

Brodhead FREE PRESS

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Brodhead Middle School Hosts Annual Holiday Senior Luncheon

On Friday, December 12, the Team of Outstanding Leaders (TOOL) at Brodhead Middle School partnered with fellow "GOOD humans" to host the school's annual Holiday Senior Luncheon. The festive event welcomed 175 senior guests for an afternoon of music, poetry readings, jokes, food service, and door prizes.

Guests enjoyed a lively program featuring piano selections, performances by physical education students, choir members singing holiday favorites, and musical presentations by seventh- and eighth-grade instrumentalists. The luncheon showcased the many talents of BMS students while creating a warm, joyful atmosphere for all in attendance.

Generous donations from last year's luncheon guests helped cover food expenses, while community members, area businesses, staff, and students donated decorations and door prizes. Their collective generosity made the event both meaningful and memorable.

TOOL adviser and luncheon coordinator Stephanie Tresemer extends her sincere thanks to everyone who supported this valued tradition. The Holiday Senior Luncheon provided 70 seventh- and eighth-grade TOOL members with valuable opportunities to lead, collaborate, and serve their community. It is an event Brodhead Middle School looks forward to all year, and the gratitude and festive spirit shared by attendees made it truly special.

The Bank of Brodhead Bus Trip Group, Brodhead FFA Alumni, and Brodhead Lions Club made generous monetary contributions to support the event. Area businesses, including Caked by Paige, First Center Floral, Piggly Wiggly, Arn's Auto Service, Bullwinkles, Bridges, Debbie Jean's, Tastee Cream, Pi Bakery (Keri Mertens), Keeping up with the Jones's Quilting, Paparazzi Accessories (Amanda Goble), KwikTrip, and Decatur Dairy, as well as community members, Brodhead students, and staff donated items as door prizes. The guests are also welcome to make monetary donations to offset luncheon expenses each year. The outpouring of support for this annual event makes it possible for BMS and the TOOL team to host it again next December!



The sixth grade TOTAL team from Brodhead Middle School went Christmas caroling at the Senior Village in Brodhead on Wednesday, December 17th. The sixth graders shared a Christmas song and gave a handcrafted ornament to the residents. The students enjoyed sharing their Christmas spirit.

City Council Continued Discussion of BAEMS Contract

By Grace Kufahl

Derrick Pinnow and Chris Searls attended the meeting to discuss the BAEMS contract with the council. The council is asking for a non-voting member on the EMS board for more transparency in light of the \$97,000 donation they're being asked to make. Concerns were raised by Mayor Simpson about not being aware of keeping the existing ambulance when the new one was purchased, for example. Pinnow stated they would need to offer it to the other communities they serve and raised concerns about council members misconstruing information heard at the meetings as he said has happened in the past. Searls offered that the city is invited to the quarterly meeting and gets monthly financial reports. Simpson stated the two designated city representatives have a conflict during that meeting. Alder Baxter suggested BAEMS consider selecting a council member to attend meetings and both sides should start with a clean slate and reach a compromise. Searls explained the reason for the contract they're requesting is that, since the pandemic, in order to have enough people on staff, they now

have to pay people \$5-6/hour to be scheduled. Mayor Simpson asked if they could go without a contract and Searls said that requires EMS board approval and time is short. Ten community members, including former Mayor Casey Jones and High School Principal Jim Matthys, spoke in support of BAEMS. EMS instructor Matt Picard shared that in his experience with Delavan, private contracts cost three to four times as much and did not work out for Delavan. Many shared concerns about extended wait times for ambulance service if the EMS contract wasn't signed, said they thought the city waited too long and should sign the contract now and address their concerns next year.

Mayor Simpson asked the council what they would like to do with city engineering going forward in light of the issue with the application for the low interest Safe Drinking Water loan application. Members asked for a list of projects. Gritzmaker stated he'd like to see MSA correct issues and asked if they had insurance for Errors and Omissions, to which Joe DeYoung stated

(Continued to page 2)

BAEMS funding ongoing

**From Lawrence DiRe,
City Administrator,
City of Brodhead**

The City of Brodhead mayor and common council appreciate the residents who spoke about the Brodhead Area EMS (BAEMS) 2026 agreement at their Monday, December 15th regular meeting. At that meeting the BAEMS executive board and city elected officials discussed important matters and respective interests to be addressed in the 2026 professional services agreement. The mayor and council heard the concerns expressed by BAEMS officials and residents and took appropriate action to revise a proposed agreement ensuring continuity of emergency services, accountability for the expenditure of public tax funds, insurance and indemnification coverage, and continued autonomy for the experience professionals at BAEMS to govern their own organization.

