

Brodhead FREE PRESS

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Allie Dahl, holding the game ball, surrounded by her teammates, became the all-time leading scorer at Brodhead High School with 1,507 points. The previous record was set in 2018 by Erin Nyhus. Pictured, left to right: Karli Krumwiede, Emberly Ast, Annelise Bethke, Kennedy Zimmerman, Ella Olson, Alecia Dahl, Chesney Walker, Danica Demrow, Taiya Hawkins, Clemence Galand and Gretchen Kammerer. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

Green County Leaders Currently Accepting Leadership Tree Applications

Does your organization or group have an interest in investing in local community and leadership legacy? Green County Leaders is currently accepting leadership tree applications for spring of 2026!

Any nonprofit, municipality, school, or business may apply to be a host site of a leadership legacy tree. GCL will fund the planting of one tree and the inclusion of an engraved metal sign with the quote "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit." —Nelson Henderson. The chosen entity would purchase and plant the tree and install the sign (financial cost of the tree up to \$150 and of the sign would be covered by GCL), take care of the tree, and share a photo and quote regarding the tree's symbol of leadership legacy. GCL will reach out after one year for a follow-up check

in (another photo and quote) to recognize that legacy is ongoing.

To submit a leadership tree application, complete the application form (found on the Extension Green County website) and send it to Victoria Solomon at victoria.solomon@wisc.edu by Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Your entity's application will be reviewed by the GCL Board of Directors, which will make a decision in April 2026. The chosen host site will be recognized at the GCL graduation ceremony—Wednesday, May 13, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Hawk's Mill Winery in Browntown, Wisconsin.

For more information about Green County Leaders or leadership trees, contact Victoria Solomon, Community Development Educator with UW-Madison Division of Extension Green County at 608-328-9440 or via email at victoria.solomon@wisc.edu.

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EARLY DEADLINE
Due to a printing schedule change
the deadline for the
Wednesday, January 21
will be
NOON on THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
We apologize for any inconvenience.
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Toy Drive

Spencer Dunlavy is sponsoring a Toy Drive for his senior project. He will donate the toys to UW Health-Kids, American Family Children's Hospital. Donations will be accepted through Monday, January 19. Scan the QR code to view and order from Amazon wishlist or drop off at Brodhead Memorial Public Library. Donation guidelines: all donated items must be new and from a smoke-free environment.



18 Snows To Go!

According to the Ties Formula, go back to the last new moon before the first trackable snow and take that snow and add the two numbers together. The first snow was November 8.

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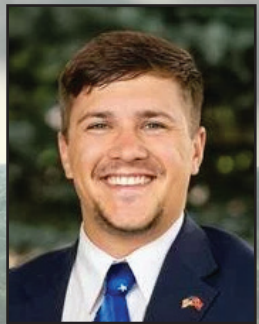
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ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

BRODHEAD PARK & REC SECOND AND THIRD GRADE YOUTH BASKETBALL


The Brodhead Pool and Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Tuesday afternoon youth basketball program for boys and girls in second and third grade, from 3–4:15 p.m. in the elementary school gym for six weeks, beginning in February and ending in March—February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and March 3rd, 10th. This program will teach basic skills and fundamentals.

Forms are available at the Elementary School and at the City Hall, or on the City of Brodhead Website <http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us>.

The cost is \$30, which includes a T-shirt. Forms need to be completed and turned in with fee by 8 a.m. on Friday, January 23rd. Gym shoes are required. Checks can be made payable to the Brodhead Pool and Rec Dept. If you have any questions, please call Ashley Graves at 608-897-2159.

Basketball contest

The highest scoring game was the girls' Brodhead vs. Parkview, 81-43. The winner of this week's basketball contest was a tie with all the correct games. Lynette VonAllmen, of Albany, had all the correct games and 82 points and Eric VonAllmen, of Albany, also had all the correct games with 80 points. The following also had all the correct games: Doug Rezner—77 points, of Brodhead; and Tom Brewer—75 points, of Albany.



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Brodhead Optimists Once Again Offer Essay and Oratorical Contests Great Prize Money

Students under the age of 19, are invited to speak their minds through a written essay entitled “How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me” to win cash prizes at the local and district levels of Optimist International for the school year 2026! Just pick up an application from Brodhead middle and high schools, the library, or Wendy Backes (wendybackes1966@gmail.com) and you're on your way! Applications and essays are due back by Monday, January 26th, 2026 to the place where you picked up your application.

