience, Old World Wisconsin is a must-go attraction for kids and teens with highlights like free admission for children on Wednesdays from June 11 to Aug. 20 and a patriotic celebration for Independence Weekend with special games, music and live performances.

Book tickets online today to reserve a place at one of Wisconsin’s best-loved attractions for kids and families where the past comes to life around every corner. And don’t wait to get tickets for special ticketed events throughout the spring and summer – space is limited and spots are expected to sell out for most events.

Upcoming events

- Wittnebel’s Tavern Grand Opening Weekend – May 17 to 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Step back in time and celebrate the grand opening of Wittnebel’s Tavern. This historic taphouse, first opened in the early 20th century, is the newest addition to the Old World brewing experience, promising an unforgettable experience from grain to glass. For guests ages 21+, Old World Wisconsin will serve a new flagship brew, “Kettle Brau,” on tap at Wittnebel’s Tavern. The event will also feature a special ribbon-cutting, live polka music by Mike Schnei-

der, a special tap dance performance, complimentary Wittnebel’s Tavern can cooler and an exclusive sticker with beer purchases.

- Goat Yoga – May 24 and Aug. 23, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.: Looking for a wholly unique way to relax and unwind? Old World Wisconsin is hosting an invigorating morning goat yoga class in a unique, historic location. Interacting with friendly farm animals is a great way to reduce stress and tension while improving mental and physical health. This class, instructed in collaboration with Riverside Studio, with goats provided by Oak Hollow Acres in Burlington, is perfect for all ages and abilities. The cost is \$35 per person per session.
- Midsummer Celebration – June 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Old World’s Midsummer Celebration is back for another year with favorite activities returning like flower crown making, historic cooking demonstrations and the chance to frolic around the Maypole. These special activities, included in the general admission experience, highlight the Scandinavian tradition of welcoming the change of seasons on the summer solstice.
- Independence Day Weekend – July 4 to 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Enjoy two days of stars-and-stripes-themed fun during Independence Day Weekend at Old World Wisconsin. Suit up in your best patriotic gear and head to Crossroads Village for an unforgettable celebration full of food, games, music, performances and more. Join a spelling bee, churn your own butter, watch (or deck out) your stroller and take part in a children’s parade, and enter our famous pie-eating event for a little healthy – or should we say sweet – competition.
- Hands-On History Workshops – Various dates June and July: Here’s the tools of the trades from a bygone era

See SPRING, Page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page

APPROVAL OF DISTRICT LANDSCAPE BID **ACTION ITEM**
Motion by Al Schneider, second by Don Buchanan, to approve Granite Ridge Landscape Company for the District Landscaping Bid. Motion carried, 7-0.

SELECTION OF CANOPY OPTION **ACTION ITEM**
Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to approve the alternative canopy option using steel and alternative roofing system at a budget number of \$212,531.50. Motion carried, 7-0.

SELECTION OF HIGH SCHOOL ALTERNATES **ACTION ITEM**
Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Don Buchanan, to approve VE Option #1 (deduct for HS teachers' lounge upgrades) and VE Option #2 (deduct of millwork removal for HS office rooms C114 and C115), and not accept VE Option #3 (deduct for the original renovation scope for the new HS concession stand). Motion carried, 7-0.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TESTING **ACTION ITEM**
Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Al Schneider, to approve CGC, Inc. for the Construction Materials Testing Bid. Motion carried, 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT **ACTION ITEM**
Motion by Don Buchanan, second by Michael Oellerich, to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Motion carried, 7-0.

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NOTICE OF STORAGE LIEN SALE

Sugar River Storage, located at 600 Dixon Drive, Albany WI 53502 will conduct a lien sale at 1 p.m. on May 1st, 2025. Following is a brief description of the units subject to sale.

Unit 130, Karen Zantow - antique furniture, boxes, Beanies.
Unit 129, Matthew Martinson - electronics, auto parts, boxes
Outside Storage, Matthew Martinson - boat, motor, trailer
Unit 36, Derrick Nipple - baby items, crib, tent, chainsaw, coolers

Sale is subject to minimum bid and cancellation or reschedule. Units may be redeemed by paying owner, Sugar River Storage, PO Box 40, Albany WI 53502 anytime prior to sale. Excess proceeds will be sent to State Treasurer.