The City's contribution funding level of \$30 per capita, totaling \$97,140, remains in place as budgeted and agreed to since August when the initial agreement discussions began. This funding will be ongoing, even if an agreement is not in place on January 1, 2026, and ensure BAEMS is financially supported to maintain the current level of emergency services. Since the summer, the mayor and council sought an agreement providing accountability and assuring residents of a continuing level of emergency services coverage is seamless on January 1, 2026. The City and the BAEMS entered into an initial year-long agreement effective on January 1, 2022.



Cardinal



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Albany United Methodist Church, 500 Park Street, Albany. 608-862-3206, Elizabeth Staniforth-Seamster, Pastor. Sunday worship 8 and 10 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9 a.m.; Sunday school age three through 12th grade at 8:45 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. Pastor Callie Arendt. Email: office@bethlembrodhead.org. Website: www.bethlembrodhead.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 Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.

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. Pastor Russ Doebl. Web site: livingwordwi.



Santa Letters 2025 Mrs. Wahl's 2nd Grade Class Albrecht Elementary

Dear Santa,

My name is Myles. I am 7 years old. I have been veary good this year. One nice thing I did this year is when I helped my friend when we were playing freze tag and I unfrezed him. Thank you for the presents you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get soccer goals, a Nintendo swich, tractor toys and combine toys.

Merry Christmas,
Myles



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org. E-mail: ptl@livingwordwi.org. Adult Sunday school 9 a.m.; Sunday service at 10 a.m. worship at church and also via live stream at livingwordwi.org/media; Sunday evening Impact Youth 4-5:30 p.m.

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

Oakley-Union United Methodist Church, W2388 Gerber Road, Juda, 608-293-4232. Pastor Jadyn 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.

Dear Santa,

My name is Killian. I am 8 years old. I have been good this year. One nice thing I did this year is I shared food with my brothr. Thank you for the piano you gae me last year. This year I would really like to get a Nintendo Swich 2.

Merry Christmas!

Killian

Dear Santa,

My name is Dravon. I am 8 years old. I have been kinduv gid this year. One nice thing I did this year is klen mi rom. Thank you for the presin and the fom set you gave me last year. This year I woulod really like to get a bouns hous thraks sid ster toe groj.

Merry Christmas!

Dravon

Dear Santa,

My name is JJ. I am 7 and a half years old. I have been mostly good this year. One nice thing I did this year is be nice to my friends. Thank you for the dart bord you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get a Mr. Beast lab and a RC Helicopter.

Merry Christmas to Santa!

JJ

Dear Santa,

My name is Christopher. I am 7 years old. I hae been great this year. One nie thing I did this year is clean up trash in the school bathroom. Thank you for the CD Lamb jersy you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get a Tony Pollard jersey, toy safe, and a Rubiks cube timer.

Merry Christmas!

Christopher

Dear Santa,

My name is Brantley. I am 7 years old. I have been good this year. One nice thing I did this year is use my manners every day. Thank you for the tacklebox you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get a cybertruck.

Merry Christmas!

Brantley

Dear Santa,

My name is David. I am 7 years old. I have been mosle good this year. One nice thing I did this year is I got all 3s. Thank you for the stocking you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get a X Box serries X, fone, fone case espous mirlsraft.

Merry Christmas!

David

Dear Santa,

My name is Adalynn. I am 7 years old. I have been vie good this year. One nice thing I did this year is helping pelpol. Thank you for the fengling you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get laboo-boo, bridle, saddle, and ahad f pick.

Merry Christmas Santa!

Ady

Dear Santa,

My name is Brooks. I am 7 years old. I have been good this year. One nice thing I did this year is I helpt my mom. Thank you for the gum you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get sufeses, a pupey, and a book.

Merry Christmas!

Brooks

Dear Santa,

My name is Paulette. I am 7 years old. I have been very good this year. One nice thing I did this year is help other's. Thank you for the roller-skates you gave me last year. This year I would really like to get a computer and scoder.

Merry Christmas!

Paulette

Dear Santa,

My name is Bentlei. I am 8 years old. I have been very good this year. One nice thing I did this year is help others stuckon reading wan the t. Thank you for the presents you gae me last year Santa. This year I would really like to get skincare, fun fidges, fun brasit kit, fluffy bliakit, gloves and hat.