Students, the Oratorical Contest has even bigger prize money available. You must be under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2025, and create a speech that lasts between four and five minutes on the topic of “The Moment I Realized I Belonged—My Definition of Community”. Pick up your application at the middle school, high school or library as soon as possible and return by Monday, January 5th to secure your space!

The Optimist Club will judge the students' speeches based on content and presentation to determine the top winners. Winners will receive cash awards and the winning speeches will be sent to the Zone Level, and possibly the District Level for the opportunity to win college scholarships. Winners of the District Level will be eligible to compete in a regional contest in St. Louis, Missouri, at St. Louis University. Winners of the regional contests will compete in the World Championship also held at Saint Louis University. Students could possibly win up to \$22,500 in scholarships!

“As they prepare for their future, many of our local students need experience expressing their thoughts and opinions to an audience,” Club President Gloria Sutter said. “The Oratorical Contest challenges them to do just that and also offers an opportunity for scholarships. In this way, our club hopes to bring out the best in each of them and help them achieve their goals for the future.”

If you have any questions, please contact Christine Dieckhoff at christidee@litewire.net or 608-558-5828 and she will help you.

BHS Class of 1999 reunion

The Brodhead High School Class of 1999 Reunion will be held Saturday, January 10th at Bridges starting at 6:30 p.m.

Albany Women's League Empty Stocking Project thank you

To our community of Albany we thank you for the outpouring of generosity and caring, shown in times of definite needs for area families. The donations enabled us to purchase clothing items, coats and boots for children preparing for an unusually cold winter.

We would like to recognize and thank the Albany Schools for providing families with information to receive help with necessary clothing items and gifts from the Giving Tree. Special thank you to Jeannie Doescher as she played a major part in this endeavor.

Thank you to the community Bank CMG staff for the use of their lobby and decorating the Giving Tree with mittens featuring the children's wishes. Thank you also to the bank staff for taking and recording of the donations to this heartfelt cause. Thank you Kim Klein for purchasing those colorful mittens for the “Giving Tree”.

Thank you to the Albany Thrift Store volunteer staff for a major contribution, providing us with the support of a generous donation each year. We appreciate your selfless work providing our community with a business that contributes to the community not only in thrifty shopping but also through monetary gifts to local churches and organizations.

Thank you to Albany Lions Club, who for countless years have been diligent is promoting and supporting this Empty Stocking project. The Albany Lions serve our community and surrounding communities as a meeting place for numerous groups including 4-H children, banquets, receptions, etc., definitely an attribute to this area.

All these ingredients blended make our program a success and a blessing to all involved.

Thank you to the following for monetary donations: Albany Thrift Store, Albany Lions Club, Albany Legion Auxiliary, John/Charlotte Briggs, Deb Buckingham, Bob/Priscilla Bump, Julie Cousins, Roger /Janet Ellis, Barb Gacic, Glenn Holt-sapple, Dean/Deb Houlberg, Janis/David King, Kathy Lobeck, Dick/Susan Oliver, Abe/Phyllis Runaas and Rhonda/Alfred Roenneburg.

Thank you to our Wish list Elves: Holly Atkinson, Mary Jo Dunphy, Penny Graves, Dawn Oliver, Mary Ellen Parker, Penny Thompson, Tara Walz and Julie Walz.



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Thursday, January 8

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The Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble from Madison will make its fifth appearance in Monroe on Saturday, January 10, at 3:00 pm at the Turner Hall of Monroe.

Ringing Badgers Handbell at Turner Hall of Monroe

Ring in the new year—literally—with a one-hour performance by the Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble of Madison. Directed by Dr. Mark Bloedow, the group will present its annual Sounds of the Season! concert in the Grand Hall of the Turner Hall of Monroe, 1217 17th Avenue, on Saturday, January 10, at 3 p.m. This is the second time the group will be performing at Turner Hall, and it's the fifth visit to Monroe, with previous appearances in January of 2019 and 2020, December 2023, and January 2025. The Ringer Badgers' Sounds of the Season! will feature a colorful selection of beloved traditional Christmas carols and arrangements of well-known popular songs of the season.

The Ringing Badgers is an auditioned handbell choir based in Madison that includes musicians from primarily south-central Wisconsin. The group made its debut in 2012, and currently performs with five octaves of handbells and seven octaves of handchimes, all made by the Malmark Bellcraftsmen of Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania. The ensemble enjoys an exciting performance schedule each season presenting concerts, as well as guest appearances with other groups and solo concerts.

