



Brodhead Fireworks Extravaganza Friday, July 3rd in Putnam Park

Join the celebration of our nation's 250th birthday. Thanks to a great community effort, along with the support of the Brodhead Jaycees and Brodhead Lions, this will be a night you won't want to miss.

The Jaycees and the Brodhead

Lions Club will be hosting a food stand starting at 6 p.m. They will be serving brats, hot dogs, popcorn, drinks and other snacks. Come early to get a good seat for the fireworks and spend family time in the park.

At 7:30 p.m. there will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence. The Pirate 95.1 FM radio station will be airing and playing family friendly music. Fireworks will start at dusk. They hope to see you all there.



Storms cleared away last Sunday to set the stage for Ghosts in the Room band at the ongoing Twilight in the Park series. This Sunday it will be Grass Attack providing the entertainment. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

Brodhead 4th of July parade

The Fourth of July parade at noon on Saturday, July 4, begins near the police department and travels north on West 3rd Avenue, past Putnam Park to 3rd Street, east on 3rd to Cedar Avenue, then north to Alpine Street, ending at Legion Park. Contact Jeremy Pinnow & Associates at 608-897-2013 to register. Line-up starts at 11:30 p.m.



We Stand

We Stand, to honor all the lost comrades, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers that never made it back home from the all the wars, battles and confrontations since the Civil War. We hold these memories of their deeds and actions as sacred.

We Stand, also to honor all the comrades, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers that survived the confrontations and battles and came back home only to relive all the horrors of what they saw, lived through and were or are living with to this day.

We Stand, for their unselfish deeds or actions that have kept this country free because of the brave. Many of those living battle heroes never talk about what they did, saw, or heard. Because of their silence, many of these heroes are overlooked or not recognized for their deeds.

We Stand, to tell them that they are recognized and we see and respect them!

WE STAND

Save the Date

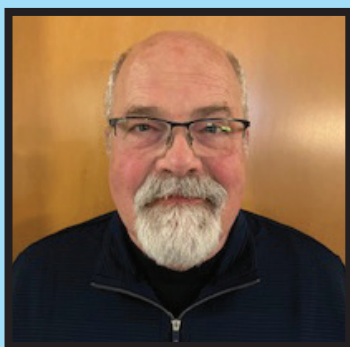
During Brodhead Covered Bridge Days plan to attend the Car—Truck Show on Sunday, August 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kelsch Machine, 1805 E. 9th Avenue.

They will also be celebrating the community's heritage with music, food and fun on Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August 9, on County T and 19th Street. They will be featuring vintage Massey Harris tractors!

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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. Open Communion each 1st Sunday. Check our web page at albanyumchurch.com.

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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.

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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.

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Congregational United Church of Christ, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead. 608-897-2917. Pastor Shawn Stapleton. Sundays: 9 a.m. worship June through August. No Sunday school for the summer months. Nursery is available for those who desire. Communion first Sunday of each month—Gluten Free Options. Quilting and crafts workshop every Wednesday at 9 a.m. AA meetings Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

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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.

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Juda-Zion Community Church, N2350 Church Street, 608-934-5398. Mark Woodward, Pastor. Worship service 9 a.m. No Sunday school until Labor Day Sunday.

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Living Word Church, 3825 S. County Road T, Brodhead. 608-897-8246. Pastor Russ Doeblner. Web site: livingwordwi.org.

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org. E-mail: ptd@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.

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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.

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

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St. Peter Lutheran Church (WELS), corner of West 5th Avenue and 17th Street. [www.stpeterlutheranbrodhead.org](http://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.

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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.

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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](http://www.ctk-p.org), 608-325-9506 or [secretary@ctk-p.org](mailto:secretary@ctk-p.org).

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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.

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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 10 a.m. Sundays. Fully accessible for people with disabilities. Nursery available. Services live streamed on Facebook.