Merry Christmas Santa!

Bentlei

Dear Santa,

I love you! My name is Hunter. I am 7 years old. I have been good and bad this year. One nice thing I did this year is I help pepel wen they need sum help. Thank you for the hallawen party you gave me last

Merry Christmas Santa.



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24 • Rev. Linda Winkelman

"All Are Welcome"

4 PM

Luther Valley Lutheran Church
7107 S Luther Valley Rd
Beloit, WI 53511

www.facebook.com/LutherValleyLutheranChurchElca
9 PM
Orfordville Lutheran Church
210 N Main St
Orfordville, WI 53576
www.facebook.com/orfordvillelutheran



City Council

(Continued from page 1)

they do and could review that option.

In Other Business:

Brodhead Water and Light Director Hoff advised the board the issue of the Safe Drinking Water low interest loan program wasn't on their next agenda but would be discussed in the Comments segment.

The February council meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, February 23rd, due to a conflict with the spring primary election.

Ordinance 010-2025 was amended to not allow new wells to be drilled within the city.

ACADEMICS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE HOLDS COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY IN DECEMBER

Colin Sheridan, Durand, Illinois, was among the more than 1,300 prospective candidates for degrees attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises Sunday, December 21, in Milwaukee. He graduated from the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare program with a Bachelor of Science.

VOLLEYBALL

Sunday Night Winter Volleyball

12/21 standings: I'd Smack That won 25 lost 2, The Goon Squad 21-9, That's What She Set 20-7, Getting Diggy With It 18-12, Victorious Secret 18-12, Killer Serves 17-13, Super Soy 17-13, Net Ninjas 14-16, All Sets Are Off 14-16, One Hit Wonders 14-16, Fambam Slammers 11-19, Hit Happens 8-22, Cactus Squad 7-23, It's A Set Up 3-27.

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

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"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

~ Henry Ford



ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

2026 PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS BEGINNING MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH—9 A.M.

Reservations for the park shelters for 2026 will begin being accepted at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 5th, at the City Hall. Reservations are based upon first-come, first served basis only, with no one allowed to register before that time. Registering may be done over the phone, by calling 608-897-2159 or by stopping down to the City Hall located at 1111 W. 2nd Avenue. Once you have registered, a payment of \$50 for a resident of the City of Brodhead and \$75 for a non-resident; along with Park Reservation Agreement, must be turned in within five business days or your name will be removed from the calendar.

BANK OF BRODHEAD BUS TRIP

There will be a Bank of Brodhead bus trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania from April 19-25, 2026. Highlights include admission to "Joshua" at Sight and Sound Theater, guided tour of Philadelphia, where they are celebrating our 250th anniversary, visit to Kitchen Kettle Village, guided tour of Lancaster, and admission to the Gettysburg National Park and a guided battlefield tour. The price is \$959 per person for double occupancy. For more information or to sign up, contact Sue Schmelzer by text or phone call to 608-558-8797.

GIVE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES

The Brodhead Blood Drive will be held Monday, January 5, from noon to 5 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Avenue, Brodhead.

Come and give blood for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LX in California. Rcblood.org/SuperBowl

For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Use sponsor code: BrodheadWI to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome!

BRODHEAD PARK & REC SECOND AND THIRD GRADE YOUTH BASKETBALL

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

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

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

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You've tried the rest...
Now read the BEST!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brodhead Sports Boosters Holiday Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the Brodhead Sports Boosters Holiday Raffle.

The winners were: first place—Louie Bunker-purchased cheese for the Sports Boosters; second place—Speich Oil; third place—Mike Fenwick; and fourth place—Tami Jacobson.

A special thank you to the winners who donated their winnings back to help continue the support of Brodhead athletics. They are Mike Fenwick, Tami Jacobson and Speich Oil.

Thank you very much for your support.

SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services Scholarship Applications Now Available

SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services is once again offering scholarships for students seeking a career in the healthcare field. The deadline for application submission is Saturday, February 28, 2026.

The first scholarship is for high school seniors. SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services awards two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. One scholarship will be awarded to a Monroe High School senior, and one scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior from a community with SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group sites—Albany, Brodhead, New Glarus, Durand, Freeport and Lena—or who live within an area serviced by a branch site.