All are welcome to attend, with a free-will donation to be accepted for the ensemble. To make the afternoon complete, the lower level Ratskeller Restaurant will be open following the concert until 8 p.m. The Ringing Badgers' performance is the opening event of Turner Hall's 2026 Swiss Heritage Series. Turner Hall is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, and is handicapped-accessible.

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Thank you! -Brodhead Free Press



Brodhead’s Landen Malcook, (file photo) assisted the Cardinals in their matchup against Parkview last week. The Viking prevailed, 64-41 over the Cards. Brodhead was led by Sam Searls, Nolan Bump and Logan Krupke. Leaders for Parkview were Aiden Crane and Oliver Friedrich. Brodhead will host Big Foot on Friday. Playing at River Valley last Friday, Brodhead was outscored, 54-29. No other stats were available at press time. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



Loralei Arnold #1 and Ella Olson #14, battle for ball control. Arnold led the Vikings with 14 points. The Cards scoring in double digits included Allie Dahl, Gretchen Kammerer and Ella Olson. Brodhead defeated Parkview, 81-43. At Stoughton last week, Dahl led all players with 35 points, aided by Olson and Taiya Hawkins. With a 71-62 final score, The Cards were the victors. The team hosted Bellville on Tuesday and will host Jefferson on Thursday. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

Trees Forever
Partnered
with 91
Communities
to Complete
170 Projects
in 2025
Regional non-
profit funds
and provides
tree planting
support for
projects in
Iowa, Illinois,
and Wisconsin

Marion, Iowa-based environmental nonprofit, Trees Forever, completed tree planting projects in 91 unique communities across Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin in 2025. The group organized thousands of volunteers and granted funding for environmental projects, while also partnering with municipalities and county governments to plant and care for public trees.

According to Michelle Beisker, CEO of Trees Forever, “Our work in 2025 was defined by partnerships. We don’t just plant trees, we strive to get green infrastructure directly to where it can have the most impact on people’s lives. That means our environmental mission is closely tied to communities and



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the volunteers, residents, officials, and funding partners that make the work possible.” Nearly every Trees Forever planting includes volunteer leadership from the communities in which the projects are happening and are supported with expertise and coordination from the organization's staff members.

Trees Forever's 2025 programming expanded through several major campaigns across its service area. The One Million Trees Central Iowa initiative aims to plant, preserve, and create policy that will build the region's tree canopy by one million trees over a decade of work. Part of this goal was reached this fall through the organization's first ever large-scale tree distribution event for residents of the ten-county region. The initiative also featured community volunteers working alongside Trees Forever in public planting projects.

Martin Luft, Activities Director at Merrill Middle School in Des Moines, planted alongside his students at a Trees Forever event this spring. “Planting trees wasn't just about improving our campus-it was about giving students ownership of their school,” said Luft. “When students are part of creating something lasting, they see their school differently. These trees will grow alongside them, shaping not only our landscape, but our sense of community for years to come.”

Other notable areas of expansion this year included the execution of projects in Illinois through funding awarded from the Illinois Community Canopy grant programs. These projects provided dollars for communities to plant and effectively manage their tree canopies while Trees Forever staff gave additional support on updating tree ordinances and reaching Tree City USA status. Similarly, the Community Visioning program in Iowa selected seven small towns to partner with throughout the year to plan, design, and implement green infrastructure projects into trail and community transport upgrades. Through guided community meetings, residents work within the program to expand their green spaces and natural areas in a way that builds their town's identity.

“Here in Cumming, Iowa we are piloting Iowa's first ‘Agrihood,’ and Community Visioning was a great complement to this new development,” said Cumming City Manager Rita Connor. “By focusing on all aspects of green placemaking and transportation planning, this program directed our decision making through public participation in the program and resulted in some great projects for us to implement.”

Through all of Trees Forever's work, the group promotes the planting of diverse, native trees and prairie to build a more resilient and beneficial local ecosystem. Trees Forever provides education to the public on a variety of environmental topics with in-person field days, webinar series, and volunteer trainings. In 2025, the organization had more than 6,700 engagements through educational outreach, volunteer events, and supporter interactions.

Enzo Nagao, Trees Forever Development and Volunteer Coordinator, sees the impact of the grassroots work firsthand. “Educating the public has a greater impact on our mission than almost any other

One World One Love Gymnastics Invitational Brings Elite Competition and Aleah Finnegan to Woodman’s Center

The Woodman's Sports and Convention Center continues to demonstrate its versatility as a premier event destination with the One World One Love Gymnastics Invitational, taking place January 10-11.