# Cynthia Ann “Cindy” Saunders

Cynthia Ann “Cindy” Saunders, age 75, passed away surrounded by the memories of a life well lived. Cindy was born on May 6, 1951, in Brodhead, Wisconsin, to Bill and Joanne Saunders. Cindy spent her early years enjoying life in Brodhead and later lived in Evansville and Janesville before making her home in Beloit. She married LaVaughn Rice in the Dominican Republic, and together they shared many cherished memories.

For many years, Cindy lived courageously with Multiple Sclerosis. In 2017, she became a resident of Autumn Lake Health Care in Beloit, where she formed many meaningful friendships with both staff and fellow residents. She greatly enjoyed their companionship and kindness, and they brought much joy to her life.

Cindy will be lovingly remembered by her son, Christopher Cox; her granddaughter, Casey and her sister, Violet; Cindy's sister, Reva Saunders; her brother, Ernst Saunders and his wife, Donna; as well as many extended family members and friends whose lives she touched through her warmth and friendship.

She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

May her memory be a blessing to those who loved her.

Memorial Services were held on Monday, June 29, at Autumn Lake Healthcare at 2 p.m. with Chaplain Mark Maxted officiating.

A Graveside Service was held at Greenwood Cemetery in Brodhead on Tuesday, June 30, at 2 p.m. with Father Bart Timmerman officiating.

Arrangements provided by Ever-son Funeral Home, Brodhead

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# Patrick H. Croake

Patrick H. Croake, age 69, of Brodhead, formerly of Monroe, died Monday, June 22, 2026 at St. Mary's Hospital. Patrick was born on August 21, 1956 near Chicago, the son of James and Lillian (Bendinger) Croake. He graduated from Beloit Catholic High School and served in the U.S. Army until his discharge in 1987.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Croake; two sons: A.J. Eller of Alabama, and Shawn (Jayme) Croake of Janesville; four grandchildren; a brother, Martin Croake; and a sister, Shelly Croake.

Cremation rites will be accorded and no services will be held. The Newcomer Funeral Home, Monroe, is assisting the family. Condolences may be shared at [www.newcomer-funeralhom.net](http://www.newcomer-funeralhom.net)

# 34th Annual Gap Church Hymn Sing

The 34th Annual Gap Church Hymn Sing Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 16, at 1 p.m. Music will be by Ernie Saunders and the group “In Bed By Nine”. There is no charge and refreshments will be served. A free-will offering is appreciated. The church and cemetery are located at W2401 State Hwy 59, Albany.

The Gap Church and Cemetery was established in 1853 and built in 1856 under the name of “Monticello Prairie Baptist Church and Cemetery”. The name Gap Church was given by the local people that lived in the area because of its location between two hills. Eventually the name just faded away and became the Gap Church and Cemetery.

This event is sponsored by the Gap Church Museum, Inc. a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Gap Church and Cemetery. They recently completed the refurbishing of the six large windows in the church and the two partial windows in the church entryway. Next comes the windows in the community hall.

Contacts are Craig Roth at 608-558-5280, Laurie Exum at 608-897-6990 and Jane Copus at 608-214-8289.

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# SOFTBALL

## Tuesday Night Masters' League

Tuesday's 6/23 results: The Bar 2 defeated The Bar 1 11-8; Beef and the Boys defeated Bridges Bar & Gill 117-5.

Season standings: Bridges Bar & Gill 2 won 4 lost 0; Beef and the Boys 3-2; The Bar 1 1-4; The Bar 2 3-2; Bridges Bar & Grill 11-4.

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

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## Thank You!

I want to thank the Fritz Zibolsky/Brodhead Lions Club for choosing me as a recipient of their scholarship. It will help me further my schooling.

Thank you,

**BRYNN HARRIS**

## A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

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"The most common way people give up their power is thinking they don't have any."  
~ Alice Walker



# ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

## GIVE MORE LIFE

The Brodhead Blood Drive will be held Monday, July 6, from noon to 5 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Avenue, Brodhead. For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Walk-ins welcome!