The second scholarship is for continued education students. Four \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to area college students. Applicants must have completed at least one year of advanced study (beyond high school) in a health-related field and be a resident of a community with a SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group location or who live within an area serviced by a clinic or child of a SSM Health employee.

Requirements for both types of scholarships are the individual must be pursuing a degree or certificate in a healthcare related field, have a GPA of 3.25 or higher with an emphasis on science and math, and all applications must be typed. In no specific order, recipients will be selected based on citizenship, need and school and outside activities.

Students who have received a high school scholarship in the past are eligible to apply for the advanced study scholarship. However, an individual may only receive each scholarship once.

Applications are available at givetossmhealth.org/MonroeScholarships. For more information, please contact SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services at 608-324-1569.

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Due to the holidays, City of Brodhead residents will be serviced on Saturday, December 27th, and Saturday, January 3rd.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Albany Women's League Empty Stocking Project Thank you

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Basketball contest

The highest scoring game was the girls' Clinton at Faith Christian, 74-34. The winner of this week's basketball contest Tom Brewer, of Albany, with all the correct games. The following each had one incorrect: Doug Rezner of Brodhead; and Eric VonAllmen and Lynette VonAllmen, both of Albany.

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Friday, 5 p.m.

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Gretchen Kammerer (file photo) takes a shot, completing two from long range in last week's game at Dodgeville. She scored 14 points with teammates Alecia Dahl contributing 20, Ella Olson and Taiya Hawkins adding 10 each. The Cardinals scored 88-74 enroute to their on the road victory against the Dodgers. This week, the team hosted Clinton on Tuesday as last week's game was canceled due to weather. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



Dylan Ross recovers a loose ball in last Tuesday's game against Clinton. Ross, Sam Searls and Nolan Bump scored double digits but it was not enough to overcome the strong second half of the visiting Cougars. Brodhead accumulated 8-buckets from the 3-point range to Clinton's 13 which gave an 88-74 win to the Cardinal opponent. In Friday's game at Beloit Turner, the Trojans trounced the Cards with a 72-34 victory. Brodhead returns to action at home on Friday, January 9th hosting Big Foot. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

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Brodhead High School's Students of the Month for November 2025

Pictured, left to right, back row: Karissa Whitehead, Evelyne Droeessler, Dylan Ross, Chase Bauman, Jameson Lenthe, and Landin Mullins; front row: EllieMay Allen, Leah Rear, Kinsley Krumwiede, Dakota Schumacher, and Danica Demrow.



Brodhead High School's Students of the Month for December 2025

Pictured, left to right, back row: Savannah Walder, Treyton Leutenegger, Landan Peterson, Beck Benton, Abby Withrow, and Madison Melvin; front row: Isabelle Yoshida, Evelyne Droeessler, and Chyenne Schumacher. Not pictured: Kylie Schooff and Keira Owens.



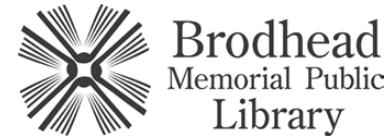
Thank you to Mr. Cerjak and his students, Seth Coplien, Landin Mullins, and Aiden Walker for showing Mrs. Corbits Cardinal Science class around the Fab Lab. You guys make some cool stuff!

BHS wrestling

Thomas Lohmar brought home a first place finish and Lilly Scheidegger took second at the Mount Horeb Varsity Invite over the weekend. No other stats were available at press time. The team returns to action after the New Year.

Thanks for Reading...
Brodhead FREE PRESS

Pure winter magic! Nothing beats the sound of giggles and flying snowballs on a winter day. Mrs. Ends took Mrs. Kranig's class out for their library time before the rain could melt the snow! Soaking up every snowy moment.



By Sarah Carpenter

As we wrap up the year and look ahead to the start of a new one, the Brodhead Memorial Public Library has several updates and events to share with the community. Please note that the library will be closed on Wednesday, December 25; Thursday, December 26; Wednesday, December 31; and Thursday, January 1 as we observe the holiday season. We appreciate your understanding and wish everyone a safe and restful holiday.

We're also excited to share that the new bathroom in the Children's Room is nearly complete. Thank you to our families for your patience during the recent dust and noise—we're looking forward to unveiling the finished space soon.

Families are invited to kick off the new year with a Slime Workshop on Friday, January 2, from 1–3 p.m. This hands-on program is sure to be messy fun, and registration is encouraged by calling the library or signing up through our website.