Presented by LR Productions, this women's artistic gymnastics competition celebrates athletic excellence, global unity, and community impact, welcoming athletes from across the region to compete in a high-energy, spectator-friendly environment. The event is open to USA Gymnastics, NGA, and AAU athletes in Levels 1–10 and Xcel divisions.

A featured highlight of the weekend is the appearance of elite gymnast Aleah Finnegan, who will be present during sessions on both days of competition. Finnegan is a former member of the United States Women's National Gymnastics Team (2019–2021), a gold medalist at the 2019 Pan American Games, and made history as the first Filipina gymnast in more than 60 years to qualify for and represent the Philippines at the 2024 Summer Olympics.

“Gymnastics has given me so much, and being able to give back by mentoring young athletes is incredibly meaningful to me. I'm excited to meet the gymnasts in Janesville, support their journeys, and remind them to believe in themselves and enjoy every moment of the sport,” said Finnegan.

Participating gymnasts, parents, and coaches will have opportunities to meet Finnegan, take photos, receive encouragement, and purchase posters for autograph signing—creating a memorable experience that inspires the next generation of athletes.

In addition to celebrating excellence in sport, a portion of event proceeds will benefit the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, reinforcing the invitational's commitment to giving back.

The One World One Love Gymnastics Invitational is expected to welcome 500 athletes, along with coaches, families, and spectators from four states. The event is projected to generate an estimated economic impact of \$250,000, supporting local hotels and businesses throughout the Janesville area.

“Bringing brand new events like the One World One Love Gymnastics Invitational to Janesville during the winter months are exactly the kind of opportunities we're continuously working toward,” said Tony Cipollone, Director of Sports Sales & Development at the Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Events like this help drive overnight stays and visitor spending at a time of year that is typically quieter for travel, while also showcasing the Woodman's Sports & Convention Center and Janesville as a premier destination for year-round sports tourism.”

Spectators are invited to experience the excitement and artistry of gymnastics in person. Tickets are available at the door (cash only), with wristbands valid for all sessions throughout the weekend:

- Adults (16+): \$25
- Children, Active Military & Seniors (65+): \$15
- Ages five and under: Free

Since opening in September 2025, the Woodman's Sports and Convention Center has hosted a growing lineup of athletic competitions, community gatherings, and special events. With modern amenities, flexible event spaces, and a spectator-focused design, the facility continues to attract high-quality events like the One World One Love Gymnastics Invitational.

factor. Volunteers amplify the work of our relatively small staff and make it possible to increase the scope and reach of our projects. Most importantly, educated community members take ownership in the planting projects and continue to care for the trees for years to come, providing better outcomes and survival rates,” said Nagao.

Those looking to get involved with Trees Forever educational or volunteer programming can visit TreesForever.org.

Partner Wisconsin communities in 2025—Baraboo, Belleville, Beloit, Bristol, Fitchburg, Milton, Oregon, Sheboygan, Vesper, and Windsor.

About Trees Forever

Trees Forever is a nonprofit charitable organization headquartered in Marion, Iowa. Its mission - to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community, and promoting stewardship - is fulfilled through cutting-edge programs and innovative practices. Trained and experienced staff have assisted community leaders and landowners across Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and beyond with thousands of planting

projects. Each year, Trees Forever works with and educates thousands of volunteers and members of the public who give generously of their time and talents. To date, they've helped plant more than three million trees.

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Midwest Cover Crops Council to celebrate its 20th anniversary at annual meeting and cover crop conference in Dubuque, Iowa

The Midwest Cover Crops Council's annual meeting and cover crop conference will be held in Dubuque, Iowa in February 2026. Join them in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Midwest Cover Crops Council, whose mission is to empower a network of producers, landowners, researchers, industry professionals, agencies, Extension specialists, and government stakeholders to increase cover crop adoption.

The Midwest Cover Crops Council's annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 10th, and will be followed by a day of cover crop education on Wednesday, February 11th at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

Producers, students, scientists, and industry partners will come together to discuss current cover crop topics and their significance to agriculture and conservation. A range of topics entered around the management and utilization of cover crops will be presented by regional university, farmer, and government experts. Around 300 researchers, educators, and farmers from around the region are expected to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about integrating cover crops on the farm.

The cover crop conference features breakout sessions focusing on cover crops in row crop systems, cover crops used for livestock forage and grazing resources, and conservation-related topics.

