

Brodhead FREE PRESS

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Prom Court 2026

Ladies' Court, left to right: Ciarrah Condon, Leah Rear, Abigail Vickers, Brielle Engen, Elliana Shank and Lillian Sievers.

Gentlemen's Court, left to right: Grayson Arn, Jayden Nehls, Josiah Blum, Chase Bauman, Braylon Strehlow and missing Manny Bueno.

Correction:

Dr. Ray Pawlisch was inducted on the Brodhead Wall of Fame and Mike and Jenny Flory were added as Friends of Brodhead School District. The Brodhead Free Press apologizes for the error.



The fireworks fund is growing

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, \$14,845 has already been raised for Red, White & Brodhead—America 250. We're getting closer — but we still need your help to light up the sky on July 3rd and celebrate together at the July 4th Patriotic Parade.

This once-in-a-generation celebration is 100% funded by local residents and businesses and we're grateful for everyone who stepped up so far, including:

- Menehan Refrigeration, Heating & Air Conditioning
 - City of Brodhead, Wisconsin
 - Campbell's Piggly Wiggly
 - Keeping Up With The Jones's Quilting
 - Sand Burr Family Restaurant
 - Tastee Creme
 - American Legion Post 197
 - Melissa P Photography Brodhead, WI
 - several other local individuals
- Let's keep the momentum go-

School Board

District Intends to Keep Five Teachers for Fourth Grade Next Year

By Grace Kufahl

Two parents attended the meeting and one raised concerns about the budget proposal to move a teacher from fourth grade next year. She noted the potential lack of individual attention to students, especially diverse learners, and the importance of preparing students for Middle School. The Board opted to continue publishing agendas and minutes in the newspaper for the sake of transparency. In addition to other changes already made or in progress, they decided next year's budget will be cut by five percent for each school and sign fees will be raised from \$100 to \$200 to help address the budget deficit.

Summer Maintenance Projects approved include resurfacing the track, changes to seating in the High School foyer, wraps for windows and doors and adding air conditioning to the band room. It was noted resurfacing the track will give it another 10 years of life before it needs to be replaced. Projects total \$465k, which will come from the \$475k referendum fund investment money and leftover contingency fund. Mike Krupke and Paul Donovan applauded the Building and Grounds Committee for cutting costs compared to earlier proposals.

In Other Business:

The board approved contracted and volunteer coaches.

Selected student art will be on display at East Towne in Madison and at the Brodhead Memorial Public Library.

Shoutouts were given to everyone involved in the success of the recent third and fourth grade concerts, High School and Middle School chorus concert, Development of the Bands Concert and the High School play and to Stephanie Tresemer for having over 100 kids participate in a recent forensics event.

Administrators gave a mid-year goals update. Principal Knox noted a "drastic increase" in reading scores resulting in fewer students requiring Reading Plans. Principal Matthys mentioned they had full houses this year for every grade on Course Sign Up night.

After discussions about college affiliations, costs and the merits versus AP classes, the board voted to approve High School Early College Credits.

ing, Brodhead!

If you'd like to help fund this historic event and be part of something truly special, donations can be dropped off at the Bank of Brodhead. Checks should be made payable to Brodhead Jaycees with the designation of "Fireworks" in the memo line. Funds will remain in this separate account, and any excess funds in the account will be held over to the next Independence Day show. You can donate as little or as much as you want, and donations of \$500 or more will be included on a banner that will be displayed at the show.

Any questions can be directed to Kody Menehan, Cody Gadow or Casey Jones.



Will be closing at Noon on Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**Vote for
Jill Baxter
Brodhead Mayor**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Paid for by Jill Baxter for Mayor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Vote for
Mary Bartels
Brodhead City Council
Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Paid for by Mary Bartels for Brodhead City Council



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Albany United Methodist Church, 500 Park Street, Albany. 608-862-3206, Elizabeth Staniforth-Seamster, Pastor. Sunday worship 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday school age three through 12th grade at 10 a.m. Open Communion each 1st Sunday. 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 Email: office@bethlehembrodhead.org. Website: www.bethlehembrodhead.org. Sunday in-person worship with Communion at 9 a.m. Online 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 September through May. Sunday school every other Sunday September thru May at 8:45 a.m. Nursery is available for those who desire. 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. Palm Sunday, March 29 at 10 a.m. Annual Easter Egg Hunt immediately following service. Outdoors weather permitting.

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. Mark Woodward, 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. Pas-

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tor Russ Doebler. 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; Wednesday evening Impact Youth 6 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 Meyer. 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. Patrick Catholic Church, 410 E. State Street, Albany, part of Christ the King Pastorate. Fr. Chahm Gahng, Pastor. Mass on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8 a.m. www.ctk-p.org. 608-325-9506 or secretary@ctk-p.org.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 1005 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, part of Christ the King Pastorate. Fr. Chahm Gahng, Pastor. Mass on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 11 a.m. www.ctk-p.org. 608-325-9506 or secretary@ctk-p.org.