For information call 608-558-1510

The Independent Register
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30/2025
WNAXLP 470212

AGENDA BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**Monday, April 28, 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

XIV. ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)
a. Support Staff/Administrator Negotiations
b. Staffing
• Consideration of Compensation of an Employee
XV. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS
XVI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Independent Register
4/23/2025
WNAXLP 470724

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE THAT THE ASSESSMENT ROLL IS OPEN FOR EXAMINATION AND OPEN BOOK

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Town of Spring Valley,
Rock County
Notice of Open Book and Board of Review
Pursuant to Wis.Stats. s70.45, the assessment roll for the year of 2025 assessment will be open for examination starting April 24th to April 30th by appointment in the clerk's office.

Additionally, the assessor shall be available on Tuesday the 6th day of May, 2025 at 9 am until 11 am via phone or email. Spencer.Frame@catilisgov.com 262-253-1142

Open Book is the opportunity to discuss your property's assessed value with the town assessor in an informal setting. Appointments are not necessary for Open Book. Instructional materials will be provided at Open Book to persons who wish to object to valuations under Wis, State Stat. 70.47.

Notice of Board of Review Two-Hour Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review for the Town of Spring Valley, Rock County, Wisconsin, shall hold its first meeting on June 3 pm, 2025, 11 am to 1 pm at the Orfordville Fire Station Meeting Room. Please be advised of the following requirements if appearing before the Board of Review

1. After the first meeting of the board of review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the board of review may contact, or provide information to, a member of the board about that person's objection except at a session of the board. Open book shall occur no less than 7 days prior to the Board of Review.
2. The board of Review may not hear an objection to the amount or valuation of property, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the Board of Reviews first scheduled meeting the objector provides to the Board of Review clerk written or oral notice of an intent to file an objec-

tion, except that upon a showing of good cause and the submission of a written objection, the Board of review shall waive the requirement up to the end of the session in the case of extraordinary circumstances.

3. Objections to the amount of valuation of property shall first be made in writing and filed with the Board of Review Clerk with in the first two hours of the Board of Reviews first scheduled meeting, except upon evidence of extraordinary circumstances. The Board of Review may require objections to the amount or valuation of the property to be submitted on forms approved by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, and the Board of Review shall require that any forms required state the valuation of the property in question. Persons who own land and improvements to that land may object to the aggregate valuation of that land and improvements to that land, but no person who owns land and improvements to that land may object only to the valuation of the land only to the valuation of improvements to that land. No person may be allowed in any action or proceedings to question the amount or valuation of property unless the written objection has been filed and that person in good faith presented evidence to the Board of Review in support of the objections and made full disclosure before the Board of Review, under oath, of all that person's property liable to assessment in the district and the value of that property. The requirement that the objections be in writing may be waived by express action of the board.

4. When appearing before the board, the objecting person shall specify in writing, the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.

5. No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone or object to a valuation if the assessor or objector made the valuation using the income method; unless the person supplies to the assessor all of the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under s. 73.03 (2a), Wis. Stats., that the assessor requests. The Town of Spring Valley has an ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses that is provided to the assessor under this paragraph which provides exceptions for persons using the information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determines that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under s. 19.35(1).

6. The Board of Review shall hear upon oath. by telephone all ill or disabled persons who present to the board a letter from a physician, physicians assistant, or advanced practice nurse prescriber certified under Wis, State Stat.441.16(2) that confirms

their illness or disability. No persons may testify by telephone unless the Board of review, in its discretion, has determined to grant a property owner's or their representative's request to testify under oath by telephone or written statement.

7. Pursuant to s. 70.47 (2), Wis. Stats.: No person shall be allowed to appear before the board of review, to testify to the board by telephone, or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of such property being assessed.

