

Independent-Register SHOPPING NEWS

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Albany, Monroe schools among state Fab Lab grant awards

Funding to provide students with hands-on STEAM learning opportunities

By Tony Ends
CORRESPONDENT
Two Green County school districts got news last week of funding awards to provide hands-on learning for careers in advanced technologies.
Gov. Tony Evers and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) announced the awards to the Albany and Monroe districts.
The local funding is part of nearly \$500,000 total awarded to 20 Wisconsin school districts.
“The Albany School District is committed to providing our students with a modern design and production experience,” said Superintendent Kurt Soderberg, in a statement to *The*

Independent-Register Sunday morning.
“To maximize that opportunity and minimize the financial impact, we applied for a Fab Lab grant through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to support technology upgrades in our program.
“Earlier this year, we found out that our application was approved, and we got to work creating a dynamic and purposeful learning space,” Soderberg said.
State Fab Lab awards require matching funds of 50 percent of the amount requested from school district applicants, according to the WEDC website.
“This space will serve our 6-to-12 students through middle school exploratory classes

and high school technology and computer courses. We recently received a large-format printer, enabling students to produce stickers, banners, posters, and many other products on materials up to 54 inches wide,” Soderberg said Sunday.
“This upgrade offers hands-on experience allowing students to develop essential design and production skills to help them prepare for future career opportunities.
“We also repurposed our desktop computers and moved to a more powerful and flexible laptop platform. Our 6-to-12 students will be introduced to Adobe Illustrator and

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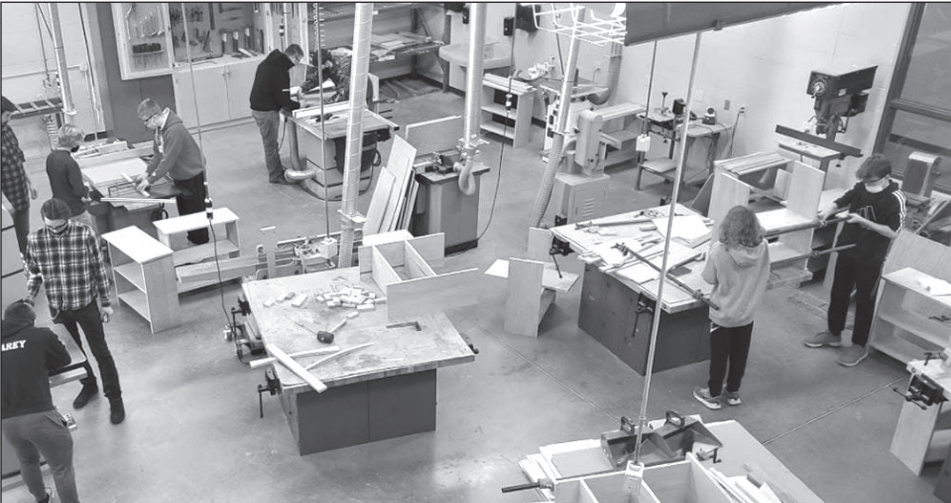


PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT *Rock Valley Publishing*

Students in the Prescott School District work in a Fab Lab, which is featured in a Wisconsin Economic Development case study online. Prescott School District is at the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers, which is a 30-minute drive from downtown St. Paul.

Experience live outdoor music at Sounds of Summer

Experience the beauty of music and nature together at Rotary Botanical Gardens’ Sounds of Summer, a live music series featuring classical and acoustic performances in

a breathtaking outdoor setting.
On select Sunday afternoons from May through September, visitors can serenely stroll through the gardens

while enjoying the sounds of harp, violin, flute, guitar, and more performed by talented musicians from Rock County, Walworth County, Madison, and Rockford, Illinois.
Thanks go to Edie Baran, of ArtSpark Productions, for assisting RBG with the hiring of the musicians.

Event details

- May 11, 1 to 3 p.m.
- June 8, 1 to 3 p.m.
- July 13, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Aug. 10, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Sept. 14, 1 to 3 p.m.

Rotary Botanical Gardens is at 1455 Palmer Drive in Janesville. Admission is free for Rotary Botanical Gardens members and is included with general garden admission for non-members.

Featured artists for May

The first concert in the series will showcase a talented lineup of musicians, including:
• Silver Morning Duo – Berlinda Lopez on flute and Steve Waugh on guitar
• The Sobacki Family – Emily Sobacki on violin with



PHOTO SUBMITTED *Rock Valley Publishing*

The Silver Morning Duo features Berlinda Lopez on flute and Steve Waugh on guitar.

See MUSIC, Page 5

Juda-Albany defeats Highland thanks to late inning rally

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Juda-Albany softball co-op picked up their ninth victory of the 2025 season on Friday, May 2. After a one-day postponement, Juda-Albany faced off with Highland in a double header.
Juda-Albany came into the game on a high-note. They were riding a three-game winning streak, including a 4-2 victory over Argyle-Black Hawk. The winning streak had improved Juda-Albany’s overall record to 8-6 on the season. Highland came into the double header with a record of 9-9. They were fresh off a brutal 6-7 loss to Barneveld just days before.