St. Victor Catholic Church, 1760 14th Street, Monroe, part of Christ the King Pastorate. Fr. Chahm Gahng, Pastor. Mass on Monday 6:15 p.m., Tuesday through Friday 8:15 a.m., Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 and 10 a.m. www.ctk-p.org. 608-325-9506. Fully accessible for people with disabilities.

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. In-person worship at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. Fully accessible for people with disabilities. Nursery available. Services live streamed on Facebook.

OBITUARIES



Evelyn E. Binger

Evelyn E. Binger, age 103, of Monroe, died Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Pleasant View Nursing Home. Evelyn was born on April 16, 1922 in Monroe, the daughter of William and Lydia (Blasing) Marean. She graduated from Juda High School in 1939, Green County Normal School, and earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from U.W. Platteville. She was united in marriage to Ellsworth "Brownie" Binger on June 1, 1946 at Union United Methodist Church, Oakley. Evelyn taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Twin Grove, Fairfield School, Davis, Illinois, and Lincoln Elementary in Freeport. She farmed along with her husband on the Binger home farm until 1984, later moving to Monroe in 1992.

She was a long time member of Oakley Union United Methodist Church and Green County Retired Educators. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, crafts, baking, and fishing. She was an avid Badger and Packer fan, and was always up for a game of Euchre or 500.

Evelyn is survived by four sons: Roy (LeAnn) of Petersburg, Virginia, Jerry (Karen) of Evansville, Steve (Debbie) of Black Earth, and Don (Linda) of Beloit; nine grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandson. She was preceded in death by her husband on June 15, 2007; brother, Victor (Florence) Marean; and two sisters: Ruby (Walter) Regez, and Mary (Harold) Green.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 11 a.m., at Oakley Union United Methodist Church, with Pastor Jady Meyer officiating. Interment will follow in the Oakley Union Church Cemetery. Visitation will precede the service at the church on Saturday beginning at 9:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund will be established in Evelyn's name for Union UMC. The Newcomer Funeral Home, Monroe, is assisting the family. Condolences may be shared at www.newcomerfuneralhome.net

The family would like to thank all caregivers at Pleasant View Nursing Home and hospice. Special thanks to Izzy, Amanda (hospice) and Deb (Pleasant View) for going above and beyond for Evelyn and family.



Patricia Ann Lohmar

Patricia Ann Lohmar, age 82, of Brodhead, formerly of Hixton, Wisconsin, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, Wisconsin, held in the love and presence of her family.

Patricia married her loving and devoted husband, Richard Lohmar, on February 19, 1966. Together they raised three children—Kathleen (Lohmar) and her husband Randy Harms, Richard and his wife Kristi (Betthausen), and Margaret (Lohmar) and her husband Luke Robinson—and built a life centered on family, hard work, and deep community ties.

Pat was blessed with many grandchildren who brought her great joy: Zachary Harms; Haley Harms and her partner, Brian Boardman; Jacob Lohmar; Joseph Lohmar and his partner, Lida Nimz; Kara Lohmar; Thomas Lohmar; Michaela Bautch and her partner, Gabriel Rocha; Taylor (Bautch) and her husband, Seth Peterson; and RuthAnn Robinson and her partner, Brandon Scheidler. She was also a proud great-grandmother to Owen and Everett Peterson. Pat's heart extended beyond her immediate family, and she cherished Kim Sebron, who was like a daughter to her, and Caitlyn Sebron, who was like a granddaughter.

Patricia was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She

treasured her family above all else and valued the friendships she built throughout her life. She will be remembered for her feisty spirit, sense of humor, kindness, and understanding.

After marrying, Pat and Rich lived in Illinois for several years before moving to rural Osseo, Wisconsin, drawn by the beauty of the area and the opportunity to explore farming. They lived and farmed there for more than 20 years. During that time, they purchased and operated the Hixton Café in Hixton, Wisconsin. For 25 years, Pat poured her heart into the café, sharing her love of cooking and family with everyone who walked through the door. Many said it felt like visiting home rather than dining out, and Pat cherished the camaraderie and close connections she built within the community. After retiring from the café, she later served as Church Secretary at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hixton.

In 2017, Pat and Rich moved to Brodhead, Wisconsin, as they embraced a new chapter of life and the chance to offer their steady presence during a time when family life was especially full.

Patricia is survived by her husband, Richard; her children: Kathleen, Richard, and Margaret; her grandchildren: Zachary, Haley, Jacob, Joseph, Kara, Thomas, Michaela, Taylor, and RuthAnn; her great-grandchildren: Owen and Everett; her brother, William Biciste; her sister-in-law, Lois Biciste, who remained a cherished part of the family after the passing of her husband, Daniel; and her beloved family of the heart, Kim and Caitlyn Sebron. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rose and Joseph Biciste; her sister, Jean (Biciste) Dhanji; and her brothers, Joseph and Daniel Biciste.

A celebration of Pat's life will be planned and shared with family and friends at a later date.

Cremation Society of Wisconsin, Altoona is assisting the family. Online condolences may be shared at www.cremationsociety-wi.com.

2026 Gap Church Cemetery Notice

A reminder that it is time to prepare the cemetery for spring. Please remove any flowers and decorations you wish to save by Wednesday, April 15th to allow adequate time to clean up.

