

PHONE: 608-897-4797 • Email: brodheadfreepress@gmail.com • 1035 1st Center Ave., Ste. 107 • Web site: www.brodheadfreepress.com

Community Groups Come Together for a Day of Holiday Cheer

Join local community and conservation groups to enjoy a festive day of cheer, leading into the Holiday Season on Saturday, December 7th.

Kicking off the day's festivities will be the Brodhead Jaycees and Southern Wisconsin Land Conservancy presenting Breakfast with Santa! This event is FREE and open to the public to come and enjoy. Stop in to meet Santa, enjoy donuts, fruit, plus other assorted breakfast treats on the upper level, and in the lower level there will be crafts for the kiddos to participate in. Coloring, a magic reindeer food station, and other holiday crafts!

Breakfast with Santa is being held from 9-11 a.m. at Three Waters Reserve; N3941 Golf Course Road, Brodhead. The event is free for all to attend.

Starting at noon the Three Waters Reserve Holiday Open House begins and runs until 3 p.m. During this event you are invited to tour the newly remodeled facility! They have completed their Bridal Suite, added a pergola, grand stone stairs, and the whole lower level has had a facelift!

They invite everyone to get into the Holiday spirit by wearing your very best Ugly Sweater for their Ugly Sweater competition! The top THREE best ugly sweaters will be awarded prizes. At 2 p.m., gather in the upper level to participate in the Ugly Sweater contest! They will take a picture and present the top three Ugly Sweaters winners with special prizes. You must be present to win and claim your prize!

Raffle tickets will be for sale for their special donated raffle baskets

from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. winners will be drawn for the raffle baskets. You do not need to present to win a basket but it is encouraged.

A surprise announcement will be posted at the Open House so make sure you keep your eyes peeled! Chef John will have tasty hors d'oeuvres out to enjoy until they run out. The bar will be open with carefully crafted specialty Holiday Cocktails available for purchase to warm your spirits!

Representatives from all of the Three Waters Reserve Conservation Collective members will be present to talk to you about everything going on in our community. This includes members from Southern Wisconsin Land Conservancy, Lower Sugar River Watershed Association, Lower Sugar River Field Station, Applied Ecological Institute, and Culinary Nirvana!

This event has something for everyone! They look forward to meeting new community members and sharing the day together. The trails at the Reserve will be open for enjoyment during the events as well. Happy Holidays!



City of Brodhead Local Offices for Re-election

The offices of three Alderperson at Large will be up for re-election in the Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Spring Election. All terms are for two years. If you are interested in running for Alderperson, please stop into City Hall for more information or call 608-897-4018 ext 150. City Hall is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

yourself for our monthly puzzle night. Youth aged 16 and under welcome with an accompanying adult. Friday, December 13th, 6-8 p.m.

Library Board Meeting: Thursday, December 12th, at 4 p.m.

Chatty Crafties: Gather with friends to work on a featured craft once a month! This month's craft is Giving Plates. Monday, December 16th, from 5-6:30 p.m.

Noon Year's Eve: Celebrate the New Year with us without staying up late! Balloons, crafts, snacks, and a countdown to noon! Tuesday, December 31st, from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

We will be closed Tuesday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th for the holiday. Enjoy time with your family and friends!



Santa's Mailbox

It's that time of year, so full of cheer,

When children think of gifts so near.

A special mailbox has arrived in town,

At the Brodhead Post Office, just look around!

Write your letter, neat and bright, Address it to Santa, and seal it tight.

Drop it in the box with care, And Santa will get it, he's always there!

The North Pole staff is ready to read,

And Santa himself will take the lead,

Answering each letter with care, A Christmas reply beyond compare.

But hurry, don't wait too long, The box is here until Saturday, December 14th, so strong!

Santa's busy, as you can see, But he'll find time to reply—guaranteed!

Stateline Women's Connection and Stonecraft Luncheon

The Stateline Women's Connection and Stonecraft cordially invite you to their "Warm and Cozy" luncheon on Wednesday, December 11, at noon. The suggested donation is \$15. The luncheon will be held at Hope Evangelical Free Church, 2902 13th Street, Monroe.

The guest speaker will be Diane Maxey, of Park Falls, Wisconsin. When Life Throws You A Curve Ball, talks about her journey through depression. A strong message of hope and faith. Special music will be provided by Shelly Jordan, Jo Hawthorn and Terrie Blumer.

Reservations are due by Friday, December 6, by calling Marcia at 815-821-4270 or Kim at 608-214-2157 or emailing: statelinewomenconnection@gmail.com.