It was a slow start for the bats, but Juda-Albany finally got things going with four runs in the top of the third. Anna Ellinger, Phoenix Homan, Anna Bartels, Emerson Briggs, and Kam Simpson hit five consecutive singles, leading to the big inning.
That wasn’t a sign of things to come for the Panthers in game one. They were held scoreless the rest of the way. Highland took the lead with a three-spot in the bottom of the fifth, and they controlled the game from there. In the end, Juda-Albany dropped game one by a score of 4-5.
Game two went a little better for the Panthers. With Ryleigh Brown on the mound, they were in good hands. Brown

pitched a complete game, allowing just one earned run off five hits and one walk. It was just the pitching performance Juda-Albany needed with their bats struggling.
Brown gave the bats plenty of time to wake up. This time around, it was Highland who scored the game’s first run, however. It took a while, once again, but Highland jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth. That only inspired the Panthers to get on the board themselves, however. Juda-Albany got that run back in the bottom half, when Homan took advantage of some defensive miscues.
It was a true pitcher’s duel from start to finish. After the Panthers tied the game in the fourth, Brown returned to the circle and picked up two strikeouts in the fifth. Brown then pitched her way out of trouble in the sixth. Despite allowing a pair of singles, she got out of the inning, largely thanks to Briggs throwing out a runner at home plate, from center field.
After keeping Highland at bay, Brown also played a role in giving her team the lead offensively. Brown led off the bottom of the sixth with a double to center, putting the Panthers in business. One out later, Homan came through with an RBI double to left. Homan continued to be a menace on the basepaths as she quickly advanced

See RALLY, Page 5

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Connecting with the local community



On April 12, Sen. Mark Spreitzer (at right) visited Rock County's new Administrator John Light and Beloit City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos at their joint satellite local government office in Beloit at Piggly Wiggly. As a former local elected official, Spreitzer knows firsthand how important it is for local government to be accessible, visible, and engaged with the community it serves.

Sky Carp take series with 11-7 victory

By Josh Flickinger
BELOIT SKY CARP

The Sky Carp capped off a terrific series and an outstanding road trip with a 11-7 victory Sunday afternoon over the Peoria Chiefs.

The win on May 5 gave them

a 4-2 series win over the Chiefs, and ended the longest road trip of the season for the team with an 8-4 record.

Yiddi Cappe got Sunday afternoon's proceedings off to a terrific start with a leadoff home run to make it 1-0. The Carp

added three more tallies in the fourth inning to assume a 4-0 advantage.

After the Chiefs scored a pair of runs to cut the lead in half, a Payton Green sacrifice fly extended the Carp lead to 5-2 in the sixth. An Eric Rataczak RBI single in the seventh made it 6-2, and Emaarion Boyd provided the knockout blow with a three-run double to make it 9-2.

Jay Beshears capped the Sky Carp's scoring effort by tripling home Green in the ninth to account for the final score.

Will Schomber got the start for the Sky Carp and threw three scoreless frames, featuring five strikeouts. Brayan Mendoza (2-1) picked up the win with three innings of effective relief, while Xavier Meachem and Will Kempner each threw scoreless outings out of the bullpen.

The Carp returned to ABC Supply Stadium on Tuesday, May 6.

Visit Skycarp.com for tickets.

UWW at Rock County recognizes 2024-25 student government

Eight students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at Rock County served on the campus's Student Government Association (SGA) during the 2024-25 academic year.

The following students from the local area are active in SGA at URock:

- Aster Cross of Edgerton, who is pursuing a Liberal Arts degree and holds the position of President.
- Yousef Hamed of Beloit, who is pursuing an Arts and Science degree and holds the position of Senator.
- Andy Holmbeck of Janesville, who is pursuing an Arts and Science degree and holds the position of Vice President.
- Abi Leon of Janesville, who is pursuing an Arts and Science degree and holds the position of Senator.
- Trenton Lambert of Janesville, who is pursuing a Media Arts and Game De-

velopment degree and holds the position of Senator (fall only).

- Arturo Saldana of Beloit, who is pursuing an Arts and Science degree and holds the position of Senator.
- Alexis Peralta-Ruiz of Janesville, who is pursuing an Arts and Science degree and holds the position of Treasurer/Senator.

UW-Whitewater at Rock County's Student Government Association (SGA) is a student-led organization that works to advocate for all students and improve student life opportunities at the Rock County campus. The organization is the voice for students in the areas of academics, safety, recreation, and SEG fee distribution to student organizations and services.

Student government representatives are voting members on a variety of commit-

tees for SGA and the College of Integrated Studies, which is based on the Rock County campus. They vote on topics including:

- SUFAC (Student University Fee Allocation Committee)
- Curriculum
- Safety and facilities
- Recruitment and retention
- Programming Board
- Inclusive excellence and international education

The SGA's elected members include a president, vice president, chief of staff, treasurer, and four senators. The group is advised by Janine Peterson, student affairs program specialist at URock.

UW-Whitewater at Rock County offers a welcoming, affordable, accessible, and quality path to a college degree and unlimited career opportunities. For more information on the campus, visit uww.edu/rock.

Solar company partners with botanical gardens

Nautilus Solar Energy, LLC, a leader in community solar, has announced a year-long partnership with Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville. This collaboration aims to educate visitors about the power of solar energy and the benefits of community solar, aligning with both organizations' values of providing community education about ways to live a sustainable life.