Do not place spring or summer items until Friday, May 1st.

Gap Church Cemetery, W2401 State Highway 59, Albany, Wisconsin.

7 Snows To Go!

ACADEMICS

UW-MADISON ANNOUNCES WINTER 2025 GRADUATES

A total of 2,151 students, including students from your area, received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on December 14, 2025. The university held its Winter 2025 Commencement ceremony for undergraduates and graduates at the Kohl Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Local degree recipients include: Blake Krumwiede, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science, Economics and Elizabeth McGuire, College of Agricultural and Life Science, Master of Science-Animal and Dairy Sciences.

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.
~John 17:4 NKJV

Many people finish their lives regretful of things left undone. But God's eternal Son approached Golgotha knowing that His public ministry was finished, and that He would fully and perfectly fulfill His Father's will at Calvary. He had revealed the Father and demonstrated the divine kingdom's character through His miraculous ministry (Acts 10:38). "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). Christ died, arose, and ascended, knowing that His first coming was complete.
—Keith R. Keyser

His glory—not only God's Son, in manhood He had His full part;
And the union of both joined in one, forms the fountain of love in His Heart.
—Robert Hawker

Sponsored by: Brodhead Gospel Hall
2409 E. 3rd Avenue, Brodhead, WI 53250

Greenwood Cemetery notice

A reminder that it is time to prepare the cemetery for spring. Please remove any flowers and decorations you wish to save by Wednesday, April 1st, to allow adequate time to clean up. Do not place spring or summer items until Friday, May 1st.

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A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

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"You can't be that kid standing at the top of the waterslide, over thinking it. You have to go down the chute."
~ Tina Fey

ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

BRODHEAD LIONS AND LEOS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Brodhead Lions and Leos are having their spring pancake breakfast to raise money for Brodhead School District field trips. The breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 28, at Albrecht Elementary School, from 7 to 11 a.m. All you can eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, applesauce, coffee, milk and orange juice. There is no charge for the meal. They are asking only for your free will donation.

BRODHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOME SHOW AND TRADE EXPO

The Second Annual Brodhead Chamber Home Show and Trade Expo is returning—bigger, brighter, and packed with opportunity. Showcasing local contractors, shops, service providers, and creators, this is their moment to shine and the community's opportunity to support local. Taking place Saturday, March 21st, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Brodhead High School. Admission is free!

BRODHEAD POOL AND REC INDOOR YOUTH SOCCER

The Brodhead Pool and Recreation Department will be holding a four-week youth indoor soccer program for boys and girls in K–first grade. The program will meet after school from 3-4 p.m. on Wednesdays in the elementary school gym. The program begins on April 8th and ends on April 29th. This program is for children at all skill levels and it will teach basic skills and fundamentals.

Forms are available at the elementary school, the Brodhead Pool and Recreation Department or on the City of Brodhead Website. The cost is \$20. Forms need to be completed and turned in with the fee by Friday, March 27th to the school office or Rec Department. Checks can be made payable to the City of Brodhead. If you have any questions, contact Ashley at 608-897-2159.

Albany High Alumni Basketball Tournament

The Albany Alumni Basketball Tournament will be held at the Albany High School gym on Saturday, April 11th. Games will start at approximately 9 a.m. that day and will continue till around 6 p.m. with the final championship game. Food will be available to purchase.

This is their only fund-raiser of the year and all proceeds go to scholarships for deserving seniors. Please come out and support this worthwhile cause. They hope to see you there!

Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination's Regional Tournament advances 21 teams to State Competition 27 Destination Imagination Teams participated in the South Central Regional Tournament at Parkview Jr./Sr. High School in Orfordville on Saturday, March 7th. Of those 27 teams, two teams were of the pre-competitive level (grades 4K-second grade) and 21 teams across six competitive challenges will be advancing to the Affiliate level tournament in Sun Prairie on Saturday, April 11th in hopes of advancing to Global Finals in Kansas City at the end of May. Destination Imagination's mission is to inspire and equip youth to imagine and innovate through the creative process. Under the supervision of a Team Manager, teams of two to seven students solve open-ended science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) and service learning Challenges and present their solutions to trained Appraisers at tournaments. One new Early Learning Challenge and seven new competitive-level Challenges are released each season. Students from kindergarten through college may participate in the Challenge Experience. Those interested in learning more about the program can visit <https://wisconsinindi.org/start-a-destination-imagination-team/> The South Central Regional Tournament was put on by a dedicated group of Parkview volunteers and DI officials who donated their time and expertise to the program. The tournament was made possible thanks to several generous donations from Frito Lay, Wendy's of Beloit, Texas Roadhouse of Janesville, Panera of Janesville, Knute's of Orfordville, and Pepsi Beverages Co. Parkview students were well represented at the tournament as 14 of the 27 teams were from Parkview school district. The Lake Geneva School District and Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Sun Prairie also had a strong presence at the tournament. You can learn more about upcoming Destination Imagination events in your area at: <https://wisconsinindi.org/events/>

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

BINGO!!

BIG CASH PAYOUTS!!

(Running Progressive Pot)

Thursday, March 26th

Continuing 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month!



Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Bingo starting at 6:30 p.m.

Food stand open at 5:30 p.m.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

405 E 9th Ave, Brodhead, WI

608-897-2341

DLMRA Annual Meeting

The Decatur Lake and Mill Race Association (DLMRA) would like to announce their upcoming annual meeting on Saturday, April 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Kelch Aviation Museum. The public is invited to attend as well as all members. Directors will be updating members on recent activities, electing new board members and presenting a minor change to the bylaws to provide more flexibility in when the annual meeting dates will occur (members must be present to vote on these items). The guest speaker will be Tonya Gratz of Green County Land and Water Conservation District and Farmers of the Sugar River.

DLMRA is an active organization in the Brodhead area dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the experience of interaction with the area's natural resources. DLMRA has installed docks on Decatur Lake and the Mill Race. DLMRA also works with the Pearl Island committee for improvements, stocked our local waters with thousands of fish and provided opportunities for youth to experience fishing among many other endeavors. New ideas and programs are in the works—join them!

To join DLMRA by mail: send a check for \$30 and your contact information to DLMRA, N4177 Golf Course Rd, Brodhead WI 53520 or email info@DLMRA.org for an application form. More information may be found at DLMRA.org or DLMRA on Facebook. Venmo is accepted via the website.

Next Generation 4-H Spring Craft Fair

Next Generation 4-H is sponsoring a Spring Craft Fair on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Juda Community Center, N2350 County Road S, Juda. Snow date is Sunday, March 29.

Admission is free. Stop in and see the amazing vendors as well as treat yourself to breakfast or lunch!

Coffee trailer provided by Liquid Chaos.

The Easter Bunny will be hopping by from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Albrecht Elementary accepting 4K and 5K applications

Albrecht Elementary School is now accepting new four and five-year-old kindergarten applications for the 2026-2027 school year. If you have a child who will be turning four (4) by September 1st of this year, he/she will be eligible to attend school in the fall. New this year—ALL DAY 4K PROGRAM!!

You and your child are invited to participate in a special night set aside for incoming 4K children and their families. This year 4K Enrollment and Information Night will be held on Thursday, March 26th between 4 and 7 p.m. We are asking that you and your child sign up to attend one 1-hour session that evening.

The 4K Team will keep your child company while engaging them in a play based environment in the 4K classrooms. The parent information portion will be for parents to hear about our program and answer any questions you may have.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, or wish to learn more about our program, please call Albrecht Elementary School at 608-897-2146 or you can email Ashley Smith at ashleysmith@brodhead.k12.wi.us They are looking forward to hearing from you!

The Durand Library to host a presentation on the railroad in Illinois and its effect on the economy, society and culture

By Barbara Flores, President, Friends of the Durand Library

Mike Matejka presents a free program "What's Coming Down the Line? The Railroad in the American Mind" Tuesday, March 24. The Friends of the Durand Library is partnering with the Otter Creek Historical Society to host this presentation.

Illinois is the nation's railroad crossroads. Railroads not only accelerated Illinois' economic development and population boom but the train itself became an icon, which influenced American culture. People gathered along the tracks to watch the powerful and speedy trains arrive and they marveled at the opulent, Illinois-built Pullman cars.

"We are delighted to host this event," said Friends President Barbara Flores. "Mike is an outstanding speaker and steeped in knowledge about railroads. She added, "Indeed, the Village of Durand with

its lovely 19th century buildings developed due to the railroad which ran through town."

The national land-based transportation network radically changed the economy, how people traveled, and how corporate structure evolved. Rail workers were seen as heroic as they labored in a hazardous occupation. The railroad became a cultural symbol, reflected in advertising, cinema, and children's toys.

Mike is an historian, writer and community organizer with a passion for Illinois labor and transportation history and he has years of experience presenting to a wide range of audiences.

This event is co-presented by the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. Road Scholar Speakers travel throughout Illinois sharing free, dynamic presentations about literature, philosophy, theater, local history, film, music, politics, and more, at no cost to host organizations. The program enables local nonprofit organizations to present free-admission cultural programs to their communities.

The program is slated for Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria area of the Durand School located at 200 W. South Street, Durand, Illinois. Audience members are asked to enter through the West Activity Entrance. For more information, email villagelibrary@cusd322.org or call 815-289-8602.

Illinois Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that activates the humanities through free public programs, grants, and educational opportunities that spark conversation, foster reflection, build community, and strengthen civic engagement for everyone in Illinois. Founded in 1974, we are the state partner for the National Endowment for the Humanities and supported by state, federal, and private funds. Stay connected with Illinois Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn @ILHumanities.



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Brodhead High School February Students of the Month

Back row, left to right: Aiden Arn, Alex Andrews, Ella Olson, Tyler Steiner, Brooke Mueller, Ryan Zumbragel; front row: Trinity Steiner, Kadence Strutt, Sawyer Phillips, Raya Santiago, Lucille Buchanan.



Thank you to Megan Haserodt, third generation maple producer, for sharing some of her syrup with Mrs. Corbit's Science classes. This was at least 20 student's first time having real maple syrup!