Row crop breakout sessions include:

Cover crop species selection and establishment (Dr. Mark Licht, Iowa State University)

- Pythium and allelopathy (Dr. Alison Robertson, Iowa State University)
- Cover crops and nutrients ahead of corn (Dr. Matt Ruark, University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Shalamar Armstrong, Purdue University)
- Planter setup for planting green (Dr. Brian Luck, University of Wisconsin)

Forage and grazing breakout sessions include:

- Mixtures vs. monocultures (Dr. Kim Cassida, Michigan State University)
- Cover crop grazing quality (Denise Schwab, Iowa State University)
- Quality, quantity, and forage timing (Dr. Brad Heins, University of Minnesota)

- Planting alfalfa into green cereal rye (Dr. Marta Kohmann, University of Wisconsin)

Conservation breakout sessions include:

- How to talk to your landlord or tenant about conservation (Landon Baumgartner and Josh Bendorf, University of Wisconsin Extension)
- A decade of monitoring and conservation practices in the Black Hawk Lake watershed (Dr. Michelle Soupir, Iowa State University)
- Wind erosion and conservation practices (Zack Smith, Iowa farmer)
- Increased working days with conservation practices (Dr. Stefan Gailans, Practical Farmers of Iowa)

Students and professionals are invited to participate in the poster session at the Midwest Cover Crops Council annual meeting on February 10. The poster registration deadline is January 20, 2026.

Only students are eligible for prizes by entering the poster competition. Students may submit an academic research poster on cover crops or continuous living cover. Learn more about the poster session at www.midwest-covercrops.org/meetings/.

Registration costs \$110 per day if registered before Saturday, January 10th, and \$125 per day for registrations after January 10th. Learn more and register online at <https://www.midwestcovercrops.org/meetings/>

Historic Edgerton supper club destroyed in fire

Flames tore through the Lake House Inn Sunday, January 4, destroying the historic supper club near Edgerton. The supper club had stood for generations as a place for family gatherings and community connection.

The Lake House Inn was deemed a total loss after crews were called to the property at 8:28 p.m. for reports of smoke in the area, according to Rock County Communications.

By 11:30 p.m. flames had been extinguished. The sheriff's office said the business was closed at the time of the fire and confirmed no one was inside. Investigators later determined the building was a total loss. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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USPS Announces Changes to the Postmark Date System

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has adopted a final rule (FR Doc. 2025-20740) adding Section 608.11, “Postmarks and Postal Possession,” to the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM). The rule formally defines postmarks and identifies the types of markings that qualify as such. Its primary purpose is to improve public understanding that while a postmark confirms the USPS possessed a mail piece on the date inscribed, that date does not necessarily align with the date the USPS first accepted possession of the item. The rule clarifies that the USPS does not postmark all mail in the ordinary course of operations and that the absence of a postmark does not imply the USPS did not accept custody.

Impact on Postmarking Timing: The rule clarifies that the date displayed on a machine-applied postmark represents the “date of the first automated processing operation” performed at a processing facility, rather than the date the mail was dropped off.

Potential Delays: Because most postmarks are applied at processing facilities, the date inscribed may be later than the date the mail piece was first accepted by the USPS. This discrepancy is expected to become more common due to the implementation of the “Regional Transportation Optimization” (RTO) initiative and the adoption of “leg-based” service standards.

Operational Reality: The rule codifies the operational reality that postmarking operations often cross calendar days or occur after transportation from a retail unit, meaning the postmark date is not a “perfectly reliable indicator” of the date of mailing.

Ensuring a Postmark on the Date of Delivery: To assure a postmark is applied on the same day a document is delivered to the USPS, individuals must utilize specific retail services. The final rule outlines the following methods:

- Request a Manual Postmark: Customers may present a mail piece at a retail counter and request a “manual (local) postmark”. This postmark is applied at the time of acceptance, so the date aligns with the date the USPS took possession.

- Postage Validation Imprint (PVI): When a customer pays for postage at a retail counter, the PVI label applied by the employee also indicates the date of acceptance.

- Certificates of Mailing: Customers may purchase a Certificate of Mailing, or use Registered or Certified Mail, to obtain a receipt that serves as evidence of the date the item was presented for mailing

This change in USPS processes will have a potentially significant impact on tax filings. IRC §7502 specifically relies upon the postmark date applied to an envelope to determine timely filing if the document is not physically delivered to the IRS office by the due date for such document.