Come give blood Monday, June 29 to Sunday, July 12, for a classic American Red Cross x Looney Tunes t-shirt, limited quantity.

## SCHWARTZLOW FAMILY REUNION

Schwartzlow descendants are having their family reunion on Saturday, July 11, at Putnam Park, 6th Street and W. 3rd Avenue, in Brodhead. The shelter house is reserved from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They plan on eating at noon.

If you plan on staying to eat, please bring a dish to pass. Chicken, ham, table service and bottled water will be provided. Spread the work to other family members.

If questions, call Rita (Ringhand) Vickers at 608-897-2082.

# “Little Golf” and Grill Event honors 34-year legacy of generosity and care

The Monroe Clinic and Hospital Foundation hosted its 34th annual “Little Golf” and Grill fund-raiser on Tuesday, June 2 in New Glarus, raising more than \$67,000 to support local hospice services that provide compassionate care to individuals and families during some of life’s most critical moments.

The evening began with an optional round of miniature golf at Swissland Mini Golf Course, followed by the familiar sound of traditional alphorns calling guests to dinner at 6 p.m. A meal was served at Chalet Landhaus Inn at 6:30 p.m., continuing a long-standing tradition rooted in Swiss heritage and community connection.

This year’s event carried special significance as attendees honored the life and legacy of Hans Lenzlinger, whose vision and generosity helped shape “Little Golf” and Grill from the event’s conception. Lenzlinger’s deep pride in his Swiss heritage and passionate commitment to hospice care have left a lasting imprint on the event and the community.

“‘Little Golf’ and Grill has always been about more than just a fund-raiser, it’s about community, compassion, and ensuring hospice care is available when families need it most,” said Jane Sybers, Executive Director of the Monroe Clinic and Hospital Foundation. “This year, we felt that connection even more deeply as we honored Hans and the incredible legacy he built.”

A smaller, more intimate group of long-time supporters attended this year’s event, many of whom are now recognized as Legacy Donors. This acknowledges those who have helped build and sustain the event over its 34-year history.

“It was an emotional evening that truly reflected unity, generosity, and purpose,” Sybers added. “Our donors continue to step forward in remarkable ways, ensuring every patient and family receives the dignity and care they deserve.”

With the leadership and blessing of Lenzlinger’s family, the Foundation announced that beginning in 2027 the event will evolve into the Hans Lenzlinger Family Day of Giving. While still held annually on a Tuesday in early June, the future simpler, more sustainable model may not center on a single physical gathering. Instead, it will expand opportunities for families and supporters to contribute in meaningful, flexible ways while continuing to support local hospice care.

Sponsorships will remain the cornerstone of the initiative, helping to maintain the high level of care families rely on, honor Lenzlinger’s values, and carry this important legacy forward for generations.

For more information about the Monroe Clinic and Hospital Foundation, please visit givetossmhealth.org.



Friday night’s game.  
The 6th grade spelling bee.  
Our county fair.

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news that hits home like  
your community newspaper.

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# Runaas Family Reunion

The Runaas Family Reunion will be held Sunday, July 12th at the Albany Village Park, 201 Sugar River Parkway. It starts at 1 p.m. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. Coffee and water will be furnished.

Kindly spread the word with your immediate family. Any questions please contact Jim Runaas at 608-862-2220.

# Tropical Trek at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

You’re invited to join St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church for Tropical Trek, their Vacation Bible School open to all children from Kindergarten up through seventh grade. The camp will run from Wednesday, July 8-Friday, July 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and sing songs, play games, make crafts, and study the Word of God with them. Snacks and lunch will both be provided. Parents especially will want to come Friday afternoon for their closing ceremony (refreshments provided), and again on Sunday, when the VBS kids will have the chance to sing in the 9 a.m. Sunday worship service! With this free program, they’re hoping to get to know the members of our community, form some friendships, and show you what they’re all about here at St. Peter. If you’d like to know more about their Vacation Bible School, or the other services St. Peter provides, there’s a few ways to reach them. Call or text the church phone at 608-618-6090. Check out their website, StPeterLutheranBrodhead.com, for online registration. And if you’d like to get acquainted with their pastor, he’d love to hear from you as well! Call or text Pastor Tyler Swiderski at 612-270-2591 or email him at [pastorswiderski@gmail.com](mailto:pastorswiderski@gmail.com). The Camp Coordinator, Joyce Drewes, can be contacted at 608-897-4071. In person visits are also always welcome. Find them at 1708 W. 6th Avenue, Brodhead. Look for the brown A-frame church! And all guests are welcome to join them for worship Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., but if you’d like to drop by during the week, that works, too.