By Sarah Carpenter

December at the Brodhead Memorial Public Library

Preschool Story Time: Stories, songs, activities, and more for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (December 4th, 11th, 18th)

Community Puzzle Night: Bring a puzzle, snack to share, or just

Check out our German Chocolate Cake, Coconut Cream Pie, Banana Cream Pie or Lemon Meringue Pie

BREAKFAST SPECIALS!

- 2 Pancakes, two eggs, and two bacon or sausage
- Bacon or sausage omelette includes hashbrowns and toast
- Biscuits & gravy

\$10

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY STARTING AT 11 a.m.

• Beer Battered Cod	• Walleye	All fish dinners include two sides and ice cream.
• Baked Cod	• Shrimp Basket (21 pcs.)	
• Beer Battered Catfish	• Fried Jumbo Shrimp (6)	

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Albany United Methodist Church, 500 Park Street, Albany. 608-862-3206, Rev. Tom Moe, Pastor. Sunday worship at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Check our web page at albanyumchurch.com.

Bethany Lutheran Church, 1652 West Church Road, Brodhead. 608-897-4158. Pastor position currently open. Interested candidates may reach out via Facebook or call Bethany Lutheran Church directly. Sunday school 8:45 a.m.; Sunday worship service 10 a.m. Holy Communion first Sunday of each month.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Ave, Brodhead. Phone: 608-897-2341 Pastor Callie Arendt. Email: office@bethlehembrodhead.org. Website: www.bethlehembrodhead.org. Sunday in-person worship with Communion at 9 a.m. On-line worship option via Facebook—Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Bingo the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Congregational United Church of Christ, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead. 608-897-2917. Pastor Shawn Stapleton. Sundays: 10 a.m. worship. Sunday school every other Sunday thru May, from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Communion first Sunday of each month. Quilting and crafts workshop every Wednesday at 9 a.m. AA meetings Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Cookie Walk/Frosty's Workshop Event on Saturday, December 14, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

Grace Independent Baptist Church, Hwy. 81, three-quarter of a mile east of junction with 11, Brodhead. Donald Adams, Pastor. 608-897-8484. 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. morning worship, 6 p.m. evening service. Wednesday 6 p.m. service.

Juda-Zion Community Church, N2350 Church Street, 608-934-5398.

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Funeral and
Cremation Services

Kelly Jahn, Pastor. Sunday school 9:15 a.m.; worship service 10:30 a.m.

Living Word Church, 3825 S. County Road T, Brodhead. 608-897-8246. Pastor Russ Doeblor. Web site: livingwordwi.org. E-mail: ptl@livingwordwi.org. Adult Sunday school 9 a.m.; Sunday service at 10 a.m. worship at church and also via live stream at livingwordwi.org/media; Sunday evening Impact Youth 4-5:30 p.m.

Magnolia Christian Church, located on County A just off Hwy. 213. Services are Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. and can be viewed on their Facebook page. Call 608-449-6510 for more information.

Oakley-Union United Methodist Church, W2388 Gerber Road, Juda, 608-293-4232. Pastor Jady N Manjrekar. Worship 9 a.m. Children's Sunday school September-May 9 a.m.

St. Peter Lutheran Church (WELS), corner of West 5th Avenue and 17th Street. www.stpeterlutheranbrodhead.org. Pastor Tyler Swiderski. Cell 612-270-2591, church 608-618-6090. Schedule—Sundays: worship 9 a.m.; Bible class and Sunday school 10:15 a.m.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 1005 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, part of Pastorate 11, Madison Diocese. 608-325-9506. Father David, Paochial Administrator. Mass at 8:15 a.m. Wednesday and on the first Sunday of the month at noon.

United Methodist Church of Brodhead, 501 1st Center Avenue, Brodhead. 608-897-2515. Pastor Francois Mukosa. Church office hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. Handicapped accessible. In-person worship at 9 a.m. Sundays. Services live streamed on Facebook.

OBITUARY



Barbara Jean Olson-Menehan

Barbara Jean Olson-Menehan, age 75, of Brodhead, Wisconsin, passed away on Friday, November 22, 2024, at the Monroe Clinic Hospital.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Avenue, Brodhead, with Pastor Callie Arendt officiating. Visitation will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to time of service. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery, Brodhead.

The DL Newcomer Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences can be made at www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com.

Holiday Cookie Walk and Frosty Workshop


The UCC's Annual Cookie Walk and Frosty Workshop Event will be held on Saturday, December 14th in the Fellowship Hall of the UCC located at E201 23rd Street from 8 a.m. to noon, or until treats are sold out!! Please come show your support. Come early—they sell out fast! Thanks!