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POLICE

Green County Sheriff’s Department

December 29- January 4, 2025

At 9:10 a.m., Sunday, deputies responded to the N5600 block of STH 104, Town of Albany, for a report of a single vehicle crash with no injuries. The investigation found the driver, Jennifer J. Ince, 32, of Brodhead, was traveling southbound when her vehicle left the roadway and collided with the embankment causing disabling damage and airbag deployment. Ince reported having no injuries and wearing her seat belt at the time of the incident.

Helping make Brodhead a place to call home.

District 8 AA locations

Tuesdays: Congregational UCC, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead, 7 p.m.; handicap access, closed meeting.

Thursdays: Congregational UCC, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead, 7 p.m.; handicap access, closed meeting.

Fridays: Promises Group, Orfordville Lutheran, 210 Main Street, 7 p.m.; handicap access, closed meeting.

Any questions call 608-751-5684 or visit www.rockcoaa.net.






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Notice



AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

HIGH SCHOOL LMC

2501 W. 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

I. REVIEW BILLS

II. REVIEW BUDGET UPDATE

III. ADJOURN

01/07/2026

AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM

2501 W. 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI 7:00 p.m.

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

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-thn

JOIN BY TELEPHONE: +1 727-325-2066 (PIN: 996403637)

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. INFORMATION REPORTS

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENDA

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2. APPROVAL OF BILLS

3. ACCEPT DONATION(S)

4. RESIGNATION(S)

5. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

VIII. HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION— COLLEGE & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES EXPO

SAFETY DRILL REPORTS

IX. AUDIT REPORT

XI. PRELIMINARY 2026-27 BUDGET DISCUSSION

XII. REVIEW WASB RESOLUTIONS

XIII. REFERENDUM UPDATE

XIV. 2026-2027 MASTER CALENDAR

XV. WINDOW TREATMENT AND ROOM SIGNAGE BIDS

XVI. FUTURE AGENDA

XVII. ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(e)

a. Staffing Update

b. Administrative Contract Roll-overs

c. Discussion Regarding Teacher Contract and Associated Compensation Matters

XVIII. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

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

01/07/2026

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Saturday Mornings at the Durand Library

Even More Jerks in Chicago 1950 to 2000

Submitted by Barbara Flores, President, Friends of the Durand Library

Please join us at the Durand Library Saturday, January 10 for the third talk about the characters who shaped the history of Chicago in the second half of the 20th Century. There were too many scoundrels in Chicago's history to treat together so speaker Brad Keyes divided the subject into time periods.

The first “jerks talk” covered the 1800s and the second the first half of the 20th Century. Albeit a prosperous city, Chicago was plagued with bad guys throughout the 20th Century. Brad is a lover of history and an engaging and affable speaker who adds humor and insight to his presentations.

The second talk covered a tragic event in Chicago history. In 1903 the cost-cutting owner of the elegant Iroquois Theater had exit doors locked and passageways blocked to prevent people from sneaking in without tickets. When the building accidentally caught fire the death toll was just horrific with 600 lives lost. This fire attracted nationwide attention and led to more stringent building codes.

Also in the early 20th Century James Colosimo, the grandfather of the Chicago mob, was active and Al Capone was brought in from New York City. We learned about Big Jim Thompson, perhaps the most corrupt mayor Chicago ever had. Brad explained how Dean O’Banion, Al Capone, and John Dillinger maintained their influence and rule over the local mob, dividing the city into north and south areas of influence. And yes, there really were Untouchables, federal investigators led by Eliot Ness.

The first half of the 20th Century included the era of Prohibition, the age of mobsters, bank robbing, and two smart aleck rich kids planning the perfect murder (it wasn’t!). The advent of the automobile, a quick getaway car, made Dillinger the successful bank robber he became. And Al Capone became known worldwide.

Please join us for this last of three presentations on Even More Jerks in Chicago History, where we learn of even more thieves, murderers, jerks, and mobsters who were active in the latter half of the 20th Century. Some were politicians, some were law enforcement officers, and some were respected business entrepreneurs. The several Illinois governors who ended up in prison get an honorable mention also.

The 90-minute presentation begins at 10 a.m. See you then!

About the Library

These talks are presented by the Friends of the Durand Library, a nonprofit organization which collaborates with the Durand School to provide library services in the Durand area.