The solar company is committed to making renewable energy equitable and affordable to everyone, regardless of household income or location. By subscribing to a community solar farm, residents can benefit from reduced electricity costs and gain more control of electrical bills, while contributing to the growth of solar energy without the hassle or the high upfront costs of rooftop solar installation.

Rotary Botanical Gardens, a 20-acre non-profit botanical garden, known for its dedication to environmental education and community involvement as well as its stunning garden landscapes, shares Nautilus's vision of a greener future and the importance of educating the community in ways they can engage in healthier living, whether this is gardening, birdwatching, holistic healing, or presentations on sustainable living. This partnership is a natural fit, as both organizations strive to foster genuine connections and lasting relationships with local communities for healthier lives.

Community solar legislation in Wisconsin would allow electricity users to subscribe to facilities and receive credits on their electricity bills for the solar energy produced. Leg-

islation would be designed to make solar energy more accessible and affordable for Wisconsin residents. If successful, it could bring new sources of renewable energy, energy savings, along with economic development and jobs to the state.

Nautilus and Rotary Botanical Gardens believe their partnership is crucial for educating Wisconsin households and businesses about the benefits of community solar, with a focus on the lasting well-being of communities.

With over 146 solar farms across 12 states, Nautilus provides energy to over 45,000 customers. Nautilus is responsible for the financing, development, construction, maintenance, and customer management of these projects.

To learn more about community solar, visit www.nautilusolar.com.



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Cornhole tournament raises funds for local humane society

The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin will hold its third annual Bags and Wags Cornhole Tournament at Sammy's Hilltop in Janesville. This event will be held on Sunday, June 1 starting at 11 a.m.

The cost to compete is \$75 per team and teams are com-

peting for both the glory of winning and also up to \$200 in cash prizes. Plus, registration also includes a drink chip for each team member. Teams can also opt to add team t-shirts to their registration as well for \$20. Teams are encouraged to sign up before May 9 to guarantee their team t-shirts.

If they have not filled all 30 team slots by June 1, they will accept same-day registration.

To sign up: <https://events.humanitix.com/bags-and-wags-cornhole-tournament-2025>.

Not interested in competing, but still want to get in on the fun? They will have plenty of raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle, and a mystery wagon raffle — a utility wagon packed with over \$1,100 worth of prizes from local businesses. Wagon raffle tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the event or ahead of time at the shelter. One need not be present to win.

They can accept cash, card, Venmo at @petsgohome, or PayPal at paypal.com/paypalme/petsgohome for these tickets.

For more information, contact Shannon Redden at sredden@petsgohome.org.

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Name of Milton house fire victim released

The Rock County Medical Examiner's Department is releasing the name of the individual that died following a house fire on April 25. The incident occurred in the 800 Block of Ansley Avenue, in the City of Milton, and was reported to authorities at or about 4:16 a.m.

The individual can be identified as: Angela M. Stewart, 67, of Milton.

Mrs. Stewart was pronounced deceased at the scene on April 25. A forensic examination was completed on April 26. Cause and manner of death are pending at this time. Additional testing is underway.

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

Beef Council: Fuel up with beef this May

The Wisconsin Beef Council is hitting the accelerator this May Beef Month, offering exciting ways to help locals fuel up with beef.

As drivers pass by Wisconsin's 22,777 farms and ranches raising cattle and calves, they'll also be reminded of beef farmers' dedication while fueling up at their local Kwik Trip. Throughout May, customers will see messages about beef's benefits – packed with 10 essential nutrients – and can enter to win a Pit Boss Navigator 850 Connected Grill through their Kwik Rewards App. Each fresh beef purchase in-store, such as Ground Beef or Steak, earns additional entries. Plus, easy beef recipes are available at beeftips.com/kwiktrip.

Beef lovers can also show their pride and support a good cause by purchasing an exclusive "Fueled by Beef" shirt. Available through May 15, these limited-edition shirts – offered in gray and black t-shirts, long-sleeve tees, and sweatshirts – highlight beef's powerful nutrition, delivering

25 grams of protein and 10 essential nutrients in every 3-ounce serving. Proceeds benefit Feeding Wisconsin, helping supply beef to families in need through more than 1,000 local food programs. Shop the collection at beeftips.com/feedingwisconsin.

There are even more ways to celebrate May Beef Month:

- Visit Wisconsin's 500+ licensed meat establishments, chat with a local butcher, and take home a new beef cut to try. Not sure how to prepare it? Find cooking tips and recipes at beeftips.com.
- Grab a bite at one of the Elite Eight finalists in the 2025 Wisconsin's Best Burger Contest, honoring the state's top 100% beef burgers.

And of course, one of the best ways to celebrate is to thank the people behind the plate – from the farmers who care for the animals and the land to the processors, truck drivers, retailers, restaurant workers, and everyone in between.

Follow the Wisconsin Beef Council on social media.

Rock County Conservationists hold native plant sale

Rock County Conservationists (RCC) will be conducting a native plant sale this spring.