Carmen Strohecker-Hughes of the Clarence Bridge Pioneers 4-H Club presents a speech at the 2026 4-H Communications Contest.



Stelle Rolli of the Dayton Dairylanders 4-H Club competed in the "Prose/Poetry" division of the 4-H Communications Contest.

Green County 4-H Youth Participate in Communications Contest

Green County 4-H held its annual Communications Contest on Sunday, February 22 at the Green County Justice Center. This contest was open to all countywide 4-H members in grades 5K through one year past high school.

Presenting or speaking before a group or audience is an important life skill to develop. The goal of the Green County 4-H Communications Contest is to give 4-H youth an opportunity to develop and polish these skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Youth were eligible to submit one entry in each of two divisions: Demonstration Division (individual or team demonstration); Speaking Division (prose/poetry or traditional speech).

This year's participants were Alixandra Anderson (Browntown Busy Beavers), Mickaelynn Andrews (Washington Center), Esther Biank (New Glarus), Jonathan Biank (New Glarus), Levi Biank (New Glarus), Micah Biank (New Glarus), Landon Hughes (Clarence Bridge Pioneers), Ellie Johanson (Young Americans), Mabel Johanson (Young Americans), Brantley Mayer (Cheese Country Clovers), Ayden McCoy (New Glarus), Stella Rolli (Dayton Dairylanders), and Carmen Strohecker-Hughes (Clarence Bridge Pioneers).

4-H participants were evaluated and provided constructive feedback on their presentation, each receiving a certificate of participation and a participation ribbon (grades 5K-2) or ribbon placing (grades 3 through one year past high school). Stella Rolli of the Dayton Dairylanders 4-H Club was awarded the Grand Champion prize, and Micah Biank of the New Glarus 4-H Club was awarded the Reserve Champion prize.

For more information about Green County 4-H, please visit green.extension.wisc.edu.



Top row, left to right: Ellie Johanson (Young Americans), Esther Biank (New Glarus), Mickaelynn Andrews (Washington Center), Carmen Strohecker-Hughes (Clarence Bridge Pioneers); middle row: Mabel Johanson (Young Americans), Jonathan Biank (New Glarus), Ayden McCoy (New Glarus), Stelle Rolli (Dayton Dairylanders); bottom row: Landon Hughes (Clarence Bridge Pioneers), Brantley Mayer (Cheese Country Clovers), Levi Biank (New Glarus), Alixandra Anderson (Browntown Busy Beavers), Micah Biank (New Glarus).

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Veterans Sought for Badger Honor Flight

Badger Honor Flight is a regional affiliate of the national Honor Flight Network. The purpose of the Honor Flight Network is to ensure that World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and terminally ill Veterans from any war have the opportunity to see the memorials that have been erected in their honor. The Honor Flight Network provides all amenities to the veterans, including all transportation, meals and lodging. Each flight costs over \$145,000. Everything is free to the veterans because of how much they have sacrificed for this great country already. The only money veterans need is if they want to buy a souvenir for themselves.

The veterans are accompanied by volunteer guardians. Guardians make sure the veterans stay with the group and take care of any special needs. Guardians are responsible for paying their \$500 trip fee on their own; their fee is not covered by the donations that are collected.

All Veterans and guardians interested in flying out of the Madison, hub must submit an application to Badger Honor Flight. Veterans and guardians are selected for flights on a first-come, first-served basis. Exceptions are made for terminally ill veterans; if a doctor certifies that a veteran is terminally ill, he or she receives priority status. Priority is given to WWII Veterans to fly first.

Plans are in the works for Veterans of Desert Storm to be included to participate with Badger Honor Flight in the future as the Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial is under construction in Washington, DC, near the Lincoln Memorial. It will honor members of the armed forces who participated in Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield scheduled to open later this year.

If you know of a World War II, Korean, or Vietnam War-era veteran who has not flown yet, please download an Application by going to Veteran Application—Badger Honor Flight—Serving Those Who Served for US

For further information, please contact them at 608-616-0243 or via email at administration@badger-honorflight.org

Development of Bands Concert and Basket Fund-raiser

By Beth Riesterer

The Brodhead Band program had an incredible afternoon on Sunday, March 8th at the annual Development of Bands Concert and Basket Fundraiser!

This year's theme was food, and they were excited to have the Brodhead School District food service staff served as the emcees for the concert—the perfect hosts for our deliciously fun theme!

The concert featured 250+ band students in grades fifth–12th, all performing together and showcasing the growth and talent within the band program. The audience enjoyed a fun and energetic mix of selections including Popcorn Prelude, It's Raining Tacos, Build Me Up, Buttercup, Grease, and Meat Loaf—The Hits.

The students did an outstanding job, and it was amazing to see musicians from all grade levels come together for this performance. The energy in the gym was fantastic!

Thank you to everyone who attended the concert and supported the theme basket fund-raiser. Your support means so much to the students and helps keep the Brodhead band program strong. We truly appreciate our wonderful community!

March is Music in Our Schools Month!