Book club readers can also start planning ahead. Books and Brews will be discussing In Five Years by Rebecca Serle on Wednesday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Bridges Bar and Grill. The Brodhead Book Club will resume on Thursday, February 19, at 7 p.m., and copies of Little Women by Louisa May Alcott are available now for those who'd like to begin reading early.

Finally, mark your calendars for National Puzzle Day on Thursday, January 29. We'll be celebrating with a Puzzle Race on Saturday, January 31, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., where five teams of up to four people will race to complete the same puzzle for a grand prize. Team registration begins Monday, January 5.



Brodhead Middle School Winter Concert

The Brodhead Middle School held their Winter Concert on Monday, December 8th. The Band portion of the concert included fifth grade band, sixth grade band and the seventh/eighth grade band. Some selections performed were: "Up On the Housetop", "Christmas Tree Samba" and "Joy Through the Holidays". The concert was a wonderful way to help get the audience in the holiday spirit.

Photos provided by: Joe Baldazzi, Erin Hartwig & Elizabeth Wallace.



The sixth grade band getting ready to play their next song



The seventh and eighth grade band performing "Santa in the Mix".



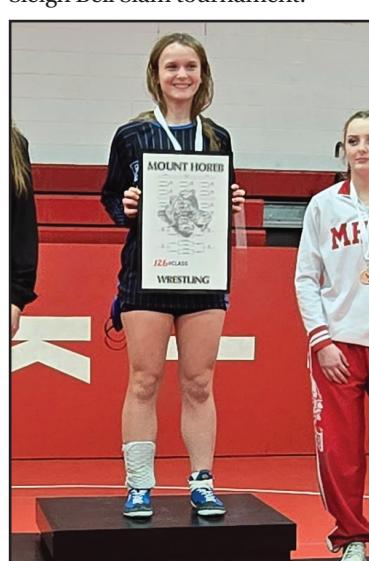
Some members of the fifth grade band performing their selections.



Members of the percussion section played buckets on "Christmas Stomp".



Left to right: Stella Kempel, Chesney Malcock and Moira Logan performed a mallet trio they arranged—"Carol of the Bells".



BSD Athletic Director, Brian Kammerer presented Megan Allen with the service award given by WADA to a person that has given years of service to athletics. Megan has kept the books for middle school basketball for 25 years, 11 years for volleyball and seven years in the booth for track. On behalf of Brodhead Athletics, we thank you Mrs. Allen for your years of service.

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Thank you so much to Mike and Jenny Flory for their generous donation towards the new timpani for the Brodhead Middle School Band program. Pictured with the timpani are some of the seventh and eighth grade percussionists.

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Saturday Mornings at the Durand Library

The Last Program for 2025

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

The last program for 2025 was presented this past Saturday at the Durand Library. The topic: "More Jerks in Chicago: 1900-1945." The program had been rescheduled from Saturday, December 13 to the 20th which is, of course, just a few days before Christmas. Certainly not ideal, so it was very gratifying to have such a nice size audience to hear the talk.

As usual with presentations by speaker Brad Keyes, we learned a great deal about social, economic, sports and other issues during the time period along with the troubling stories about the jerks who seemed to run rampant in the prosperous and growing City of Big Shoulders.

For example, what does the term "limelight" mean? We hear it all the time. It refers to the use of lime along with an oxygen-hydrogen mix to cast a bright light on the actors on a stage. So, if someone is said to be in

the limelight, it means the attention is all on them. Sadly, a theater was destroyed by fire from the limelight and hundreds of lives were lost by an unscrupulous owner who locked exits, blocked staircases, cheated on theater construction to save every penny he could.

Sometimes the bootleggers and criminals whose business it was to get alcohol to their customers found it just as easy to bring alcohol down from Canada during the Prohibition era. Who knew Canada was so helpful.

Was there really a group of federal government investigators called The Untouchables? and a man named Elliot Ness? Yes, there was and Ness did get Al Capone for tax evasion.

As the automobile became more and more reliable, and faster, it not only was used for family vacations but enabled bank robbers like John Dillinger to go from bank to bank and state to state to rob more banks more quickly.

Brad interspersed his excellent

power points with some original footage from Al Capone's trial—the crowds were amazing. And he included a few minutes of a film about Charles Comiskey showing what a jerk he was to his players, disgracefully cheating them of a promised bonus. They, in retaliation, accepted a bribe to fix a game and were banned from playing baseball while Comiskey was elected to the Hall of Fame.