Dela Ends, Clerk
(608) 897-4288
tsvclerk@gmail.com
www.townofspringvalley.com

If you want to appear before the board of review, you must give the town clerk Notice of Intent to file an appeal no later than 9 am the morning of June 3, 2025. More information is available at www.revenue.wi.gov

The Independent Register
4/23/2025
WNAXLP 470757

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF BRODHEAD
BRODHEAD, WI
CROSSWINDS DEVELOPMENT

General Notice
CITY OF BRODHEAD is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

CROSSWINDS DEVELOPMENT
Project# 09336063

The City Of Brodhead will receive and accept bids ONLY through QuestCDN.com via the online electronic bid service (QuestvBid) for the construction of Crosswinds Development until May 15, 2025 at 2:00 pm. All bids will be downloaded and publicly read aloud during a virtual public bid opening that will be held at the day and time of the bid closing. All plan holders will receive information via Quest on how to join the virtual meeting prior to the bid opening.

The Project includes the following Work:

Work includes but is not limited to; approximately 3,425 L.F. of new roadway, sidewalk; sanitary sewer main, structures, and laterals; water main, appurtenances, and services; and storm sewer main and structures for 54 lots along 3rd Street, 4th Street, East 11th Avenue, East 12th Avenue, and East 13th Avenue. Roadway Work includes but is not limited to; 30-inch curb and gutter, base course, asphaltic concrete pavement, concrete sidewalk, and concrete ada ramps. Large storm water management facilities, excavation,

grading, restoration, and erosion control Work for the site.

The anticipated substantial completion date is 9/30/2025 and final completion date is 10/30/2025.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

www.questcdn.com

Bidding Documents are available for download from QuestCDN at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$45 by inputting Quest eBidDoc #9648645 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN at 952-233-1632 or contact by email at info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with QuestCDN as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. QuestCDN requires the bidding documents to be downloaded from the site in order to submit a bid in the Vbid system. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through QuestCDN. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than QuestCDN.

Instructions to Bidders.
No proposal will be accepted unless accompanied by a certified check or bid bond equal to at least 5% of the amount bid, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that, if the bid is accepted, the bidder will execute and file the proper contract and bond within 15 days after the award of the contract. The certified check or bid bond will be returned to the bidder as soon as the contract is signed, and if after 15 days the bidder shall fail to do so, the certified check or bid bond shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages. No bidder may withdraw their bid within 45 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Published by the authority of the City Of Brodhead.

CONSULTING ENGINEER:
MSA Professional Services, Inc.
1230 South Boulevard
Baraboo, WI 53913
Brian Kehrl, P.E.
(608) 355-8887

The Independent Register
4/23, 4/30/2025
WNAXLP 470827

Fundraiser seeks sponsors to support local families

Family Services of Southern Wisconsin invites the community to step back in time and celebrate in style at Le Soiree en Blanc, the agency's signature fundraising event, to be held on Saturday, June 21, at Glen Erin Golf Club's Celtic House. This year's theme brings the glitz and glam of the Roaring 20s, promising an unforgettable evening filled with elegance, entertainment, and purpose.

Guests will enjoy a vibrant mix of music, delicious food, specialty cocktails, engaging activities, and vintage-inspired experiences – all set against the backdrop of a beautifully curated Gatsby-style event. Le Soiree en Blanc is not just a night out; it's a chance to give back to the community while celebrating the impact of Family Services' vital work.

As the organization's largest fundraiser of the year, proceeds from the event will directly support programs that serve some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in Rock and Green Counties. This includes DEFY Domestic Abuse Beloit, SARP (Sexual Assault Recovery Program), counseling services, advocacy for human trafficking victims, support for resource limited families and the groundbreaking Next Steps Family Resilience Center, which will soon welcome its first tenants in May. This new transitional living facility will offer comprehensive support for single-parent families, including housing, counseling, and education services that create pathways to long-term stability.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available, and community partners are encouraged to get involved.

"This is a great way to give back, support critical services, and enjoy a truly spectacular evening," said Jenny Tschudy, Director of Resource Development. "We're looking for sponsors who want to make a lasting impact while being part of something unforgettable."

Tickets will go on sale soon, and availability is limited. Watch for updates and details on Family Services of Southern Wisconsin's website and social media channels.

To learn more about becoming a sponsor or contributing to the success of Le Soiree en Blanc, please contact Jenny Tschudy at jtschudy@familyservices1.org or call 608-365-1244.