The due date for advance sale plant orders is May 12, and pickup will be on Saturday, May 17, at the Janesville Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon on the corner of W. Court Street and S. River Street in Janesville.

Plants that are not presold will be available for purchase on the day of pickup, along with annual pollinator plants, but quantities of these annuals will be limited.

The sale will feature 37 species of native plants for both sunny and shady locations. Plants that will be available include three species of Milkweed that are a food source for Monarch Butterflies: Prairie Milkweed, Butterflyweed, and Marsh Milkweed.

Other species of plants being offered include Cardinal Flower, Smooth Blue Aster, White Wild Indigo, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, Royal Catchfly, Wild Columbine, Wild Geranium, Pale Purple Coneflower, Big and Little Bluestem, and Prairie Dropseed. These plants require little care, return year after year, and attract birds, bees, and butterflies. Plants will be sold for \$3 each to RCC members and \$3.50 each to non-members.

To place an order for native plants, contact John Meland at 608-295-5343 or collville2011@gmail.com.

Only minimum preorders of 12 plants or more will be accepted with a requested maximum of four plants of any one species.

For information on annual pollinator plants that will be available, contact Dave Bendlin at 608-868-3824 or davebendlin@gmail.com or check out the Facebook page for a complete list.

Learning about spring flowers

PHOTO COURTESY LAURA ROTH Rock Valley Publishing



It was the end of the "April Showers Bring May Flowers" at Albertson Memorial Library's Preschool Story Time, which meant reading books about flowers: "Splish Splash Spring", "Planting a Rainbow", and "Grow Flowers Grow". Then using markers and their own fingers, the preschoolers made fingerprint flowers which they then taped to a pipe cleaner. Lots of flower seed packets helped give examples of flowers and everyone got to plant a flower seed, or two or three. Next week is a celebration of fathers reading stories like "Your Daddy was Just Like You!" Walking in dad's footprints literally, the preschoolers will make footprint art letting dad know they might turn out to be just like their father. Albertson Memorial Library Preschool Story Time is rapidly coming to the end of this session. They'll take a break during the summer to make room for the Summer Library Program: Color Our World. The last day is May 20.



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Parkview High School spring sports teams

PHOTOS COURTESY BRIANNE LARSEN OF LARSEN PHOTOGRAPHY Rock Valley Publishing



The Parkview High School golf team for spring 2025.



The Parkview High School track team for spring 2025.



The Parkview High School baseball team for spring 2025.



The Parkview High School softball team for spring 2025.



The Parkview High School trapshooting team for spring 2025.

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• Grant (Continued from front page)

Versa-works beginning in middle school and will continue to hone their skills throughout high school resulting in the creation of high-quality printable designs to promote our school and community.

“We are grateful to the WEDC for providing this opportunity!” he said.

Each local award will help train students in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) skills, according to a release from the governor’s office.

The “Fab Lab” awards prepare students for careers using advanced technologies by establishing or expanding local fabrication laboratory (fab lab) facilities, the release stated.

Evers declared 2025 the Year of the Kid, and his 2025-27 Executive Budget will make the largest direct investment in state general school aids in 30 years.

This includes more than \$3.1 billion in proposed general and categorical aids for kindergarten through 12th grade public schools statewide.

Additionally, Evers’ budget proposes a \$140 million investment to continue the Workforce Innovation Grant Program.

To date, Evers has directed more than \$128 million to 27 projects supporting locally driven workforce solutions statewide.

This includes opportunities for youth and students across the state to develop critical workforce skills, such as those in advanced manufacturing and other in-demand fields.

Among the workforce development grants, Green County Family YMCA received up to \$3.7 million. It is facilitating addition of a 5,000-square-foot daycare and preschool wing for licensed programs and classes, and addition of a 6,000-square-foot Youth Development Wing.

The project is a YMCA partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Vitality Youth Services, Jacob’s Swag, Avenue’s Counseling, and the Multicultural Outreach program.

This investment will help Green County Family YMCA meet the diverse needs of area youth, according to a release on the state workforce development project

“During the Year of the Kid, it’s more important than ever to invest in the future of Wisconsin’s kids and give them every opportunity to develop valuable skills that they can use to become the leaders and innovators tomorrow,” Evers stated in the release last week.

“Thanks to our partners at WEDC, school districts across the state will be able to equip their students with state-of-the-art laboratories for learning, ensuring our kids have the education and resources necessary to become the workforce of tomorrow.”

A fabrication laboratory, or Fab Lab, is a technology workshop equipped with computer-controlled manufacturing components such as 3D printers, laser engravers, computer numerical control routers, and plasma cutters.

Through the Fab Lab Grant Program, WEDC is supporting fabrication lab equipment

purchase for instructional and educational purposes for K-12 students across the state.

More than 100 school districts have received Fab Lab awards in 50-50 matching grant application process between 2016 and 2023.

“WEDC has invested over \$5.5 million over the past 10 years to provide 133 schools across the state with the equipment necessary to help students learn high-demand skills, including technology, manufacturing, and engineering,” stated WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes in the release last week.

“Fab Labs benefit not only the students themselves with important technology and career skills, but they also benefit Wisconsin employers, who will be able to find workers with the right skills to allow their companies to grow and thrive.”

Monticello School District received \$25,000 from the same program for its Fab Lab projects in 2021.