The talk was full of interesting stories and there was too much to share here. Please plan on attending the final talk Saturday, January 10 on "Still More Jerks in Chicago" which will cover the time period from 1950 to 2000. Sadly for Chicago and Illinois there will be some well known names who fall in this grouping of jerks. Please join us, the 90-minute program will begin at 10 a.m. and coffee and pastries will be served.

About the Library

Entry is at the east/playground end of the building. Follow the signs along the wide paved walkway. Check out privileges are free for all residents of the school district. Hours are 9 a.m.–noon Saturdays and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday evenings.

Email villagelibrary@cusd322.org, call 815-289-8602 and visit us on FB/durandvillagelibrary.

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- Write the highest number of points scored by any one team in the space provided on the entry form. This will be used to break a tie. If a tie remains, one winner will be chosen by random drawing from all correct entries.
- One entry per contestant. Entry forms must be returned to the Brodhead Free Press, 925 W. Exchange Street, Brodhead, WI 53520 by 5 p.m. Friday.

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Trees and Shrubs for Habitat, Wind Breaks

The Rock County Land Conservation Department is taking orders for its yearly Tree and Shrub Sale. Distribution is usually around mid-April 2026. Trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings. Shrub species are sold in bundles of 10 for \$25 (includes tax) or bundles of 25 for \$37 (includes tax). Tree species are sold in bundles of 25 for \$37 (includes tax). Fruit species are sold in bundles of 5 for \$30 (includes tax). Native Plants sold in bundles of 6 for \$13 (includes tax).

Stock as of December 11: Balsam Fir, 6-12 inch seedlings, Eastern Arborvitae, 7-15 inch seedlings, Norway Spruce, 7-15 inch seedlings, Red Oak, 18-24 inch seedlings, Sugar Maple, 6-12 inch seedlings, and White Pine, 7-15 inch seedlings. Shrubs: Nannyberry 12-18 inch seedlings, and Silky Dogwood, 12-24 inch seedlings. Fruit: Domestic (Common) Apple, 14-28 inch seedlings and Red Raspberry (Caroline-Thornless), 1 year XL Canes. Native Plants are six different mixes. See website for more information. Tree protectors and Root Dip Planting Gel are also available.

Find the order form, windbreak designs, and more handy information at the Rock County Land Conservation Department website <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/tree-shrub-native-plant-sale> or call 608-757-5588 during normal business hours.

This sale runs from September until April every year and features limited stock of a variety of tree and shrub species with the best selection early.

Help Wanted



PUBLIC WORKS OPERATOR CITY OF BRODHEAD

City of Brodhead, Wisconsin, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Operator. The position requires operating a variety of equipment, from snowplows in the winter to street sweepers in the summer, keeping our roadways safe and clean, maintaining and repairing water and sewer lines, ensuring the reliable delivery of essential services, caring for our parks and green spaces, making them enjoyable for everyone responding to maintenance requests and addressing issues efficiently and effectively, collaborating with a dedicated and supportive team to achieve common goals. Shop and mechanical experience are preferred. This position offers a wage which is commensurate with experience and qualifications, plus an excellent benefit package.

For a complete job description visit: <http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us/> To apply send a resume and cover letter by January 9, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. to: City of Brodhead, PO Box 168, Brodhead, Wisconsin, 53520 or email to cityclerk@cityofbrodheadwi.us

POOL & REC SUMMER APPLICATIONS

Applications will be available at City Hall, the Brodhead High School office, and on the City of Brodhead website (<http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us>), beginning Monday, January 5th, for summer 2026 employment. All applications are due by Friday, February 27th, at City Hall. If you have any questions, please call Ashley Graves at 608-897-2159.

Concessions Cashier, Tots Instructor, T-ball Instructor and Umpiring—applicant must be at least 14 years old

Lifeguarding—applicant must be at least 15 years old

Pool Manager—applicant must be at least 18 years old

Legion Park Maintenance—applicant must be at least 16 years old

The Bank of New Glarus Announces Leadership Changes

The Bank of New Glarus, a leading financial institution in Green, Dane, and Lafayette Counties, along with its holding company, Bancorp of New Glarus, Inc., announced today significant changes to both The Bank of New Glarus's Board of Directors and Bancorp of New Glarus, Inc.'s Board.