Entry is at the east, or playground, end of the building. Follow the signs along the wide paved walkway. Check out privileges are

Monday Night Mixed League

12/29—High series: Rick Reed 698, Dan Goepfert 668, Tyson Foster 658. High games: T. Foster 259, Corey Foster 255, Robert Murray 249. Fosters Gaming-high team game 1,047 and series 2,930. **Standings:** Fosters Gaming won 112.5 lost 76.5, Broughton’s Bar 106.5-82.5, Center Tavern 103.5-85.5, Beloit Chiropractic 102-87, Albany Lanes 77-112, Bartelt 65.5-123.5.

Tuesday Shaningans

12/23—High series: Tammy Neuenschwander 428, Chris Rosheisen 384, Shi Strommen 364, Dennis Atkinson 540, Rick Josephsen 540, Doug Hawkins 530. High games: T. Neuenschwander 155, Becky Hanneman 152, C. Rosheisen 147, Jude Molina 217, R. Josephsen 199, D. Hawkins 192. The Young & The Restless-high team game 825 and series 2,363. **Standings:** The Young & The Restless won 58 lost 26, Sweet Mini HaHa 55-29, Perfectly Aged 55-29, Misfits 50-34, Greightful Dead 25-59.

Thursday Night Mixed

12/18—High series: Rick Reed 756, John Pluss 705, Cory Ritschard 675, Robert Murray 664. High games: C. Ritschard 279, R. Reed 268, J. Pluss 257, Tony Brewer 247. Albany Lanes-high team game 1,099 and series 3,115. 01/01—High seires: Robert Murray 725, Rick Reed 704, Brandon Bayrhoffer 678, Ty Anderson 651. High games: R. Reed 247, R. Murray 255, B. Bayrhoffer 238, T. Anderson 237, Brian Behnke 237. Albany Lanes-high team game 1,087 and series 3,239. **Standings:** Albany Lanes won 26 lost 16, Golz Electric 24-18, Broughton’s Corner Bar 1 23-19, Glenn Ann Holsteins 21-21, Attica Bar 20-22, Broughton’s Corner Bar 2 12-30.

Brodhead Juniors

1/03—High series—boys: Alexander Ramirez-Vogel 423, Evan Johnson 403, Casey Johnson 370, Tristan Modaff 358, Carter Fenwick 317, Jayse Bennett 312, Henry Johnson 312. High games—boys: E. Johnson 185, A. Ramirez-Vogel 164, T. Modaff 145, C. Johnson 133, H. Johnson 123, C. Fenwick 118. **High series—girls:** Taylor Sauer 472, Emma Welbig 383, Kelsee Brugger 381, Aubrie Bartelt 282, Lilly Johnson 249. High games—girls: T. Sauer 160, E. Welbig 144, K. Brugger 141, A. Bartelt 99, L. Johnson 95.

Brodhead Youth

1/03—High series: Jaxson Brewer 154, Thorin Perrin 109, Ayla Brugger 176, Abigail Fenwick 23, Amelia Fenwick 112, Kinslee Brewer 57. High games: J. Brewer 91, T. Perrin 71, A. Brugger 101, Amelia Fenwick 78, Abigail Fenwick 64, K. Brewer 41.

Albany Lanes - Scott & Teresa Wahler

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free for all residents of the school district. Hours are 9 a.m.—noon Saturdays and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday evenings.

Email villagelibrary@cusd322.org or call 815-289-8602 for more information about the library and visit us on FB/[durandvillagelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/durandvillagelibrary).

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* Survey conducted by the National Newspaper Association and the Center for Advanced Social Research at the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Researchers surveyed adults 18 years old and up in markets with fewer than 100,000 residents.



By Cindy Clint,
Outreach Coordinator

“Book it” to the Albertson Memorial Library and see what’s fresh on the shelves!

Adult Non-Fiction: Family of Spies: A World War II Story of Nazi Espionage, Betrayal, and the Secret History Behind Pearl Harbor by Christine Kuehn.

Biography: 100 Rules for Living to 100 by Dick Van Dyke

Audio Book: Where He Left Me by Nicole Baart

Adult Fiction: The Heir Apparent by Rebecca Armitage, Every-

body Wants to Rule the World by Ace Atkins, The Lighthouse at the Cove by Amy Clipston, Finding You by Amy Clipston, The Memory Gardener by Meg Donohue, The Second Son (Chase Burke Book 1) by Simon Gervais and Ryan Steck, Before I Forget by Tory Henwood Hoen, Snake-Eater by T. Kingfisher, At Morning’s Light (Home to Green Creek Book 2) by Lauraine Snelling and Kiersti Giron, Of Monsters and Mainframes by Barbara Truelove, and Stuart Woods’ Blown Away (Teddy Fay Book 8) by Brett Battles.