Camp registration forms can be found online, picked up in-person in the church building, or by contacting Pastor Swiderski or Joyce between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please note, if you wish to enroll multiple children, they request a separate form for each child. They hope you join them, and have a terrific summer!

# STAY INFORMED...

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# NORMAL PICKUP ON JULY 3rd

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# HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



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# Twilight in the Park

6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m. • Veterans Park

All concerts will be held on Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs/blankets—Reminder: dogs are not allowed in city parks. Concerts are FREE to the public - come and enjoy!

## Sunday, July 5th

# Grass Attack

(New Grass, County & Folk)

FFA Supporters - pork chop sandwiches, brats, popcorn & lemonade



Coordinated by the B.I.D. Board

# BINGO!!

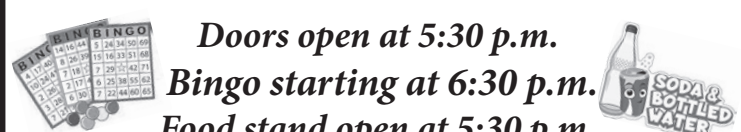
# BIG CASH PAYOUTS!!

(Running Progressive Pot)

## Thursday, July 9th

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



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## Hand in Hand Adult Day Center

Are you caring for a loved one who still wants to be active but has difficulty due to memory or physical concerns? Do you worry about leaving your loved one home alone due to these concerns? Are you overwhelmed with the demands of being a family caregiver? Hand in Hand, Green County's Adult Day Center may be the answer for you!

Hand in Hand is a great location for your loved ones who may have memory concerns or physical limitations that are hindering them from getting out and participating in social activities. Growing older can be an isolative and painful process with losses in mobility, memory and independence and increased concerns in depression and social isolation. Participating in Hand in Hand allows participants to reduce some of those concerns. The staff at Hand in Hand have witnessed individuals flourish in their independence, improved health and overall enjoyment of life after attending the program and spending time with seniors similar to themselves. The program provides a structured and supportive environment to give your loved one a sense of belonging along with personal independence. Hand in Hand provides physical, cognitive and social activities throughout the day, touching on the important aspects of one's life to keep them healthy.

Hand in Hand is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. They offer transportation to and from the center for Green County residents along with a nutritious balanced meal at the noon hour. Participants can attend one or both days. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost with certain eligibility requirements.

To learn more about Hand in Hand, please contact the ADRC at 608-328-9499.

## ACADEMICS

### IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES SPRING 2026 DEAN'S LIST

More than 11,200 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2026 spring semester Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Among those named was Savannah Nicole Peterson, Animal Science, B.S., of Davis, Illinois.

## ADRC of Rock County and SSM Health Offers "Healthy Living with Diabetes"

Program Helps People with Diabetes and Pre-Diabetes

In Wisconsin there are 400,000 adults with Diabetes and 1.45 million adults with pre-diabetes. People with diabetes or pre-diabetes can improve their health by joining a Healthy Living with Diabetes workshop sponsored by the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Rock County and SSM Health. The program has been researched and proven to:

- Improve blood sugar levels and A1C
- Increased confidence managing their diabetes and better health
- Minimize the adverse effects of diabetes,
- Have fewer doctor visits, ER visits and hospitalizations

In just six weekly sessions Healthy Living with Diabetes gives participants strategies for managing diabetes including techniques to deal with symptoms and information about healthy eating, appropriate use of medication, exercise and working effectively with health care providers. Participants learn to make realistic, achievable action plans, share their experiences, and help each other solve problems. A bonus seventh session includes visit from a certified diabetes educator. This workshop is appropriate for adults aged 60+ with diabetes or pre-diabetes, or if a person is aged 60+ caring for someone with diabetes.