By Jenny Flory, President, Brodhead Music Boosters

It's been a joy to see the community support at recent concerts. Your presence is appreciated. If you are looking for additional ways to support school music programs, consider joining Brodhead Music Boosters. Brodhead Music Boosters is an organization whose purpose is to foster relations between the school music department and interested members of the community; to assist financially where feasible; and to provide assistance in special functions of the music department. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Membership is open to parents and guardians of all students in music organizations within the Brodhead School District, and other interested persons. Booster meetings are held four times per year in the high school band room at 6:30 p.m. interested people may reach out to Jenny Flory, Amber Buxton or one of the district's music educators.

On Thursday, March 26, Vince's Pizzeria, in Monroe, will be donating a portion of their proceeds to the Brodhead Music Boosters. This includes dine-in and carry-out orders from 5 to 8 p.m. Join us for Pasta With A Purpose!



Lunch Ladies Celebrated! (Free Press photos by Teresa Earleywine)



Fifth Grade Band



Sixth Grade Band



Seventh/Eighth Grade Band



High School Symphonic Band



Concert Band



Basket Fund-raiser

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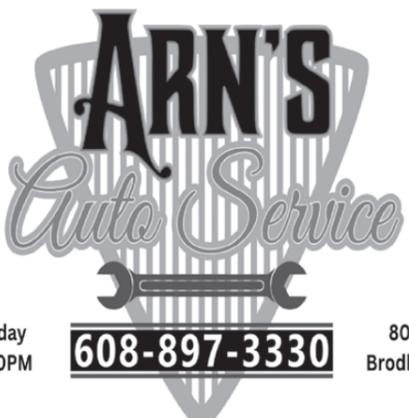
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District 8 AA locations

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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By Melissa Everson, Director

From the Director's Desk . . .

Every now and then a library patron will ask why the Albertson Memorial Library is not connected to LinkCat. For those of you unfamiliar to LinkCat, it's an online library catalog from which patrons can reserve a book of interest to them from any library in the South Central Library System (SCLS) from the comfort of home on any electronic device. In our library system, which consists of 54 public libraries in south central Wisconsin, 51 public libraries have secured this valuable service. So why is our library not one of them? To me, as the director of the Albertson Memorial Library, it's simple. It all comes down to money – specifically, the cost our library would incur annually should we provide this service.

This winter, I delved deeply into the possibility of us becoming "linked" to the online catalog like the other 51 libraries after a patron posed this question. I reached out to library directors of "linked" libraries to remind myself of the benefits and to learn about any negative aspects. I reached out to directors of the two other libraries that are not linked to discover what goes into their decision to remain "unlinked". And I reached out to the director of the 51st library to join the ranks of those libraries that belong to LinkCat to get an idea of their experience with the process. Lastly, I consulted with the technology services coordinator at SCLS to learn the process

of procuring LinkCat for our library. After gathering all of my information and listing pros and cons, I took my findings to the Board of Trustees at our library.

If the Albertson Memorial Library were to join the ranks of the other libraries utilizing the online library catalog, there is a lengthy process to follow. A technology service specialist would need to examine our computer system to determine what, if any, additional pieces are needed to support LinkCat technology and install them. Once the technology piece is in place, our library staff would need to relabel every item – all 15,602 books, magazines, videos and other items - in our collection and reenter them into our computer system to match that of every other library. This step alone would take close to a year of additional staff hours. Fortunately, there is a grant that we could apply for that could cover a portion of the staffing cost related to this step.

The biggest deterrent for us at the Albertson Memorial Library, however, is the ongoing costs of this service – the annual infrastructure, network and PC support, and the online catalog system itself. SCLS would step the fees for us for the first four years of operation, beginning at \$3,090 for the first year. But by the fifth year, we would incur an annual fee of \$11,155. I just don't know how our library could cover that in our annual budget, without asking both the village and town for the additional funding. It just doesn't seem feasible in our small community.

As you can see, our library's decision to maintain our "unlinked" status truly is a financial one, but that doesn't mean that we cannot still offer our patrons the same benefits.



By Laura Roth, Children's Librarian

Last week, the preschoolers at Albertson Memorial Library's Story Time listened to stories about cats! Have You Got My Purr (by West) and Pet the Cat: Old MacDonald (by Dean) got everyone singing and making all kinds of animal noises. So much fun! The last book, Chicken and Cat (by Varon) was a wordless book, which inspired the youngsters to tell the story instead of just listening to it. After all that, cat puppets came to life! First curl black cardstock into a tube, tucking down the front and the back to make ears on the side. Then draw and glue eyes. Fish-line whiskers attached with a glue gun and colored pink for the nose made an adorable kitten puppet.

Next week, Story Time returns to the theme "Things That Go" focusing on construction equipment. Digger Man (by Zimmerman) tells the story of what a boy would do when he gets to own a digger. I Am a Backhoe (by Hines) shows a youngster behaving like a backhoe, pushing his toys around. The craft for the day will use construction toys to make tracks in brown paint. Messy, but super fun for preschoolers.

Preschool Story Time meets every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. at Albertson Memorial Library. We meet before the library is officially open so we can be as loud as we need to be, without bothering anyone else. We're looking forward to meeting new friends. Come join us!



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We've just had to find another way around the system – and that I will share in my next director's report!