Prom for Pennies

Prom for Pennies event will be held on Saturday, January 12th at the Monroe High School from 1-3 p.m. This community event provides affordable prom attire by selling donated formal dresses at discounted rates, making prom accessible for local students. Students can find beautiful, gently-used or brand new prom dresses with the highest price being only \$40.

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Jared Arn

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It's Brodhead Optimists Essay Contest Time!

Calling all high school and middle school students! Grab your pen, pencil or keyboard to express yourself and have an opportunity to earn a cash award. Applications for the essay contest will be available at the Brodhead Public Library, and both the middle school and high school offices, or through the Brodhead Optimist Club. The Optimist Club of Brodhead is encouraging all Brodhead and surrounding area youth, including home-schooled scholars, to write an essay 700 to 800 words long on the topic "How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success"

The Brodhead Optimist Club will judge the local students' essays, based on the theme of "How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success" along with organization, creativity, clarity, structure and adherence to contest rules to determine the top winners. The winning essay at the club level will be sent to the district level where the student will compete for a chance at a \$2500 scholarship.

The Brodhead Optimist Essay Chair Wendy Backes said, "It is our goal to encourage young people to take part in this activity and do what we can to bring out the best in each of them. This experience gives them a wonderful opportunity to tap into their creativity and pursue possible scholarships at the same time."

The Optimist Club of Brodhead has been participating in the Optimist Essay Contest for many years and has been active in the community since 2002. Other programs and service projects that the Club is involved in include Christmas gifts for families in need The Mitten Tree Project, Tri-Star Basketball competition, a fishing derby, pumpkin decorating, and an art contest, just to name a few. The Club also makes donations to numerous school departments, the public library, childhood cancer patients and pediatric cancer research.

Students wishing to participate in the essay contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club chair Wendy Backes at wendybackes1966@gmail.com or getting an application from their school counselor at either the middle school or high school, or at the Brodhead Public Library.

Finally, completed applications and essays can be dropped off at the Middle or High School offices, Brodhead Public Library or email them to wendybackes1966@gmail.com before Monday, February 10th, 2025.

Deadline approaching for Christmas Assistance

The Children's Christmas Benefit is accepting holiday referrals for families with children in the rural communities of Rock County. The Children's Christmas Benefit delivers food and gifts anonymously and confidentially to families who typically are not served by other charities or organizations. Many families are going through temporary crisis, health and medical problems, or job loss, and could use a little extra help during this holiday season. If you know of a family that could use help this holiday season with food and gifts for the children, please email childrenschristmasbenefit@yahoo.com. Referrals would be appreciated by Friday, December 6, 2024 so that adequate time can be allotted for filling the gift orders.

**Advertising Deadline:
Friday, 5 p.m.**

Saturday Mornings at the Durand Library
18 Months and Counting

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

There is an upcoming backgammon class at the library. More information is found below.

But how did the Durand Library come to be? Several years ago the school offered to open its library to the public but this required a part-time librarian to oversee open hours after school so that the residents of the school district would be able to access the school library and check out books.

The Village of Durand stepped up and funded the part-time position for several years but back in early May of 2023, the Mayor informed the Friends of the Durand Library that it would no longer be supporting the position. So members of the Friends decided to take on the responsibility themselves opening the library Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon.

We have a few months to go before celebrating a second anniversary but we are very happy to have increased the hours by adding Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. This is not quite the three days the village had provided but we are patient and have time to increase hours.

But what does it take to increase hours? It is something money can't buy. Just two or three more volunteers would make a huge difference. We could open a second evening a week and further boost our service to the community.


It is a fact that Durand is one of only two incorporated entities in the county which do not have a publicly funded library; the other is New Milford with a population of 700. Collaborating with the school library is such an extremely cost effective way to make library services available to the public. Please consider helping the library grow. Contact information is below.

As for the backgammon class, everyone is invited to come out to the library Tuesday, December 10 at 6 p.m. The instructor, Joe Etminan offers this class at the Center for Learning in Retirement in Rockford. Visitors are welcome to come and watch but game sets are limited so please email if you would like to join in the class.

Library hours are Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesdays 6-8 p.m. Entry is at the east or playground end of the school building. Just follow the paved walkway, signs are posted. For more information please email villagelibrary@cusd322.org, call or text 815-289-8602 or visit FB.com/durandvillagelibrary.


A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

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"If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. It's the hard that makes it great."
~ Tom Hanks



ACTIVITIES
AROUND TOWN

BRODHEAD COMMUNITY CLOSET

It's wintertime again and the Community Closet is in need of winter items: coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc for all ages. They are also in need of boys jeans sizes. All donations can be made at the Community Closet any Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thank you for your help for our community members in need.