The Healthy Living with Diabetes series will be offered on six Wednesday afternoons from 1-3:30 p.m. from July 15-August 26, at the DWRC on 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546. The suggested donation is \$20 to cover the cost of the class and book "Living a Healthy Life." Workshop facilitators are Wendy Bianchetti, Community Health Worker, of SSM Health and Lisa Messer, Health Promotion Coordinator of the ADRC.

For questions, or to register for the program by Tuesday, July 7th, contact Lisa Messer of the ADRC of Rock County at 608-757-5309. One may view the complete brochure on the ADRC website by searching "Health promotion programs Rock County" and/ or register online.

## Rotary Botanical Gardens Brings Back Dog Days of Summer August 16 with New Activities, Live Music, and Tickets on Sale Now

The 2nd Annual Dog Days of Summer is bigger than ever, featuring Puppy Picasso, a doggy costume parade, a custom craft beer release, live music by Dan Brusky, food trucks, and more. Advance tickets include fast pass lane access.

Rotary Botanical Gardens is thrilled to announce that the 2nd Annual Dog Days of Summer is coming back to the Gardens on Sunday, August 16, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Tickets are on sale now at <https://events.wiscotix.com/e/dog-days-of-summer-2>, and advance ticket holders will receive fast pass lane access at check-in.

After a standout debut that drew 359 guests and earned a 4.7 out of 5 rating, this year's event is expanding with new activities, more food options, and a full day of programming designed for dogs and the people who love them. Leashed dogs of all breeds and sizes are welcome throughout the event.

What's New and Returning in 2026

This year's lineup adds several brand-new activities alongside returning fan favorites:

**Puppy Picasso:** Watch your dog create a one-of-a-kind painting to take home. Each dog becomes the artist, and every piece is truly original.

**Doggy Costume Parade:** Show off your pup's best look in a festive parade through the Gardens.

**Dog/Human Look-Alike Costume Contest:** Do you and your dog dress alike? Show up and show out for a chance to win.

**Dog Days of Summer Craft Beer:** A custom brew created in partnership with Good Works Brewing Co., available exclusively at this event.

**Bobbing for Tennis Balls:** A crowd favorite returns for year two.

**Live Music by Dan Brusky:** Enjoy live performance throughout the event.

**Food Trucks:** Multiple food trucks on site serving a variety of options throughout the day.

**Coffee:** Grab a cup from Bodacious Brew and settle in for a morning in the Gardens.

**Vendor Marketplace:** Local pet vendors, artisans, and nonprofit dog rescue organizations with complimentary table space.

**Limited Edition Dog Days T-Shirts:** A small run of event tees available while supplies last.

**Doggy Swag Bags:** Take home a goodie bag for your pup, available while supplies last.

**Tickets and Fast Pass Lane Access**

Tickets are \$10 per person and are available now at <https://events.wiscotix.com/e/dog-days-of-summer-2>.

## Green County IT Committee and GCDC Announce Major Progress on Broadband and Digital Access Initiatives Using ARPA Funds

The Green County IT Committee and the Green County Development Corporation (GCDC) are pleased to announce significant milestones in a series of four broadband and digital equity initiatives made possible through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to ensuring all Green County residents, regardless of age, income, or circumstance, have meaningful access to the internet and the technology needed to thrive in today's connected world.

A Home Internet Reimbursement Program for school-age families was the first undertaking, which has recently concluded successfully. Through this program, 200 reimbursement checks totaling \$30,000 were distributed to qualifying Green County families enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, providing \$150 per household to offset three months of home internet costs. In total, 438 children across the county benefited from improved home connectivity as a result of the program. "This program made a real difference for hundreds of local children who need reliable internet access to succeed in school," said GCDC Executive Director Olivia Otte. "We are proud of what was accomplished and grateful to the families who participated."