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POLICE

Green County Sheriff's Department March 9-15, 2025

At 3:56 a.m., Sunday, deputies responded to the N8300 block of STH 104, in the Town of Brooklyn, for a single vehicle crash. The investigation found that a vehicle driven by Griffin D. Thompson, 17, of Brodhead, was traveling southbound when the vehicle collided with a fallen tree branch in the road. The vehicle then veered into the east ditch, where it came to a rest. Thompson advised that he was uninjured and was wearing his seat belt. The vehicle sustained disabling damage, with no airbag deployment, and was towed from the scene.

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SSM Health's Birthday Kit Project Brings Joy to Local Green County Families

When Rebecca Bordner, SSM Health Communications Consultant, was planning her daughter's first birthday, she came across TikTok videos where people created birthday kits. They were small, practical bundles of party essentials designed for families in need, and the concept stuck with her.

"Growing up, there were many holidays and celebrations that would not have been the same without the help of others, and now that I'm fortunate to be in a position where I can pay that forward, it's important for me to seek out acts of kindness opportunities," shared Bordner.

A few months later when Monroe's Ministry Action Team opened applications for staff-led community service grants, she knew exactly what she wanted to bring to her community.

Her proposal was a plan to create 200 birthday kits, each one packaged with everything needed for a small party including a cake mix, frosting, a can of Sprite (which can replace perishable liquid ingredients), candles, balloons, streamers, plates, stickers, temporary tattoos, a birthday button, a bracelet, and a birthday card. The kits, once complete, would then be divided evenly with Green Cares Food Pantry in Monticello and Green County Food Pantry in Monroe, to ensure that families who rely on these services throughout the county could benefit.

The grant review committee saw how meaningful these kits could be and awarded Bordner with a grant. Moving the project from concept to ready-to-package wasn't seamless. One of the biggest challenges was simply acquiring the supplies, especially the cake mixes and frosting.

"You can't just walk into a grocery store and load your cart up with 200 of each," Bordner explained.

The bulk order proved more complicated than expected until contacting Campbell's Piggly Wiggly in Brodhead. Their team helped coordinate the bulk cake mix and frosting order, turning what felt like a roadblock into an easy solution.

"I'm very thankful for Campbell's Piggly Wiggly being willing to take on my order that truly allowed this project to happen," she said.

Once all the supplies were compiled, a packaging day open to all SSM Health staff was coordinated for late January. Approximately 20 individuals volunteered over the lunch hour to assemble the kits that made what could have been a tedious assembly line into a room full of cheerful, collaborative effort.

"Everyone jumped in, found a rhythm in their part, and made adjustments to make it a really smooth process where all 200 kits were packaged in just over an hour," said Bordner. "Then right away that afternoon Green Cares Food Pantry was onsite to pick theirs up and away the kits went to start bringing birthday joy."

For the families receiving these kits, they are more than just supplies. They are offering a less stressful way that they can make their child's birthday special.

"When families come in with kids who have birthdays that month, the kids get excited and the parents get excited to see these birthday kits," shared Bob Voss, Green Cares Food Pantry volunteer. "Because a lot of times they don't have much to make a cake and celebrate. So when they see these, the kids get excited and the parents are just so happy."



Left: Rebecca Bordner, SSM Health Communications Consultant, with part of one of the 200 birthday kits assembled to ensure every child has the chance to celebrate their special day.

Below: SSM Health staff volunteers assemble birthday kits during a lunchtime packaging session, preparing supplies that have been donated to local food pantries.



Notice



REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT Albrecht Elementary School LMC Wednesday, February 25, 2026 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board President Mike Krupke at 7:00 p.m. The meeting agenda was published in the Wednesday, February 18, 2026 edition of the Brodhead Free Press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Mike Krupke, Michael Oellerich, Al Schneider, Don Buchanan, Jenny Flory, Paul Donovan, and Elizabeth Kempel (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

Absent:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Al Schneider, second by Jenny Flory, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Preliminary 2026-2027 Budget Discussions
• Jessica Huber—parent and Special Education paraprofessional in Brodhead. Ms. Huber spoke on concerns about potentially reducing the current 3rd grade from 5 sections to 4 sections for the next school year.

• Ashley Drasch—4th grade teacher. Mrs. Drasch spoke on concerns about potentially reducing the current 3rd grade from 5 sections to 4 sections for the next school year.

• Grant Carpenter—parent of a 3rd grade student. Mr. Carpenter spoke on concerns about potentially reducing the current 3rd grade from 5 sections to 4 sections for the next school year and the benefits of small classes, generally.

• Amanda Hicks—parent of a 3rd grade student. Ms. Hicks spoke on concerns about potentially reducing the current 3rd grade from 5 sections to 4 sections for the next school year, the increase of potential teacher burnout with a section reduction, and benefits of small class sizes, generally.

• Karissa Porterfield—parent of three AES students, including a 3rd grader. Ms. Porterfield spoke on concerns about potentially reducing the current 3rd grade from 5 sections to 4 sections for the next school year.

AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
a. Regular Meeting: February 11, 2026
b. Steering Committee: February 18, 2026

2. ACCEPT DONATION(S)
a. \$172.00 monetary donation from the Brodhead Optimist Club to the District Art Program

3. RESIGNATION(S)
a. Pat Noonan, MS Custodian
b. Dan Rueckert, MS Social Studies Teacher
c. Chad Yates, MS Boys' Basketball Coach

4. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)
• None at this time
Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Jenny Flory, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF BRODHEAD MUSIC DEPARTMENT TRIP IN SPRING OF 2027 ACTION ITEM

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Don Buchanan, to approve the Brodhead Music Department trip in the Spring of 2027, as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

4K ADDITION TOUR BUILDING TOUR

The Board of Education left the LMC and took a walking tour of the new 4k addition.

REFENDRUM UPDATE

District Administrator Novy provided an update on the ongoing building Referendum projects and potential year end projects

with investment funds and contingency funds that remain after completion of Referendum projects.

PRELIMINARY 2026-27 BUDGET DISCUSSION

District Administrator Novy presented information and proposals for potential budget reductions for the 2026-2027 school year.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

FUTURE AGENDA [March 11, 2026]

- Approval of the Minutes
- Approval of Bills
- Accept Donation(s)
- Resignation(s)
- Employment Recommendation(s)
- Mid-Year District Goals Update
- Appoint Board of Canvassers
- College/Tech Credit Approvals
- Approval of Contracted & Volunteer Coaches
 - Approve Summer Maintenance Projects
 - Approve Garbage/Recycling Contract
 - 2026-27 Budget Discussion/Cuts

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

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to go into Closed Session under WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(f) at 7:55 p.m. for the discussion of a scholarship recipient and possible action regarding personnel matters, including:

- a. Select Scholarship Recipient
- b. Employee on FMLA Leave
- c. Employee Retirement and Benefits Request

Roll Call vote: All ayes (7-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Don Buchanan, to return to open session at 8:14 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Don Buchanan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Motion carried, 7-0.

03/18/26

AGENDA BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING Monday, March 23, 2026 DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM 2501 W. 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. REVIEW OF POLICY UPDATE 35.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NEOLA
- II. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY 2301—CLASS SIZE
- III. REVIEW 35.1 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS
- IV. DEVELOP AND FINALIZE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD APPROVAL
- V. ADJOURN

03/18/2026

AGENDA BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT UPDATING STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting #3—Wednesday, March 25, 2026 High School LMC 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. WELCOME
- II. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE WORK AND DRAFT VISION/MISSION STATEMENTS
- III. DISCUSSION AND REVISIONS TO DRAFT STATEMENTS
- IV. SELECTION OF FINAL DRAFT FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
- V. REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND NEXT STEPS
- VI. ADJOURN

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Will be closing at Noon on Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday.



Brantley Anthony, Grant McCullough, Silas Harnack, Ava Andreuis, Novah Holst, Rosalie Boss-Frie, Avery Porterfield, Izzy Bennett, Celine Aguilar, Violet Davis, and Taliya Harvey were all part of the Stem Club, hosted by Mrs. Corbit.

Kids made various projects and exercised their patience, fine motor skills, and ability to read directions. Thanks to Katie Porterfield for sending along snacks and drinks for this hungry crew.



The American Revolution Traveling Exhibit comes to Monroe

The American Battlefield Trust and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have developed a traveling pop-up exhibition that will visit communities throughout the USA. This innovative exhibition features a combination of display panels and interactive digital kiosks offers an engaging look at the people and places that influenced the birth of the United States.

In celebration of America's 250 birthday, the Colonel Benjamin Harrison Chapter of the DAR, in partnership with the Monroe Public Library, have secured the exhibition for display on the library's first floor Tuesday, April 14th-Monday, April 20th. The exhibition will be available for viewing dur-

ing regular library hours: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 12 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Monroe Public Library is located at 925 16th Avenue, Monroe, and can be reached at 608-528-7010.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, visit the Colonel Benjamin Harrison Chapter DAR Facebook Page or contact Kathleen Comeau, Chapter Regent at 608-354-5570.



After securing their semi-final win over number two ranked Saint Mary Catholic, Thursday, March 12, 45-31, number three ranked Albany Monticello battled to a bitter end losing to number one ranked Neillsville 40-43. They were within one, had a foul allowing Neillsville the opportunity to score two free throws to go ahead by 3, with 0.8 seconds remained for A.M. to tie but their opponents created a turnover to end an exciting game at the Resch Center, Green Bay, WI, 14 March 2026.

They completed their season 26-3 as a D4 school, which included winning the Six Rivers Conference. Last season they were D5, but were moved due to a unique "point system." (Free Press photos by Duke Goetz/Goetz Imagery)



Left—Albany Monticello Space Stallions' Molly Olson worked the line in the D4 State final game versus Neillsville Warriors, Saturday, March 14, at the Resch Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Neillsville won a hard fought battle 43-40 to secure the title.

Right—Heidi Olson, of number three ranked Albany Monticello Space Stallions drove to the basket in the D4 Wisconsin state semi-final game v. number two ranked Saint Mary Catholic, Thursday, March 12.



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