Family Services of Southern Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families through domestic violence advocacy, sexual assault recovery, mental health counseling, family-strengthening programs and more. With a legacy of service and a future focused on resilience, Family Services is building stronger communities – one family at a time.

Discussing key issues in Rock County



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

On March 27, Sen. Mark Spreitzer met with Rock County Supervisors Kathy Shulz, April Whittle, and Erica Boehlke alongside Rock County Human Services Department Director Kate Luster and program directors to discuss the challenges counties face in providing services amid rising costs and stagnant funding. They discussed key issues such as funding for the Community Support Program, fully funding crisis services statewide, and the Birth to 3 Program to support early intervention during a child's first three years.

River Bandits and Sky Carp suspended in fourth inning

By Josh Flickinger
CONTRIBUTOR

Sunday's game between the Sky Carp and the River Bandits was suspended with the River Bandits leading 3-0 in the bottom of the fourth inning.

The game will be picked up from the point it left off on Tuesday, May 20 at 6:05 p.m. The game will be finished as a nine-inning game; then be followed by a seven-inning contest 30 minutes after the first game's conclusion.

The River Bandits scored a pair of runs in the first inning, then another in the second to build their 3-0 lead. The Carp are threatening in the fourth, with runners on first and second and two out and Wilfredo Lara at the plate.

The Sky Carp will head on a 12-game road trip, with the first stop being six games in South Bend, Tuesday's opener being scheduled for a 6:05 p.m. Central time start.

After traveling to Peoria, the Sky Carp will return home to take on Cedar Rapids in a six-game series beginning Tuesday, May 6 at 6:05 p.m.

Visit skycarp.com for tickets.

The Beloit Sky Carp are the High-A Affiliate of the Miami Marlins and play their games at ABC Supply Stadium – the heart of the Riverbend District. Get tickets at SkyCarp.com or call the Box Office at 608-362-2272.

Follow the Sky Carp on Twitter at @BeloitSkyCarp, on Instagram at @BeloitSkyCarp, on TikTok @BeloitSkyCarp, and like them on Facebook via www.facebook.com/SkyCarpBaseball.

•Spring (Continued from page 10)

with hands-on workshops for ages 13 and up. Workshop attendees will learn from skilled staff in authentic settings with lunch included in the ticket price. Workshop topics focus on a range of interests – spinning wool, blacksmithing and baking and cooking – and provide a chance to get your hands dirty while gaining the knowledge that helped Wisconsin's early immigrants thrive in their new world. For ages 21+, a brewing workshop

focused on Ales and Lagers will be offered for one day only on July 10. The cost is \$200 per person per workshop for the day-long experience.

• Get-in-Free Discount Days – May 11, June 15, and Wednesdays from June 11 to Aug. 20: What could be more fun than a day at Old World Wisconsin with the family? Getting in for free, of course. Join us on May 11 when moms get in free general admission for Mother's Day or

June 15 when dads get in for free for Father's Day. And, every Wednesday from June 11 through Aug. 20, children ages five through 12 get into the site for free. Take advantage of these discount days for the best deal in history.

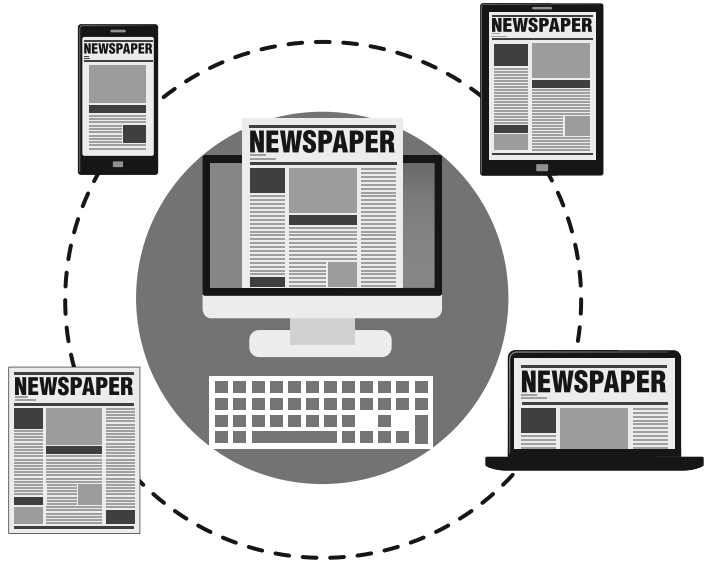
Old World Wisconsin is one of the Wisconsin Historical Society's 12 historic sites and museums. Rated as one of the top attractions to take kids in the Milwaukee area, Old World Wisconsin is a 600-acre