Greg Engen will retire from the Board of Directors effective Wednesday, December 31, 2025. Engen's remarkable career spans 39 years with the Bank, including 14 years as a Board member. Throughout his tenure, he played a pivotal role in guiding the Bank's growth and expansion, particularly through his leadership on loan committee. His experience as a lender and his dedication as Board Director have left a lasting impact on the organization and his presence will be missed.

Ron Schaaf, President/CEO of The Bank of New Glarus, expressed, "It's been a pleasure serving with Engen on the Bank's board for all these years. He is a measured and prudent decision maker. He remains accountable for his sound credit decisions and is a loyal repre-

sentative of our Bank. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

We are excited to welcome John Knellwolf to our Board of Directors. For some time, we have wanted a representative from Lafayette County, and John is an outstanding choice to fill that role. With extensive experience in the banking industry, he will serve as a strong voice for the community—a priority since our merger with First National Bank at Darlington. John's appointment achieves both objectives; strengthening our connection to Lafayette County and reinforcing our commitment to serving all communities within our footprint."

The Bank of New Glarus was established in 1892 and is headquartered in New Glarus, Wisconsin. The Bank has branch offices located in Belleville, Brodhead, Darlington, Gratiot, Juda and Monroe and a loan production office located in Madison, Wisconsin. As the largest deposit bank in Green and Lafayette Counties, it offers a full range of financial products and services including personal banking, business banking, and wealth management. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

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Monday Night Mixed League

12/15—High series: Jason Shrier 735, Ty Powell 715, Corey Foster 680. High games: T. Powell 258, Tim Huffman 255, J. Shrier 254. Fosters Gaming-high team game 1,119 and series 3,144. **Standings:** Fosters Gaming won 79.5 lost 55.5, Broughton's Bar 73.5-61.5, Center Tavern 73-62, Beloit Chiropractic 73-62, Albany Lanes 56-79, Bartelt 50-85.

Tuesday Shanningans

12/16—High series: Tammy Neuenschwander 435, Shi Strommen 431, Becky Hanneman 365, Larry Ommodt 483, Rick Clark 466, Doug Hawkins 435. High games: S. Strommen 171, T. Neuenschwander 154, Chris Rosheisen 134, Josh Walker 188, D. Hawkins 178, R. Clark 173. The Young & The Restless-high team game 805 and series 2,249. **Standings:** Sweet Mini HaHa won 53 lost 24, The Young & The Restless 51-26, Perfectly Aged 50-27, Misfits 43-34, Greightful Dead 25-52.

Badger

12/16—High series: Ethan Pfueti 616, Tony Brewer 614, Ryan Brugger 594, John Elmer 588. High games: J. Elmer 230, R. Brugger 228, Josh Brugger 220, T. Brewer 220. Renks-high team game 839 and series 2,324. **Standings:** Renks won 26 lost 9, Counter Attack 24-11, Decatur Dairy 19-16, Jim's Mechanic Shop 18-17, Team 6 12-23, TUGS 6-29.

Wednesday Night Ladies

12/17—High series: Kari Johnson 559, Tami Behnke 493, Marcie Brugger 469, Alice Patchen 437, Sarah Flood 436. High games: K. Johnson 198, T. Behnke 179, M. Brugger 179, S. Flood 167, Dena Laughlin 160. Glenn-Ann Ladies-high team game 642 and series 1,759. **Standings:** Glenn-Ann Ladies won 11 lost 3, Stables Bar & Grill 9-5, General Store 8-6, Larson Acres 7-7, Crystal's Team 5-9, Albertson's 2-12.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies

12/18—High series: Nancy Salzwedel 454, Laurie Thommen 418, Barb Chapman 417. High games: Sheryl Johnson 170, Linda Reilly 169, Barb Clark 157. Knutes-high team game 550. Mike's Flooring-high team series 1,558. **Standings:** Briggs Heating and AC won 75 lost 30, Knutes 72-33, Mike's Flooring 64-41, Nolte's Garage 61-44, Albany Lanes 41-64.

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own Christmas Quilt using wrapping paper and quilt blocks. The youngsters also had fun hopping on the gummy bear hopscotch.

Albertson Memorial Preschool Story Time won't meet again until Saturday, January 3rd, with a new theme: Families, Moms, Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas. The first of that theme will focus on families in the snow. The craft that day will be a homemade snow globe and there may even be a rousing snowball fight!

Story Time typically meets on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., before the library opens (so we can do things like gummy bear hopscotch). There's plenty of room for new friends, won't you join us? We'd love to meet you!



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