A total of \$497,199 in Fab Lab Grants from WEDC will be distributed to 20 public school districts across the state. Individual school districts were eligible for grants of up to \$25,000, and consortiums of two or more districts were eligible for up to \$50,000. The program requires matching funds from each district.

The following school districts in addition to Albany and Monroe were most recently awarded Fab Lab Grants:

- Elkhorn Area School District, \$25,000
- School District of Nekoosa, \$24,847
- DeForest Area School District, \$25,000
- School District of Belleville, \$14,824
- Nicolet Union High School District, \$25,000
- Joint School District 1/Benton School District, \$16,936
- School District of Arcadia, \$25,000
- Alma Area Schools, \$25,000
- CESA 3 (consortium), \$49,872



ALBANY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBPAGE PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*
A student gets hands-on shop instruction at Albany School District. Albany received a \$25,000 fabrication lab grant award from the state this past week.

- North Crawford School District, \$24,856
- Weyauwega-Fremont School District, \$20,000
- Luck School District, \$25,000
- Muskego-Norway Schools, \$21,688
- Whitnall School District, \$25,000
- Tri-County Area School District, \$25,000
- Ellsworth Community School District, \$25,000
- Westosha Central High School District, \$25,000
- Pewaukee School District, \$24,176

WEDC received 29 total applications for Fab Lab Grants. The grants were awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications evaluated based on readiness and long-range planning, curriculum, business and community partnerships, financial need, and previous awards.

In addition to the grants, WEDC and the University of Wisconsin-Stout developed a Fab Lab resource page that provides districts with information on how to set up and equip a Fab Lab, and how to implement best practices to ensure a successful Fab Lab.

For more information on the state’s Fab Labs, including resources for teachers, visit wedc.org/fablabs.

A Fab Lab award to Prescott School District in Western Wisconsin is featured in a case study on WEDC’s website.

The study describes how

Prescott’s Fab Lab team creates products the district offers for sale for \$20 or less.

By setting up outside a grocery store for two days and sharing about it on social media, the district sold \$800 worth of steel coasters at \$5 each in just five hours, the study states.

The team also asks local businesses to stock fab lab products on their shelves. According to the case study, the Prescott School District has made between \$1,000 and \$4,000 per year by selling products, such as keychains, cutting boards, coasters, shelving, and other décor.

Successful strategies have included promoting the products in advance of major holidays and adding notes to the products stating who made them and how. Especially popular have been products that stated scrap wood made up 70% of the inputs, the study stated.

Toward the goal of self-sufficiency for the program, proceeds from product sales are reinvested into tooling, materials, and repairs for the fab lab space. Any leftover funds are saved for future equipment purchases.

The school district also receives donations of supplies from area businesses to utilize in the fab lab space.

Prescott students are trying their hand at milling and drying lumber with logs an instructor donated from his tree removal business. This allowed funds that would be spent on these supplies (wood) to go toward other purposes.

• Music (Continued from front page)

her children, Isla and Ari, on Spanish guitar

- Apple Tree Duo – Mother-daughter violin and viola duo
- Fran Thorpe Peyer and students – A variety of guitar, ukulele, and vocal performances

Each Sounds of Summer music series will feature a different selection of musicians, ensuring a unique experience at every event.

Visitors are invited to relax, wander the garden paths, and immerse themselves in the world’s most beloved classical and acoustic melodies while taking in the vibrant seasonal blooms of the Gardens.

Plan a visit

Sounds of Summer is the perfect opportunity to unwind, appreciate live music, and enjoy the beauty of nature. Whether one is a classical music lover or simply looking for a peaceful Sunday afternoon activity, this series is not to be missed.

For more details on upcoming concerts and performers, visit Rotary Botanical Gardens’ website.

Rotary Botanical Gardens is a 20-acre non-profit botanical garden featuring 20 unique garden styles and over 4,000 plant varieties. Located in Janesville, the Gardens provide a serene and inspiring space for visitors to connect with nature, engage in educational programs, and

support conservation efforts. The Gardens rely on community support, donations, and events like Sounds of Summer to continue their mission of horticultural excellence.



PHOTO SUBMITTED *Rock Valley Publishing*
The Apple Tree Duo is a mother-daughter violin and viola duo.

• Rally (Continued from front page)

to third on a wild pitch. That allowed her to score on a Bartels ground out, putting Juda-Albany up 3-1 late.

Brown made quick work of Highland in the final inning. After just four pitches, Brown had already induced two fly outs. She then struck out the final batter of the day, securing the 3-1 victory for Juda-Albany. Brown finished

with four strikeouts in the win.

Juda-Albany combined for just five hits as a team. Brown had two of them in the leadoff spot as she went two for three with one run scored. Homan was perfect on the day, going three for three with two runs scored and one RBI. That duo provided all five of the Panthers’

hits, however.

This Thursday, May 8, Juda-Albany hits the road as they take on Pecatonica. That game is scheduled to start at 5 p.m. The Panthers return home on Monday, May 12, to play host to Barneveld. Earlier this season, Barneveld beat Juda-Albany by a score of 7-3. That game has a start time of 4:30 p.m.