A second parallel reimbursement program serving Green County seniors and individuals with disabilities remains active. Qualified Green County residents may receive \$150 to cover three months of paid home Internet bills and may reapply every three months as long as funds are available. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

mer-2. Advance ticket holders receive fast pass lane access at check-in, so you can skip the line and get straight to the fun.

Children 6 and under are admitted free. Dogs are always free and are welcome on leash throughout all garden areas. This is a Rain or Shine event. Advance purchase is strongly encouraged, as capacity may be limited.

Supporting the Dog-Loving Community

Dog Days of Summer is more than a great day out. Rotary Botanical Gardens reserves complimentary vendor table space for nonprofit dog rescue organizations and pet welfare groups, giving them a platform to connect with the community and share their mission at no cost. The Gardens are committed to creating an event that gives back to the organizations doing vital work for dogs in our region.

Eligible residents are encouraged to apply by contacting Wendy at GCDC at [gcdc@greencountydevelopment.com](mailto:gcdc@greencountydevelopment.com) or by calling 608-328-9452.

The third program focusing on digital equity and access is the Green County Tech Connect program, which provides free, refurbished computers to residents in need. Over the past year, 50 laptops have been distributed to eligible community members, including low-income individuals, seniors age 60 and older, veterans, students, new businesses, and non-profits. The program is ongoing and subject to device availability. Residents and organizations interested in applying can contact the GCDC office.

In addition to the reimbursement and device programs, ARPA funds are currently being used to install free public Wi-Fi networks in communities throughout Green County. These infrastructure projects are designed to extend Internet access beyond the home, ensuring residents can connect in public spaces across the county.

All public Wi-Fi installations are expected to be completed by the end of 2026, marking a significant milestone in Green County's commitment to universal digital access.

The Green County IT Committee and GCDC have partnered to administer these digital equity initiatives as part of a broader regional strategy to close the digital divide. By combining county-level coordination with GCDC's community development experience, the partnership has been able to deploy ARPA resources effectively and reach residents who need support most.

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# Kristen (Schwartz) Worm Division 1 Coach

The Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association held its 2026 Senior All-Star Games on Monday, June 15 and Tuesday, June 16, at the Woodside Sports Complex in Wisconsin Dells. Brodhead native Kristen (Schwartz) Worm was chosen as a coach in Division 1.



Kristen pitched for the Brodhead Cardinals in the early 1990s, setting the season strike-out record during her career. She went on to play at UW-Whitewater. Kristen then went on to coach: 1998 Varsity Assistant at Parkview High School; 1999–2000 Janesville Craig Varsity volunteer; 2001–2018 Janesville Craig Junior Varsity Coach; and 2019 to present Janesville Craig Head Varsity Coach.

For her coaching staff for the All-Star Game she chose people who had been influential to her softball career. Her first coaching opportunity was at Parkview High School where Coach Chuck Kohlhepp asked her to be his varsity assistant. They did not coach together for long, but he still checks in on her and helps her with coaching questions. He was in the dugout for both of her games this past week.

Also in the dugout was Denny Schwartz, her father, who was her life-long teacher, coach and supporter. He was also her Junior Varsity Assistant at Craig for eight and one-half years.

The final member of her coaching staff for the All-Star Game was Morgan Davis. As a freshman Morgan was a player on her JV team at Craig. The next three years she played Varsity at Craig. In 2024 Morgan returned to Janesville as JV coach for Craig and this spring she became the Varsity Assistant for Coach Worm.

Kristen says that it was truly an honor to be chosen to coach for this event, that it was a very exciting experience, and she was so glad to have had this opportunity to coach such talented athletes.

# Juda School District recognized years of dedication and service

The staff members of the Juda School District were celebrated and recognized for the years of dedication and service they have contributed to the students of Juda. Each individual plays an important role in creating a positive and supportive environment for the students. Thank you for the commitment, care, and countless contributions made to help make the Juda School a special place to learn and grow!