SANTA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Santa uses the Brodhead Optimist Mitten Tree Project to help make Christmas special for all children in our community. This year is no exception. Anyone wishing to help Santa gather gifts for those children in need is asked to pick a set of mittens from the tree in the Bank of Brodhead lobby, or the Bank of New Glarus—Brodhead Branch lobby. As a reminder, the bank lobbies are closed on Saturdays.

Beginning Thursday, November 21, please pick up and fill out the mitten asking for your contact information and leave it in the mailbox nearby. Then take the other mitten containing the child's age, size and wish list with you. After shopping, just wrap your gift and attach the mitten with the child's info on the package and drop it off where you picked up the mitten. The gifts must be returned by Tuesday, December 10.

Happy shopping to all of Santa's helpers and thank you for participating in this great Optimist project. If you have any questions, please call 414-405-6203.

BMS HOLIDAY SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The Brodhead Middle School TOOL team is proud to collaborate with BMS staff and students to host our annual holiday luncheon on Friday, December 13. The Team of Outstanding Leaders will organize a program of musical performances, trivia, readings, crafts, and door prizes. The program will begin at 11:30 a.m., with lunch service at noon, and wrap up around 1 p.m. This luncheon is an opportunity for senior citizens in our community to gather for good cheer and festivities before the holidays. Contact the Brodhead Middle School office at 608-897-2184 by Wednesday, December 11, if you plan to attend.

*Free-will donations are accepted at the luncheon to maintain this holiday tradition.

BRODHEAD LIONS COLLECTING
DEER HIDES

The Brodhead Lions will once again be collecting deer hides this hunting season. Hides will be sold to make gloves, with the money donated to Wisconsin Lions Camp for the blind and visually impaired. Last year, with everyone's help, they donated \$1,000 to them! Hides can be dropped off anytime until January. Look for signs and a covered shelter on the west side of Gassers Hardware parking lot.

26th Annual Children's
Christmas Benefit

The 26th Annual Children's Christmas Benefit will be held at the Orfordville American Legion on Saturday, December 7. Many exciting holiday events will highlight this year's benefit.

At 6 p.m. the evening will kick off with a delicious pork chop community supper.

Santa Claus will be on hand for the children at 7 p.m.

Raffles will be held throughout the evening. Donations will be accepted for the meal. The State Line Play Boys will provide entertainment from 8 p.m. to midnight. Bring your entire family for an evening of holiday fellowship and fun!

The toys and gifts collected are distributed discreetly and confidentially among local county children so their Christmas will be a bit merrier. The purpose of the benefit is to give to the kids what they would not otherwise have during the holiday season. It is an organization that is 100% volunteer driven.

There is no charge for the evening's entertainment or the meal. Donations will be accepted at the event. All cash contributions will be used specifically for purchasing hats, mittens, boots, clothing, toys, and supplies for children from birth to high school age. The contributions also supply a Christmas meal to each of the families. Community members are encouraged to join in the fun and holiday spirit so that many deserving children will have a merrier Christmas this year. If you would be interested in donating raffle items, would like to refer a family in need, or for questions regarding the event, please contact Brian Knudson at 608-289-2498.

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.

Village of
Orfordville
Annual
Holiday
Lighted
Parade

The Orfordville Lions Club will host the Annual Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 7th at 5 p.m. Parade lineup will be in Mill Valley Subdivision at the intersection of Teri Lee Lane and Luann Kay Lane This allows for entries to easily drive into the lineup on Gifford Street. The parade route will be the same as last year. Please call Kerrie Schmidt at 608-671-0191 to register for the parade. There will be no gathering at Purdy Park after the parade this year. Santa Claus is going to be at the Christmas at the Fire Station Event on Sunday, December 15th from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring a cozy blanket and your camp chair to watch Polar Express at the Fire Department. Hot Chocolate, popcorn, and Santa Claus will all be available!



Brooke Miller Outstanding County Younger Member Award

Green County
Junior
Holstein
fall
organizational
meeting

Respectfully submitted by
Siera McCullough, Green
County Junior Holstein
Reporter

The Green County Junior Holstein Association held an organizational meeting this fall. Members were recognized for summer achievements. Discussion was held on Cheese Days, state calf raffle tickets, dairy quiz bowl and the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention, which will be held on December 27-29 at the Wisconsin Dells. Marcy McCullough will be the county dairy bowl coach. New officers were elected. President-Ally Judd; Vice President-Mason Lien- Kirnis; Secretary- Zach Moldenhaurser; Treasurer-Caitlin Bainbridge; Reporter- Siera McCullough; Advisor-Lea Jordan.