George Auction Service & Real Estate, LLC



**1922 Ford Model T – Gas Pump – Shop Equipment & Tools
Woodworking Equipment – Monroe Collectibles – Signs
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Household – Woodburning Stoves – Horse Related**

Shirley Stauffacher

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For complete listing and photos log on to www.georgeauction.com

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LIVE AND ONLINE AUCTION

SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Saturday, May 10 – 10 A.M.

8284 Ridge Road, Rock Falls, IL 61071

AUCTIONEERS: Rob Young, IL #441000593

ITEMS: Lawn & garden; lawn mowers; lawn ornaments; 8x8x12 timbers; collectibles; tool chests; over 10 hay racks full; lots of misc.

Bid via   on website.

471431



Brazen Head Pub wins best burger contest

The Wisconsin Beef Council is pleased to announce that the Brazen Beer Cheese Burger at Brazen Head Pub in West Bend is the winner of the annual Wisconsin's Best Burger Contest.

The Brazen Beer Cheese Burger is a half-pound of Angus beef, topped with cheddar cheese, bacon, onion rings, and Harp beer cheese, served on a pretzel roll. They also feature a Build Your Own Burger, where you choose everything including the bun, sauce, veggies and cheese.

"Wow! It was an honor just being nominated for a second year by our customers, winning is a bit of a surprise with the stiff competition," said John Fellenz, Brazen Head owner. "Our staff – Melanie, James (Metal,) Tyler P., Andrew, Dan, John, Kevin, Mason, Ryan, Max, and Karina – cook with their hearts. Our general manager Megan, kitchen manager Tyler L., and I are so excited to share this win with them. Thank you to everyone!"

The contest was designed by the Wisconsin Beef Council to seek out and promote 100% beef burgers prepared in Wisconsin restaurants. Brazen Head Pub emerged victorious, earning the highest ranking from a secret panel of three judges who traveled

to the Elite Eight restaurants named in the contest.

"We are thrilled with the overwhelming response for this contest," Tammy Vaassen, executive director of the Wisconsin Beef Council, said. "The Wisconsin Beef Council's mission is to grow demand for beef, and the Best Burger contest has served as a perfect way to get Wisconsinites into local establishments enjoying delicious, 100% beef burgers. The feedback from our judges was incredibly positive for all the competitors, which is a testament to the large number of nominations received for each of them. We are honored to have Brazen Head as our winner, with judges comments including: It was an enjoyable burger experience, the burger was cooked beautifully and the onion rings were tasty, it was done exactly how I wanted and juicy."

The announcement follows a nomination period of 30 days where consumers across the state could submit their favorite burger joint. The Elite Eight restaurants were those that received the most nominations. Throughout April, a secret panel of judges visited each restaurant to evaluate a burger on the menu. They rated taste, appearance and presentation, proper cooking



From left: John Fellenz, Melanie Dylla, Jaydee Fellenz (front row), Megan Miller, Tyler Lloyd, John Markgraf, Karina Natzke.

temperature, overall eating enjoyment, and bonus points could be awarded for the environment, atmosphere and experience in the restaurant.

The 2025 Elite Eight restaurants are:

- 11:11 Burgers and Beignets, 718 W. Johnson, Fond du Lac
- Brazen Head Pub, 147 N. Main Street, West Bend
- Brothers on Oak, 412 Oak Street, Baraboo
- The Dump Bar and Grill, 105 W. Edgewater Street, Cambria
- Iron Horse Saloon, 322 Silver Street, Hurley
- Local Press Burger Bar, 143 Main Street, Kewaskum
- Mihm's Charcoal Grill, 342 Chute Street, Menasha

- Straight Home Bar and Grill, 184060 WI-153, Eland

A map of the Wisconsin's Best Burger contest Elite Eight can be printed at www.beeftips.com/events/best-burger-contest and used as a guide as Wisconsinites plan summer vacations or are looking for a day-trip destination in the coming months.

To be eligible for the contest, the hamburgers on the restaurant menus had to meet the following guidelines:

- The burger must be 100% beef (other ingredients may be added to the patty such as spices, vegetables, etc.)
- All burgers must be composed of a formed ground beef patty/patties served on a bun or other bread product

(such as biscuits, focaccia or tortillas). Burgers may include any combination of condiments (such as ketchup, mayonnaise and mustard), sauces (such as barbeque or hot sauce), cheeses and toppings (such as bacon, onions, tomatoes and lettuce). Every component of the burger must be placed between the bun or bread pieces or served open-faced on a bread product.

"Restaurants can watch for details about next year's contest coming out in February of 2026 on our website," said Vaassen. "The contest has shown us that whether you're from a rural area or one of our larger cities, beef brings our communities together for delicious meals."

The Wisconsin Beef Council is a producer-led non-profit organization funded by the \$1 per head assessment on all cattle sold in the state of Wisconsin per the Federal Beef Promotion and Research Act and Order. Half of the dollar remains in Wisconsin for local beef promotion, while the other half is forwarded to the Cattlemen's Beef Board. The purpose of the Council is to fund beef promotion, research, and consumer education activities supporting Wisconsin's \$2.1 billion beef industry. The WBC operates under the guidance of its Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of representatives from cattle-related organizations around the state of Wisconsin.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, GREEN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY M. PRIBBLE

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025PR24

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/24/1942 and date of death 02/01/2025 was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W360 Rock Hill Road, Brodhead, WI 53520.
3. The application will be heard at the Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin, Branch 2, before Hon. Jane E. Bucher, on June 10, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is August 4, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin.
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-328-9433 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. Please check with person named below for exact time and date.