regional history attraction that features interactive environments and immersive stories of 19th-and early 20th-century Midwestern immigrant farm and rural life. The museum offers guests family-friendly, hands-on activities as they visit a crossroads village and eight working farmsteads, explore heirloom gardens, experience beer brewing traditions, meet heritage animal breeds and try historic crafts and skills. Old World Wisconsin is located on Highway 67 just south of Eagle, Wis., within daytrip distance of Milwaukee, Chicago and Madison. For more information and a list of upcoming events please visit oldworldwisconsin.org or call 262-594-6301. Wisconsin Historical Society members receive free general admission to this site during regular operating hours.

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories. The Wisconsin Historical Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs and services. For more information, visit wisconsinhistory.org.

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Awards

(Continued from front page)

Correctional Officer. He completed a 200-hour Jail Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on March 3, 2023. Correctional Officer Khang currently works 2nd Shift in the Jail Operations Bureau. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Lake-land University in Sheboygan, Wis.

Correctional Officer Khang's supervisor nominated him for his exceptional performance. He is the senior correctional officer on his color day and is highly regarded by his peers and supervisors. Correctional Officer Khang serves as a booking officer, a position typically reserved for the most reliable and knowledgeable staff. Correctional Officer Khang became a Jail Training Officer (JTO) in November 2023 and has trained countless new hires. He has an outstanding attendance record and can be regularly counted on to work overtime to cover manpower shortages. Correctional Officer Khang continues to expand his skills by learning new tasks, such as the finer points of maintaining and updating jail inmate files. Correctional Officer Khang thwarted a food smuggling operation amongst inmate kitchen workers in August 2024. He also participated in numerous shakedowns within the jail and recovered contraband. Correctional Officer Khang possesses exceptional communication skills and uses them to deescalate tense situations without the use of force. He is an asset, not only to 2nd Shift Jail, but the entire agency.

Support Staff Person of the Year: Administrative Professional II Amber Salazar

Amber Salazar started at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 30, 2021, as an administrative assistant in the Jail Operations Bureau. She accepted a lateral transfer to the Court Services/Civil Process Bureau on Nov. 1, 2021. Her position was reclassified to Administrative Professional II in 2023. In her current role, she coordinates court appearances, writ pick-ups, writ returns, competency placements and statuses, revocation orders, and transporting inmates to prison. She routinely communicates with judges, the District Attorney's Office, and other counties. Her supervisor stated that her greatest strength is her willingness to jump in and help as needed whether that's a quick phone call to clarify a situation or a longer-term issue that requires significant commitment. Salazar resides in Janesville with her family. She graduated from Beloit Memorial High School and obtained an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice Studies from Blackhawk Technical College. She previously worked at the Rock County 911 Communications Center as a Telecommunicator.

Salazar's supervisor nominated her for her absorption of additional responsibilities in 2024. This included arranging transport for juveniles to facilities across the state as the Youth Services Center started to house juveniles out-of-county. Salazar also assumed responsibility for receiving, enterprising, and distributing subpoenas as part of realigning

duties within the Court Services Bureau. Further, Salazar conducted hundreds of background checks on construction workers assigned to the building project at the Sheriff's Office. Throughout, Salazar maintained her normal workload. Salazar is regularly relied on by her coworkers to answer questions. She possesses a positive attitude and is dependable. Salazar has attended the National Association of Extradition Officials Conference and is one of the agency's extradition experts.