Green County Holstein Breeder held their annual banquet at Albany Lions Club. A potluck was enjoyed by everyone. Brook and Riley Hendrickson, Belleville were awarded the Younger Breeder Award. Bob

The Poor Peddler

- Located inside Jason's Cards & Collectibles -

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2024-25 Green County JR Holstein officer team. Left to right: President: Ally Judd, Mt Horeb; VP: Mason Leinkirnsnis, New Glarus; Secretary: Zach Moldenhaur, New Glarus; Treasurer: Caitlin Bainbridge, New Glarus; Reporter: Siera McCullough, Juda.

and Nikki Cramer, Juda were honored as the Senior Breeder. Marcy McCullough, Juda was awarded the Green County Service Award. Brooke Mueller, Brodhead was chosen for the Outstanding County Younger Member Award with Emma Hendrickson, Belleville received the Older Member Award.

If anyone is interested in more information or joining, please contact Lea Jordan at leamccullough@gmail.com

FIRE & ICE OPEN HOUSE

- 25% Off Gift Items
- Complimentary treats and beverages
- Door prize drawing

Friday, December 6th
12:00 - 6:30 pm



HOMETOWN PHARMACY

1028 1st Center Ave., Brodhead, WI

Albrecht Elementary Penny War

Students at Albrecht Elementary School had a great time raising funds for charity during the Penny War the week of November 18-22. Grade levels competed against each other to see who could earn the most total points. Each penny counted as one positive point per grade level. Each silver coin counted as negative points per grade level. In other words, dropping a quarter in another grade level's bucket took 25 points away from their total. The winning grade level was five-year old kindergarten. Overall, the staff and students raised \$1,649.27 for the Backpack Food Program. Pictured are the kindergarteners enjoying their hot chocolate and cookie reward.



Mrs. Helgestad



Mrs. Lunde



Mrs. Lunde



Mrs. Williams



Mrs. Oellerich



Mrs. Williams



Give a child a smile this Christmas...

attend the 26th Annual
Children's Christmas Benefit
Saturday, December 7, 2024
at Orfordville American Legion Post 209

A holiday tradition sponsored by Rock County Supervisor Brian Knudson!
Enjoy a free meal and entertainment! No admission or cover charge.
Just bring donations to help those in need:

New
Toys &
Games

CASH

Food
Pantry
Items

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Welcome the holidays with a
Fun Night for your entire Family!

6:00p.m. – FREE Community Dinner (donations accepted)
7:00p.m. – Children's visits with Santa
7:45p.m. – FREE Children's raffle drawings
8:00p.m. – LIVE MUSIC – Stateline Playboys
Hourly Prize Raffles - \$1/ticket – Over 150 Prizes (must be present)
11:45p.m. – Grand Prize Raffle (\$5/ticket)
with over \$1500 in prizes!
(Winners need not be present for Grand Prize Raffles)

For more information, call 608-289-2498, email childrenschristmasbenefit@yahoo.com
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Brady Flannery defends the basket as Aiden Crane leaps overhead. As part of their preseason Brodhead participated in a scrimmage hosted at Parkview High School. Darlington was the third school engaged in this event. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



Brooks Malkow is one of 10 seniors on the Cardinal varsity roster this season. They will open conference play this Friday hosting Beloit Turner. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

Brodhead Boys' Basketball schedule

December 6th @ Turner

December 9th vs River Valley

December 12th @ Clinton

December 17th vs Edgerton

December 20th @ Big Foot

December 23rd @ Albany

December 27th @ New Glarus Tournament

December 30th @ New Glarus Tournament

January 4th vs Marshall

January 6th @ Potosi

January 10th vs Evansville

January 16th vs Whitewater

January 21st @ Delavan-Darien

January 24th vs Monroe

January 28th vs St. Ambrose

February 1st vs Cambridge

February 4th vs East Troy

February 7th @ Jefferson

February 11th @ Dodgeville

February 13th @ Turner

February 18th vs Clinton

February 21st @ Edgerton

February 24th vs Big Foot

February 27th @ Evansville

The Bank of New Glarus Announces Leadership Changes

The Bank of New Glarus, a leading financial institution in Green, Dane, and Lafayette Counties, along with Bancorp of New Glarus, Inc., today announced significant changes to both The Bank of New Glarus's Board of Directors and Bancorp of New Glarus, Inc.'s Board. The following individuals reserve seats on both boards.

Gregg Erickson, a long-time board member for The Bank of New Glarus and Chairman of the Board since 2012, announced his retirement this October. Erickson has served as a member of the Bank's boards for 32 years. Throughout his tenure, Erickson has been forefront in the bank's growth, overseeing key initiatives of the Bank's strategic plans and aiding in the expansion into new markets. Reflecting on his time with the bank, Erickson stated, "It has been an honor to lead The Bank of New Glarus and work alongside a devoted team. I am proud of all we have accomplished, and I am confident that the bank will continue to thrive under new leadership."