Please note, not all staff members are pictured.



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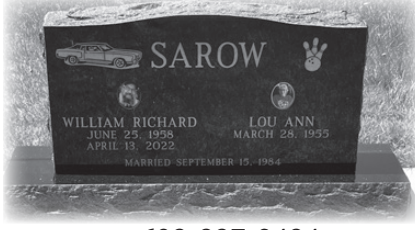
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Albertson Memorial  
Public Library

By Laura Roth,  
Children's Librarian

It was Triceratops Day at Albertson Memorial Library's Summer Library Program! Triceratopposite (by Heos) is a fun story about a baby triceratops that disagrees with everything his parents say and in the end the opposite is better after all. Triceratops Stomp (by Patkau) follows baby dinosaurs as they hatch, play and are protected from a T-Rex by their mother. Ten Little Dinosaurs (by Page Publications) counts down as dinosaurs bump their head, run from the room, hide from the monsters, etc. The preschoolers made a triceratops puzzle using popsicle sticks. (Some of them then convened their own little book club between the library shelves!) The school-agers worked on more advanced puzzles, trying to reconstruct a dinosaur using just the bones. They then cut out the pieces of a triceratops puzzle of their own.

Next week is SHARK WEEK at Albertson Memorial Library. There will be events every night to celebrate, including games, crafts, snacks and yes, books. The preschoolers and the school-agers will do the same craft, involving a pancake griddle and melting crayons to create an underwater scene featuring the largest predator that ever existed: the Megalodon, a prehistoric shark. The evening activities will include lots of 'Sharks and Minnows' games and painted rock sharks as well as folded paper 'fortune tellers.' There will be drawings for door prizes every night. You DON'T want to miss this!

Don't forget Tuesday's Family Movie Night at 6:30 p.m.! Bring your water bottle and we'll make the popcorn. See you there!





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# Adult Mental Health First Aid for Wisconsin Agriculture Community—July 28 and 29

The University of Wisconsin—Madison Division of Extension is offering a virtual education program to help the Wisconsin agriculture community identify and respond to a variety of behavioral health challenges. The next virtual Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for the agriculture community is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, July 28-29, from 12:30–3:30 p.m. via the Zoom platform.

What to expect: Participants are required to attend both virtual sessions. Pre-registration and approximately two hours of self-paced, online pre-work is required to participate in the July 28-29 training. Register for free at [go.wisc.edu/11mr82](https://go.wisc.edu/11mr82).

Nearly one in five adults lives with a mental illness, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. Research shows that suicide rates are higher within the rural and agriculture communities. The stigma of mental health challenges and thoughts of suicide is prevalent in our rural and farming communities. Mental Health First Aid helps community members better understand how they can support their friends, family members, and neighbors and help break the stigma around mental health.

Just as CPR teaches you how to help someone having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid instructs how to help someone experiencing a mental health challenge including, but not limited to, depression and anxiety symptoms, panic attacks and substance misuse, as well as someone thinking about suicide. The program gives participants the skills, confidence and resources to provide initial support and be able to respond in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Mental Health First Aid is a program that teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs of these challenges.

The instructors for this training are two UW-Madison Division of Extension Educators: Joy Kirkpatrick, Farm Succession Outreach Specialist and Beverly Doll, Grant County Human Development and Relationships Educator. If you have questions about the training, please contact either [joy.kirkpatrick@wisc.edu](mailto:joy.kirkpatrick@wisc.edu), 608-263-3485 or [beverly.doll@wisc.edu](mailto:beverly.doll@wisc.edu), 608-723-2125.

To register for this free program, go to [go.wisc.edu/11mr82](https://go.wisc.edu/11mr82).

Funding for these training programs is provided by the North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center USDA/NIFA award number 2025-70028-4537.