Retired Sheriffs Leadership Award: Sergeant Allen Peters

Allen Peters started at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 15, 2021, as a deputy sheriff. He received a promotion to Sergeant on Jan. 4, 2023. He currently supervises 2nd Shift Patrol – Blue Days. He leads the Hostage Negotiations Team as the Team Commander. He also serves on the Honor Guard. He is a certified Handgun and Rifle Instructor and a GLOCK Armorer. He coordinates the law enforcement presence at the Rock County 4-H Fair. He volunteers for Cops and Bobbers and Gutter Busters youth events. He resides in Brodhead with his family. He graduated from Brodhead High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He completed a 160-hour Jail Academy in 2013 and a 520-hour Law Enforcement Academy in 2015. He previously worked for the Green County Sheriff's Office and the Albany Police Department.

Sergeant Peters received nominations from both his direct supervisor and 2nd shift patrol deputies. These nominations addressed his outstanding leadership and commitment. His supervisor exulted his performance as Incident Command during several high-priority calls and commended his ability to remain calm and make informed decisions. His staff stated that he exemplifies the highest standards of integrity, service, and dedication to his deputies and the community. They emphasized that he brings out the best in those he works with. His staff cited the extraordinary leadership that he displayed while coordinating emergency response efforts for the four tornadoes that struck Rock County in 2024. They also praised his command presence during multiple high-risk incidents and his intentional follow-up with those involved. They reported that he consistently provides support to his deputies and shows concern for their wellness. One nominator stated that Sergeant Peters handles calls during busy shifts to provide timely response to community members. His deputies highlighted his ability to connect with people, to listen, and to deescalate dangerous situations. Nominators repeatedly mentioned that Sergeant Peters genuinely cares and leads by example. One submission stated, "What sets Sgt. Peters apart isn't just his skill, his experience, or even his leadership – it's his heart. He shows up for people, whether they're his fellow officers, the community, or complete strangers in need." His supervisor concluded his nomination by reiterating that Sergeant Peters

cares for his staff and supports them in setting and achieving their goals.

Lifesaving Award: Deputy Matthew McCormack and Deputy Samantha Valencia

On Jan. 17, at around 5:33 p.m., Deputy Matthew McCormack and his Police Training Officer, Deputy Samantha Valencia, responded to a rural residence in the Town of Spring Valley for an elderly female having a heart attack. Upon arrival, they found the female subject was unresponsive and not breathing. Deputy McCormack immediately started performing chest compressions while Deputy Valencia applied the AED to the subject. The AED shocked the subject. Deputy McCormack and Deputy Valencia alternated providing chest compressions. The AED shocked the subject a second time. Deputy McCormack and Deputy Valencia continued chest compressions. They worked together providing lifesaving measures to the subject for nearly eight minutes prior to other first responders arriving. Orfordville Fire and Janesville Fire ultimately took over lifesaving measures and transported the subject to the hospital for further treatment. The swift actions of Deputy McCormack and Deputy Valencia led to the woman's survival.

Unit Citation

2nd Shift Patrol: Deputy Kaitlyn Barrett, Deputy Jacob Diaz, Deputy Kristina Feirn, Deputy Joshua Fell, Deputy Matthew Gawlik, Deputy Jeffery Knudson, Deputy Kyle Kunkel, Deputy Joshua Petersen, Deputy Jesus Salazar, Deputy Logan Shelby, Deputy Thomas Tobias, Deputy Samantha Valencia, and Deputy Cole Walsh

The 2nd Shift Patrol Deputies repeatedly displayed courage, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork throughout 2024 while responding to several high-risk, low-frequency calls for service.

Within Rock County, they responded to four separate tornado incidents on Feb. 8, May 26, June 22, and July 15, 2024. They worked in hazardous conditions for long hours to render assistance to community members. In March, 2nd Shift Patrol Deputies responded to an address on Miles Road for a missing child. They identified and detained a person of interest as the call transitioned to a homicide investigation. Their teamwork and thoroughness led to the successful arrest of the suspect. In June, 2nd Shift Patrol Deputies responded to a report of an armed subject pointing a rifle at victims at a trailer park. Deputies demonstrated command presence and teamwork in controlling the uncooperative crowd and identifying and taking a suspect into custody. This call developed into activating the SWAT Team and obtaining a search warrant for the residence. In September, 2nd Shift Patrol Deputies responded to a strong-armed carjacking where the driver was forcibly pulled from the vehicle. Deputies located the stolen vehicle traveling towards Beloit, and the vehicle fled. During the ensuing pursuit, a deputy utilized the Pursuit Intervention Technique to safely end the pursuit and take the suspect into custody. The swift and coordinated actions of deputies ensured the victim was safe, the stolen vehicle was successfully recovered, and the suspect was arrested.