John Ott, who has been an active board member since 2000, has also announced his retirement from his board seats effective December 31, 2024. Over the years, Ott has been an integral part of the Boards, significantly shaping their direction and policies. His influence, particularly in the realm of loan and audit committee has been profound.

Russ Davis, board member since 2020, succeeded Erickson as Chairman, effective October 1, 2024. Commenting on his new role, Davis said, "I am honored to step into the role of Chairman of the Board at The Bank of New Glarus. I look forward to building on the strong foundation laid by my predecessor and working closely with our talented Board members and dedicated staff. Collectively, we will continue to drive advancements and uphold our commitment to our customers."

In the wake of Erickson and Ott's retirement, the Board was faced

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"The Homes for Heroes program made me feel like my sacrifices to my community and my country were worth it. That there was somebody there, to tell me, thank you for your service and shaking my hand."
- Cinda L.

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with two vacancies. After an extensive search process, the Board appointed Matt Streiff, President and CFO, New Glarus Home Retirement Campus, and Ben Thompson, Owner and CEO of Big Radio, Janesville. Both begin their terms before the year's end.

Ron Schaaf, President of The Bank of New Glarus, expressed confidence in the new appointments: "We have selected two, capable and experienced professionals to join our Boards. I am excited about the future and confident we've got the right people in place to navigate the growing financial landscape."

The Bank of New Glarus is headquartered in New Glarus, Wisconsin and has branch offices located in Belleville, Brodhead, Darlington, Gratiot, Juda and Monroe with a loan production office located in Madison. As the largest deposit bank in Green County, it offers a full range of financial products and services including personal banking, business banking and wealth management. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

SSM Health Celebrates World Kindness Day in Monroe

Students across South-Central Wisconsin learned more about kindness last week, in special recognition of World Kindness Day that was on November 13.

SSM Health Wisconsin Marketing and Communications team members dropped off special SSM Health Kindness coloring books in Baraboo, Fond du Lac, Janesville, Madison, and Monroe.

In Monroe, students at St. Victor Catholic School received these Kindness Coloring Books.

The books feature SSM Health's friendly mascot, Bearnard, to color along with pages of puzzles and games. Included throughout the book are suggested acts of kindness kids of any age can complete, like wearing a smile, helping a friend, or writing a note to a teacher.

SSM Health Communications Manager Laura Morris illustrated the coloring book. The project and Day of Kindness donations are part of SSM Health's Year of Kindness campaign, which encourages everyone to spread kindness in every-day ways.

STAY INFORMED wherever you are!

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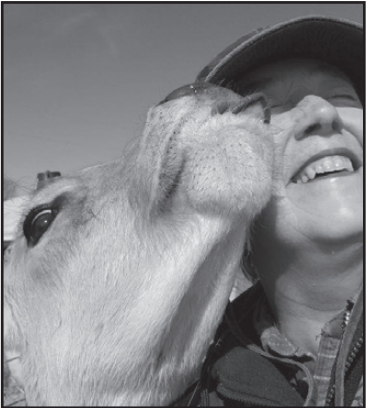


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South Central
Chapter Wisconsin
Farmers Unions
When Grief
looks a lot like
Mental Illness



By Betty Anderson

Recently, I spent an entire day in bed . . . when my oldest kitty died . . . Sounds crazy, no?

If I'm honest, I can't really remember a time in my life when I wasn't battling depression. Probably since adolescence anyhow. I don't remember though when the actual word depression came into my vocabulary. It just wasn't talked about. Ever.

I do remember talking to someone once, after I was raped in the service, in Japan. It was something like a box I had to check off to get back to work. I was a high functioning depressive . . . until I wasn't.

It wasn't until later in my 40s that things began to unravel for me and set me on a path to get the help I needed. One day, not too long after 9/11 happened, I ran across an old diary that had been kept by my grouchy great Aunt Kate, a busy body that lived in my Aunt Betty's house. This was her mom and dad's house, the house where everybody came to die in my family and that I eventually inherited.

Aunt Kate had a room upstairs just above the back door where she kept track of all the comings and goings in the home. She wrote them down in her diary, in her teeny tiny handwriting with almost no margin at all. Every bit of all the mundane minutiae that goes on in a house packed with extended family was there. Blah, blah, blah . . . it went on and on and on, I could hardly tear myself away from it. Ridiculous!

All of a sudden, in the midst of the mind-numbing pettiness, I learned I had an uncle (my father had a brother!) who I was heard mentioned, ever. I learned this amazing tidbit at the same time I learned that he blew his brains out in the second-floor bathroom, the room next to the bedroom where Aunt Kate filled in her petty little diary day after day.