**Jayden Nehls—Most Improved Player; Catch of the Year; Honorable Mention All Conference. Braylon Strehlow—Honorable Mention All Conference. Not pictured.**



**Sam Searls—Most Valuable Player; 1st Team All Conference. Manny Bueno—2nd Team All Conference; Chase Bauman—2nd Team All Conference. Not pictured.**

## America 250: The Responsibility of Freedom

**By State Senator Howard Marklein**

The older I get, the more history matters to me. As we have gotten closer to America's 250th birthday, I have spent a lot of time thinking about our Founding Fathers and those who laid the foundation for this great country.

When we think about leaders like George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, we think about them as larger than life figures that we see in paintings and read about in history books. However, it is important to remember that these were real people. Many of our founding fathers enjoyed high status and positions. Some had successful businesses and others had farms. They all had everything to lose.

It is easy to look back and think that freedom was inevitable. History tells us this was not the case. The fight for independence was an uphill fight for a scrappy, underdog group of colonists. The safest thing for them to do was nothing. It would have been easier to stick with the status quo, enjoy their lifestyles as citizens of the richest empire on earth, deciding that the price of rocking the boat was too great. But they stuck their necks out and attempted something that the world had never seen on such a large scale before: a nation that was self-governing.

Many of them suffered. They lost status, property, fortune, friends and neighbors, and for some, even their own lives. That is real courage. Courage to take a risk without the benefit of knowing if they would succeed.

After winning, they had a blank slate. There was no template for creating their new nation. There was no instruction manual for building a government capable of preserving liberty while remaining accountable to its people. The creation of the branches of government, how much power to give the executive branch, what powers should be reserved for the states—these questions were all the product of debate, disagreement, compromise, and careful thought.

This experiment, which we call democracy, gives us a lot of freedom. Along with this freedom comes immense responsibility. As I have been reflecting on America 250, that is a theme that sticks out to me. The freedoms that we enjoy and the success of the American experiment were not guaranteed. They were not handed to us by history.

In our lives today, we have always known these things, so we take them for granted. If you study history, you realize how lucky we are. For nearly all of human history people did not enjoy the freedoms that we do to-



**Will Searls—Rookie of the Year**



**Varsity Team**  
Left to right: Manny Bueno, Chase Bauman, Seth Coplien, Will Searls, Jayden Nehls, Dylan Ross, and Sam Searls. Not pictured: Beck Benton, Logan Krupke, Braylon Strehlow.



**JV Team**  
Left to right: Urias Vogel, Max Bennett, Brant Riesterer, Landon Kammerer, Casey Johnson. Not pictured: Kavion Kupps, Gage Otsby, Mason Liphart, Jaymeson Pudwill, Ashton Nickel.

day in America. In many parts of the world, they still don't. This is part of what makes our story so remarkable. The effort did not end in 1776.

As Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. The only way they can inherit the freedom we have known is if we fight for it, protect it, defend it, and then hand it to them with the well fought lessons of how they in their lifetime must do the same." Every generation since the founding has continued the fight in some way. Whether they built institutions and community cornerstones, immigrated to seek a better life, fought for freedom overseas, or fought for equality here at home, we are here now because those who came before us fought tirelessly and selflessly to protect our liberties and freedoms.

Now, on America's 250th anniversary, it is our turn. It is up to us to continue the legacy of the great American experiment. A free society only survives when we choose

to preserve it. Freedom is not inevitable, it is fragile.

The question facing us is the same one that has faced every generation before us: What legacy will we leave behind? Will we leave our children and grandchildren a country that is stronger and freer than the one we inherited? Will we work hard to ensure our communities thrive and our state is in good hands? This responsibility belongs to each of us as Americans.

250 years ago, a great generation of Americans took a big risk for the idea of freedom, and left us with the greatest country the world has ever seen. Do not take that for granted. Do your part to make sure that future generations can celebrate America's 275th, 300th, and 350th anniversary.

When future Americans celebrate this great country, let them look back on us and say that we were good stewards of the inheritance we received and that we did our part to keep the flame of liberty burning for generations to come.