The 2nd Shift Patrol Deputies also assisted surrounding law enforcement agencies with multiple high-risk incidents, to include Dane County Sheriff's Office with apprehension of two armed homicide suspects who shot at law enforcement, City of Janesville Police Department with an officer involved shooting, City of Beloit Police Department with an officer involved shooting, City of Milton Police Department with a shots fired call in an apartment complex that led to a SWAT Team callout, City of Milton Police Department with a non-fatal shooting investigation, and City of Beloit Police Department with a homicide investigation. In each incident, 2nd Shift Patrol Deputies exhibited professionalism and teamwork embodying the agency's tradition of service.

Sheriff's Award: Captain Mark Thompson

In 2024, Captain Mark Thompson leveraged technology in the Support Services Bureau to improve efficiency and increase capabilities in three areas. First, he oversaw the implementation of NextRequest Public Records Software. NextRequest allows the agency to receive and fulfill open records requests electronically. Second, he arranged for the transition to Pace Scheduler, which consolidated scheduling for all Sheriff's Office staff into one online platform as opposed to bureau and shift-specific paper calendars, saving hundreds of hours a year in scheduling tasks. Third, he orchestrated the adaptation of FASTER Fleet Management Software. The program tracks the agency's vehicles and capital equipment streamlining routine maintenance and reducing repair costs. This award recognizes Captain Thompson's innovation in implementing these technological advances to the Support Services Bureau.

Citizen Award: Jaime Quevedo-Flores

On April 28, 2024, deputies responded to a disturbance at Toxic Bar in the Town of Rock. The investigation revealed that a male subject was causing issues at the bar. The subject was upset that the owner of the bar and a security guard would not allow him to sell cocaine there. Security Guard Jaime Quevedo-Flores escorted the subject out of the bar. The subject then proceeded to his vehicle where he retrieved a loaded pistol and concealed it on his person. The subject returned to the front door of the bar and attempted to go back inside. Quevedo-Flores stopped the subject who insisted on returning to his friend inside. A second security guard went to retrieve the friend. Quevedo-Flores turned to check on the second security guard and heard what he believed to be a pistol slide being racked. Quevedo-Flores quickly turned back and observed the subject holding a firearm in his hand. Quevedo-Flores believed the subject would use the firearm and immediately tackled the subject to the ground and wrestled the gun away from him. Quevedo-Flores, with the assistance of the other security guard, was able to place the subject in handcuffs before deputies arrived. The subject was arrested and convicted for his actions in this incident. The firearm used in this incident was connected to a shooting case in the City of Janesville and an attempted homicide case in the Town of Beloit. Quevedo-Flores's heroic actions prevented a potentially deadly shooting from occurring.

Commendations

Deputy Kristina Feirn, Deputy Joshua Fell, Deputy Matthew Gawlik, Deputy Kyle Kunkel, Deputy Tyler Quade, Deputy Samantha Valencia, and Deputy Cole Walsh

On April 10, 2024, the Dane County Sheriff's Office requested assistance with a rapidly evolving, dangerous situation. They were actively pursuing a vehicle on the interstate towards Rock County. Both occupants of the vehicle were discharging firearms at pursuing officers. The vehicle exited the interstate and fled into a rural area outside of Stoughton. The suspects, who were later determined to be associated with a homicide in Iowa, abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot into a wooded area. One of the suspects forced their way into an occupied residence and opened fire on the residents, who were successfully evacuated. This suspect remained barricaded inside the residence, while the other suspect continued to elude law enforcement on foot in the woods.