When I asked my aunt about this she said yes, that was my brother, your Uncle Jim. After finally getting her to talk about him I learned he and his best friend joined up the service together during WWII. He'd seen his buddy decapitated on a flight deck and couldn't get past the survivor's guilt. My aunt also told me that he was never 'strong' mentally. (Maybe her way of saying he was emotional? Prone to depression?)

I couldn't believe it! Not just that it happened, but that it was never discussed.

(Continued to page 7)


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Craft Sales



1601 19th Street (in the heated back shed) Zuhlke's 8th Annual Holiday Craft Sale. Sat., Dec. 7—ONLY, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Free hot chocolate and cookies. Last minute specials—deals on gift baskets. NEW gift baskets and other items, home, yard and Christmas decor, metal wall hangings, big wind spinners, wooden crafts, wooden Packer, Badger and tractor signs, baby sweaters, baby blankets, painted ceramics by Brenda, tree ornaments, scrubbies, pot holders, dish cloths, plush animal doorstops/shelf sitters, Kleenex holders, key fobs, sugar scrubs, garden goodies, afghans, handmade cards, dish towels, home and garden, gnomes. Christmas items—old and new. Shirley Zuhlke, 608-289-5729.

Hay Sale



JUDA HAY SALES LLC. LOCATED AT: Carter and Gruenewald east lot, W2898 County Road KS, Juda, WI. First and third Saturdays. Next sale date—December 7. Sale starts at noon. Unloading available the day before and the morning of the sale. No unloading after 11 a.m. Reloading available after the sale. Operated by Mike and Holly Hasse, phone 608-214-8444, license 4039.52; Cal Schaver Auctioneer, license #451. (12/04)

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South Central Wisconsin (Continued from page 6)

Not long after this, I was having lunch with my Aunt Bet and another extended family member, Mary Beth, when I learned another family secret that sent me reeling again. It was about my grandma, we called her Mimi, who passed away when I was in middle school. I learned that when she couldn't 'snap out of it' after her son's suicide and her husband's death from a sudden massive heart attack; she was sent to Delevan to undergo electric shock therapy!! Again, I was just stunned!

Lately, as I think about these things, I wonder; what if I had known? What if my family had been able to talk about such things? Would I have learned to process my feelings in a more open way, rather than stuffing and ignoring until the inevitable crumbling of all my defenses later in life? I guess I'll never know the answers to those, and many other questions.

October is a tough month for me

with many grief milestones. A dear friend describes October as her grief month. I can relate! It's a good thing to know you are not alone.

As I put the finishing touches on this story, I am keenly aware that tomorrow is the day we get to vote. I say get to, because it is an action, an action I get to take to combat the low-level anxiety we are all existing in right now. Action is necessary to do more than just get through. It takes action to do more than just float along in despair.

The holidays are nearly upon us! A time of gathering and joy for many, but for countless others it can be a very triggering time. A time you are forced to endure the anniversary of a loved one's passing. A time you must inhabit the same space as your siblings, your parents, the family members of that other political or religious persuasion, the touchy-feely uncle, the abuser nobody believed you about...the list goes on and on.

Today, I know that grieving is imperative for mental health. Today, I can choose to take a mental health day to remember my dead kitty now

Monday Night Mixed League

11/25—High series: Ty Powell 748, Denny Schultz 705, Glayden Wahler 699. High games: T. Powell 265, D. Schultz 257, Ryan Flood 257, Josh Fenwick 257. Fosters Gaming-high team game 1,071 and series 3,093. Standings: Bartelt won 14 lost 0, Broughton's Bar 7-7, Albany Lanes 6-8, Fosters Gaming 5-9, Center Tavern 5-9, Beloit Chiropractic 5-9.

Tuesday Shanigans

11/26—High series: Alexis Sies 564, Chris Rosheisen 391, Karrie Laws 311, Ted Yaun 507, Larry Ommott 488, Terry Bund 484. High games: A. Sies 203, C. Rosheisen 147, K. Laws 128, L. Ommott 196, Lyle Yaun 186, Ted Yaun 180. The Young & The Restless-high team game 802 and series 2,326. Standings: Albany Lanes won 35 lost 21, Misfits 33-23, The Young & The Restless 29-27, Clayt's Boomtastic 25-31, Sweet Mini HaHa 24-32, Greightful Dead 22-34.