DATE SIGNED:
April 24, 2025

Electronically signed by
Jane Bucher
Circuit Court Judge

Form completed by:
Michael A. Faust
Consigny Law Firm, S.C.
3303 East Court Street
Janesville, WI 53545

The Independent Register
5/7, 5/14, 5/21/2025
WNAXLP 471295

CITY OF BRODHEAD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Brodhead Board of Appeals on **Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Brod-

head City Hall, 1111 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, to consider the following request for variance to the zoning/building codes:

Request by Michael W Fitters for a variance to **Section 480-80 Zoning General Requirements. C. (4) Detached Accessory Buildings.** The applicant is requesting exceeding the accessory building maximum height; to be increased from 15 feet to 22 feet. Legal description is: **ORIGINAL PLAT BLOCK 178 W 33 FT LOT 2 & N 82.5 FT LOT 3 & 4.**

All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard in relation thereto.

Kristin Covert, City Clerk
City of Brodhead

Posted: May 2, 2025

The Independent Register
5/7/2025
WNAXLP 471510

BRODHEAD ORDINANCE 272-6 B

Public nuisance declared. The Common Council finds that lawns, grasses and noxious weeds on lots or parcels of land within the City of Brodhead which exceed eight inches in length adversely affect the public health and safety of the public in that they tend to emit pollen and other discomforting bits of plants, constitute a fire hazard and a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass, interfere with the public convenience and adversely affect property values of other land within the City. For that reason, grass or weeds on a lot or other parcel of land which exceeds eight inches in length is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, except for property located in a designated floodplain area and/or wetland area or where the lawn, grass or weed is part of a native landscape as defined in § 272-5A. This section does not apply to crops grown in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 480, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Brodhead.

Fee Rates:
Filed notice of non-compliance \$25
Residential- \$100 minimum plus \$25 for each 15 minutes over one hour.
Commercial undeveloped- \$200 minimum plus \$50 for each 15 minutes over one hour.

The Independent Register
5/7, 5/14/2025
WNAXLP 471526

Study: State teens are among the least happy

Today's teenagers are navigating a landscape that feels uniquely daunting. The pressures are piling up – social media, family structures shaken by record divorce rates, parents' financial uncertainty, climate fears, and an education system that's more competitive than ever. For parents watching their kids grow up in this environment, it's hard not to wonder: Are teens managing to find joy, or are they just treading water?

To get a clearer picture, Mission Prep surveyed 3,012 parents of adolescents across the country. They asked a straightforward question: "On a scale of 1 to 10, how happy is your teen?"

The result is a 'Happiness Index Ranking' – a revealing look at where America's teenagers are thriving and where they're struggling most.

The findings suggest that happiness isn't evenly distributed. The survey's state rankings highlight a striking contrast in teen well-being. For example, Wisconsin's teenagers are among the least happy in America, according to their parents who ranked their happiness at just 4/10 (compared

to a national average of 5.5).

The top 5 states for teen happiness

- 1. Kansas: 9/10.
- 2. Delaware: 8/10.
- 3. New Hampshire: 8/10.
- 4. Oklahoma: 8/10.
- 5. South Dakota: 8/10.

The bottom 5 states for teen happiness

- 50. Mississippi: 2/10.
- 49. New Mexico: 3/10.
- 48. Maine: 3/10.
- 47. Alabama: 3/10.
- 46. Rhode Island: 3/10.

These differences point to bigger forces at play. In higher-ranking states, there's often a sense of belonging or a buffer against stress – think tight-knit towns or outdoor escapes. In the lower ranks, challenges like poverty, sparse mental health resources, or a lack of opportunity might deepen the strain. Still, numbers only scratch the surface; parents' firsthand observations fill in the gaps.

Beyond rankings: what's shaping teen lives

Mission Prep went further, asking Wisconsin parents to reflect on their teens' day-to-

day experiences. The responses offer both concern and cautious hope.

On happiness trends, 72% of parents said their teen's mood has held steady over the past year. Another 19% saw improvement – 7% significantly, 12% slightly – while 9% noticed a drop – 5% slightly, 4% significantly. That stability could mean resilience, or it might signal a kind of emotional plateau, neither sinking nor rising.

What's behind stress?

Parents identified these as the top pressures:

- Peer relationships and social dynamics: 31% cited this – friendships, rivalries, and the push to fit in.
- Social media and screen time: 30% pointed to the digital world, where comparison and validation rule.
- Academic demands: 22% named school, with its high stakes and relentless pace.
- Family conflict (10%) and household financial worries (6%) also factored in, though less dominantly.

Screen time, in particular, stands out. Teens average 3 hours and 32 minutes daily on social media or personal devices, not counting homework. That's a significant slice of their lives spent online – time that could cut into sleep, real-world connections, or simply unwinding.