Deputies Samantha Valencia, Cole Walsh, Matthew Gawlik, Joshua Fell, Kristina Feirn, Kyle Kunkel, and Tyler Quade all responded. These deputies displayed the utmost courage and dedication under extremely dangerous circumstances. They operated selflessly attempting to locate and contain two armed and dangerous suspects in an unfamiliar location. These deputies did not hesitate to take on needed tasks, including gathering information from witnesses, traffic control, perimeter security on the wooded area, and containing the barricaded subject at the residence. Law enforcement from Dane County and Rock County worked together seamlessly to resolve this situation with no further danger to the public. These deputies demonstrated extreme commitment to protect and serve.

Sergeant Shena Kohler and Administrative Professional III Sarah Anderson

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office Records Bureau implemented NextRequest Public Records Software to streamline the dissemination of open records requests. Sergeant Shena Kohler and Administrative Professional III Sarah Anderson spearheaded the implementation. They dedicated countless hours to learning the new software, building the database, and creating procedures for its use. NextRequest is now utilized daily for records requests from professional partners, media, and the public. Since the implementation of NextRequest in April 2024, the agency has completed several thousand requests with an average closure within five business days. The implementation of NextRequest reduced costs for requestors and the agency by providing an avenue to send electronic versions of files instead of traditional paper copies. The increased efficiency of NextRequest also allowed for the reallocation of an employee to another area in the agency. Sergeant Kohler and Administrative Professional III Anderson demonstrated tremendous dedication to their work in their implementation of NextRequest in an effective and timely manner.

Deputy Cole Walsh

On Oct. 12, 2024, at around

5:32 p.m., Deputy Cole Walsh responded to a Town of Turtle Creek address for a report of a vehicle that crashed into a residence. The residence was occupied at the time of the incident; miraculously, the occupant was not injured. As the first on scene, Deputy Walsh encountered a dangerous and hectic situation. Deputy Walsh observed that the vehicle had fully entered the residence and caused significant damage. Multiple witnesses advised that the vehicle was on fire inside the residence. Deputy Walsh located the driver of the vehicle who was not seriously injured. He subsequently saw visible flames near the vehicle's engine. Deputy Walsh utilized the fire extinguisher from his squad, as well as two additional fire extinguishers from other responding law enforcement officers, to extinguish the fire. Deputy Walsh also ensured the evacuation of the residence to minimize the risk of injuries to those present. Deputy Walsh stabilized and commanded a chaotic scene. His quick response and actions prevented the residence from becoming fully engulfed and burning down. The investigation revealed that the vehicle was traveling at high speeds and lost control on a curve and resulted in arresting the driver for Operating While Intoxicated and other charges.

Deputy Anthony Barr, Deputy Jacob Diaz, Deputy Austin Dietzel, Deputy Joshua Fell, Deputy Matthew Gawlik, Deputy Benjamin Jacobs, Deputy Jeffery Knudson, Deputy Andrew Maloney, Deputy Logan Shelby, Deputy Thomas Tobias, Deputy Samantha Valencia, Deputy Cole Walsh, Detective Luke DuCharme, and Sergeant Christopher Lochner

On June 22, 2024, at around 7:42 p.m., an EF2 tornado touched down in the Town of Rock and traveled northeast towards the City of Janesville. The tornado was on the ground for approximately 11 minutes with a maximum wind speed of 115 miles per hour. The tornado's path was 6.21 miles long with a maximum width of 700 yards. The tornado caused significant damage, including downed trees, downed power lines, and structural damage to both homes and businesses. The tornado left many roads impassable. The storm produced a large amount of rain that flooded several roadways. Miraculously, there were no injuries from the tornado. On duty 2nd Shift Patrol Deputies, as well as other on duty and off duty personnel, responded to both assist at the damage area and maintain patrol functions for the entirety of Rock County. Those working the tornado scene performed the following tasks: manning traffic control posts on closed roadways, removing debris from roadways, checking on downed power lines, staffing an emergency shelter location, and conducting door-to-door residence checks to ensure the safety of all residents in the path of the tornado. Those assisting with patrol functions remained extremely busy responding to numerous calls for service not related to the tornado. These personnel played a crucial and significant role in providing law enforcement services to Rock County during a significant weather-related emergency.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office congratulates these award recipients for their exceptional contributions to public safety.