Badger

11/26—High series: Brian Purdy 662, Ethan Pfueti 661, Ryan Brugger 628, LeRoy Blumer 620, Megan Anderson 453, Kim Qualley 426. High games: B. Behnke Purdy 245, Rob Kubesh 242, L. Blumer 234, E. Pfueti 233, M. Anderson 181, K. Qualley 150. Jim's Mechanic Shop-high team game 820 and series 2,410. Standings: Jim's Mechanic Shop won 14 lost 7, Counter Attack 14-7, Renks 12-9, Decatur Dairy 10-11, TUGS 8-13, Team 6 5-16.

Wednesday Night Ladies

11/27—High series: Zoe Krattiger 502, Nicole Brewer 466, Tara Blumer 460, Jen Cole 454, Marcie Brugger 437. High games: N. Brewer 198, M. Brugger 172, Z. Krattiger 172, J. Cole 169, T. Blumer 165. Glenn-Ann Ladies-high team game 585. Crystal's Team-high team game series 1,712. Standings: Glenn-Ann Ladies won 58 lost 26, Albertson's 50-34, Stables Bar & Grill 45-39, Crystal's Team 40-44, General Store 38-46, Larson Acres 21-63.

Albany Lanes - Scott & Teresa Wahler 212 E. Main Street, Albany • 608-862-3131

rather than stuff it away for another time.

You may not be able to do much about your circumstances; but there is a lot you can do to help yourself cope. I've been working with Farm Well Wisconsin for a while now, in fact, I learned that storytelling is a great way to learn to talk about the things that generally aren't discussed in public (or even within our families). It's a great way to learn we are not alone, and our suffering is not unique to us. You can find out more about them and their many other resources on their website <https://farmwellwi.org/>

As we head into this holiday season, be kind. Recognize that you may not know the whole story about even those closest to you. Be kind to yourself and do what you need to do to be your best self. Know that whatever your situation is; you are not alone, you are enough, you are loved, and you can do this! I love you and I am proud of you; no matter where you are in your mental health journey.

24/7 Wisconsin Farmer Wellness Hotline 888-901-2558

National Suicide Prevention Hotline - Call or text 988

Veteran Crisis Line - Dial 988 and press 1 or text 838255 to connect with a VA Responder

Betty Anderson and her husband, Dane, are the current stewards at The Old Smith Place outside Brodhead. They have been Farmers Union members since 2016 and Betty is an alumni of the National Farmers Unions Beginning Farmer Institute. Betty is a Navy veteran and a trauma survivor. She is passionate about normalizing discussions surrounding mental health. She is also her tiny town's treasurer and holds down an off-farm job in the housing industry whose focus is providing education in financial literacy and promoting home-ownership as a vehicle to stabilizing some of Beloit's tougher neighborhoods.

South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driven

chapter committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement in Rock, Green, and Lafayette Counties.

Albany Women's League Empty Stocking project

By Teresa Blumer

The Albany Women's League/Empty Stocking project is gearing up to purchase clothing and winter apparel for kids in our community. Please help us to aid families in need as they prepare for the season and a busy school year. All monetary donations go to the Albany Women's League/Empty Stocking The Greenwoods Bank Albany location is providing this service for monetary drop off.

Coming soon The Giving Tree is an extension of the Empty Stocking with the purpose of making sure Christmas comes to children whose wishes may not be met this season. A Christmas tree will be placed in the lobby of the Greenwood's Bank/Albany with mittens specifying boy or girl and their wishes.

Thank you to all for your generosity and for purchasing gifts for kids in out community. Thank you to the Albany Public School for your dedication to your students and families.

Thank you to the Greenwoods Bank staff for providing us the help we need to continue this annual program for our community of Albany.

Any questions please call 608-558-8685.

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- Friday December 6th
- 4pm - 6:30pm Photos with Santa @ Brodhead Business Center
- 4pm-6:30pm Cookie Decorating with Brodhead Optimist @ City Hall
- 4pm- 6:30 Twin Flames Fire Twirling & Nauge Dance Troupe
- 4pm-6:30pm Horse-drawn Wagon Rides hosted by Khun and Mitchell Covert Exit Professional Reality. Pick up at the Senior Center.
- 4pm-7pm Ice Sculpting by Zoli Akacsos brought to you by Brodhead Dental
- 4pm-8pm Food: Up N' Smoke BBQ, United Methodist Church, Sugar River Kettle Corn, Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
- 4pm-8pm Bridges Hot Toddy Bar serving hot adult holiday drinks
- 6pm-6:30 Caroling by Brodhead High School Choral Group
- 6:15pm Cindy Lou Who Judging @ Brodhead Business Center
- 6:15 Decorated Pet Judging @ City Hall outside the front door
- 7:00pm Senz Redeske Lighted Parade
- 8:00 pm Frozen t-shirt contest
- Saturday, December 7th
- 9am-11am Jaycees Breakfast with Santa Three Waters Reserve