Yet there are bright spots. Parents shared what brings their teens joy:

- Time with friends: 23% said this tops the list – face-to-face bonds still matter most.
- Pets or animals: 16% credited four-legged friends with lifting spirits.
- Family moments: 15% highlighted the value of togetherness at home.
- Physical activity (14%), creative pursuits (11%), and

even solitude (8%) also helped, while social media (6%) and school success (5%) rank lower.

Gauging the mindset

How do parents see their teens' current state? The survey offered four lenses:

- Thriving – vibrant, engaged, hopeful: 45% of teens fit here, a solid foundation.
- Managing – functional but stressed: 35% are in this middle space, coping but stretched.
- Struggling – low energy, moody, distant: 10% are finding it tough.
- At risk – showing signs of anxiety: 10% are cause for concern.

Looking back to their own youth, 51% of parents said their teen's happiness mirrors their own at that age. Meanwhile, 34% think their kids are happier – 16% much more, 18% slightly – while 15% see less – 11% slightly, 4% much less. It's a mixed bag, reflecting both timeless teenage struggles and today's distinct challenges.

Teen happiness index

Aja Chavez, National Executive Director of Mission Prep framed the stakes clearly: "This survey reveals a complex emotional landscape for today's teens. While it's heartening to see nearly half of adolescents described as 'thriving,' the sharp contrasts between states – and the daily pressures teens face – underscore that there's no one-size-fits-all experience of growing up in America right now. From screen time to social pressure, today's youth are balancing more than ever. But what's equally clear is the power of simple joys – friendship, family, pets, and creativity – as real anchors of happiness."

This story is courtesy Mission Prep.

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Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising

Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com

Fax: (262) 725-6844

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

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Announcements

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

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

Burial Needs

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

Misc. For Sale

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

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Campers and RVs

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42785

Donation helps summer library program



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

The Bank of New Glarus supported the Albertson Memorial Library’s Summer Library Program. The theme this year will be “Color Our World” and will feature many art techniques including tie dye, silkscreen printing, and alcohol inks. Some of the science experiments will explore color-changing liquids, why the sunset is red, and how to pop a balloon using an orange. The Summer Library Program will hold two sessions every Tuesday from June 3 through July 8. Preschoolers should attend from 10 to 11 a.m. and school-age children from 1 to 2 p.m.

News briefs

Taco Night fundraiser on May 12 for Juda Park

Taco Night will be held May 12, from 4 to 7 p.m., or while supplies last, at Juda Ball Park. Come cheer on the Juda/Albany softball team as they host Barneveld and Durand.

A large meal is three soft or hard tacos, with a choice of can soda, water, Gatorade, or a small slush puppie for \$8. A small meal is two soft or hard tacos with a choice of can soda or water for \$5. An extra taco is \$2.50. Carry outs are available.

All proceeds will go to the Juda Park.

Albany Village Hall office changes office hours

The Albany Village Hall clerk’s office will be closed to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays until further notice. They apologize for

any inconvenience this may cause. The office will be open to the public on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Payments can be left in the gray drop box next to the Village Hall front door or paid online at www.allpaid.com. Please use PLC #7752 for utility bills; #7754 for fines and forfeitures; and #7754 for miscellaneous payments.

Footville starts annual hydrant flushing

Footville started its annual hydrant flushing on Monday, May 5. Flushing will continue between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. until Friday, May 9, until all lines are flushed.

Don’t forget June Days in Orfordville

June Days will be June 6 to 8, with fireworks being on Saturday night.

Join Community Action in celebrating 60 years

Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties is hosting a special event. Join them for CAI’s 60th Anniversary Celebration and Community Cook-out on May 24, at 11 a.m. at Telfer Park.

It will be a day of fun, food, and festivities.

Please register and secure a free ticket. This event is open to the public, so please feel free to register any guests.

ADRC announces new services, programs

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County is pleased to announce new and continuing services and programs for people living with cognitive change and their caregivers.

In coordination with Kandu in Milton and Hedberg Public Library in Janesville, the ADRC is offering two new memory cafes for people with cognitive change and their caregivers. These cafes provide a safe environment in which people with cognitive change can have fun together and talk with others who understand what they’re going through. Memory cafes focus on people, not medical conditions.

The first memory café is held the third Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. at Kandu Industries Memory Café at 15 Plumb St. in Milton. For reservations, please contact Julie Smith at 608-755-4126 ext. 200.

The second memory café is held the third Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Hedberg Library Memory Café at 316 South Main St. in Janesville. For reservations, please contact Karen at 608-921-7165.

For more information about support groups or to learn more about the Dementia Care Specialist programs and services, please contact Karen Tennyson at 608-921-7165.

In collaboration with the ADRC of Dane County, the quarterly Caregiver GPS education session is also coming up on Thursday, May 15 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Attendees will be spending time with Bonnie Nuttkin-

son of the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center to talk about caregiver concerns and current research. Please register for the webinar online here: countyofdane.zoom.us/j/95TPSDYfVShR5lpq#/registration.

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 take 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 Skin-peccable Boutique and Nicole Tietz, owner of North Star Massage and Essentials

• June 3 – DIY Kombucha Healthy Living Demo Presented by Katie Kuznacic, 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 Veggies 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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