Large Print: The King’s Ransom (The Recovery Agent Book 2) by Janet Evanovich, Evil Bones (Temperance Brennan Book 24) by Kathy Reichs, The Seven Rings (The Lost Bride Trilogy Book 3) by Nora Rob-

erts, and Stuart Woods’ Blown Away (Teddy Fay Book 8) by Brett Battles.

Young Adult: One if by Land, Two if by Submarine (Saving America Book 1) by Eileen Schnabel.

DVD: Code 3 (R), Good Fortune (R), The Long Walk (R), and The Naked Gun (PG-13).

For more details on each title, be sure to visit the Albertson Memorial Library’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertsonMemorialLibrary>.

Please also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertsonMemorialLibrary>, Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/albertsonmemoriallibrary> or our website at <https://www.albertson-library.org>.

Are you
struggling
through the
holidays as a
caregiver?

Understand the grief, loss
and mourning associated
with caring for someone
with dementia.

Join us for Moving Forward: Grief and Ambiguous Loss Associated with Dementia Caregiving.

The Aging and Disability Resource Centers of Rock and Marquette Counties are offering the 16-week grief and bereavement educational support group on Friday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. beginning January 16 and running through May 1, 2026. This is a virtual group. There is no cost to attend. Registration and screening are required.

Who is this group for? The group is for anyone who is or has cared for someone with dementia. Caring for someone with dementia presents a constant series of losses and not just those related to death. Each session will cover a grief, loss and mourning topic followed by about 60 minutes of conventional support group discussion.

For more information or to register, please contact Rock County Dementia Care Specialist, Karen Tennyson at 608-921-7165 or karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us



By Melissa Everson,
Director

A Year in Reflection

It’s incomprehensible that yet another year has passed us by. As always, the end of a year is a good time to reflect on those things that were successful during that year and determine what we can do better for the year to come. As a library, we are no exception. As the library director, the same is true.

In 2025, so many good things happened at the Albertson Memorial Library. Our patron count increased over that of 2024, our circulation of library materials increased, we had the best summer library program that we’ve had in a long time, our story time attendance increased dramatically, and we started a new program for young adults. The ways in which we “advertise” our programs and events grew through social media and local media venues, which I attribute with our growth. Lastly, I’m impressed each year with how much our library grows in its ability to successfully meet the needs of our patrons with regard to the new books and materials that we purchase with our tax dollars.

Speaking of tax dollars, the end of the year is also a good time to reflect on how well we managed our money. Our annual budget is generated and approved in the fall before the coming fiscal year, so it can be difficult to determine how much money is required to meet our expenses. While the final numbers won’t be in for a couple of weeks, I’m pretty certain that we will finish 2025 under budget. Making the most of taxpayers’ dollars is always a priority for us

Reflecting back to January 2022 when I questioned what I was taking on, I realize how much I’ve grown into this position in a community that was new to me at the same time. For starters, being a full time reading interventionist in the Albany School District and a part time library director taught me, even at my “ripe” age, how much better I needed to be at balancing my time and my life. With the support of colleagues at both positions and that of my family, I’ve nearly mastered that. As the new director, learning by trial and error was my friend. I guarantee that I made a lot of mistakes and misjudgments, but we got through those as a team. There were a lot of kinks to work out as I tried to find my style as a “boss” to a staff of five, figure out what programs and ideas work in Albany, managing our library’s budget and learning about the legalities of operating a library, and, in general, how a library is run. I can honestly say that, even now, every day is a learning curve with all of those tasks. But I promise that as we enter into 2026, I will do my best every day to provide services that meet the needs of our community.

Cheers to continued growth in 2026!



Brodhead Class of 1962 holds Class Reunion

The Brodhead Class of 1962 graduates held their class reunion at Bass Creek on Friday, July 18, 2025.

Pictured, front row, left to right: Eileen Hafen Rech, Carol Zweifel Coplien, teacher Darlene Wheeler, Nancy Taylor Sutherland; back row: Glen (Pete) Curless, Lanaya Weidman Jones, Diane Fricke Anderson, Douglas Knight, Everly Nehls Carson-Fisher, Gary Hoff, Holly Brandenburg Everson, Daphne Mauermann Brunkow, and James Iverson.

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