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## ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

### BANK OF BRODHEAD BUS TRIPS

The Bank of Brodhead is sponsoring two upcoming trips. The first trip is to Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg and Norfolk. The trip dates are April 6-14, 2024. It includes Virginia Beach Boardwalk, visit to Colonial Williamsburg, narrated Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, admission to the Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin, visit to Mariners' Museum and Park and Virginia Beach Aquarium and Marine Science Center. The price for the trip is \$1,219 per person double occupancy.

The second trip is to Mount Rushmore, Badlands and Black Hills. The dates for this trip are September 8-14, 2024. Features include Mount Rushmore National Museum, Tour of Wildlife Loop Road at Custer State Park, admission to the Unique Journey Museum, tour of Deadwood, visit to the Crazy Horse Memorial and a visit to the Badlands National Park. The price for this trip is \$939 per person double occupancy.

To signup or for more information call Sue Schmelzer at 608-897-2676 or 608-558-8797 or email [sschmelzer@charter.net](mailto:sschmelzer@charter.net).

### PARK AND REC SUMMER APPLICATIONS

Applications will be available at the Brodhead Parks and Recreation Department beginning Wednesday, January 3rd, for summer 2024 employment.

14 years old and a freshman in high school: basket window attendant, concessions cashier, playground instructor and umpiring;  
15 years old: lifeguarding;  
16 years old: park maintenance

Applicants must qualify for a work permit (14 years of age and in high school) to be considered. Applications are available at the Brodhead Parks and Recreation Department or on the City of Brodhead Website (<http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us>) and are due to the Parks and Recreation Director by Thursday, February 29th. If you have any questions, please call the Brodhead Parks and Recreation Department at 608-897-2159.

## Basketball contest

The winner of this week's basketball contest was Paul Clark, Brodhead, with one incorrect game and 86 points. The highest scoring game was the boys' Platteville at Evansville, 88-52. The following also had one incorrect: Eric VonAllmen—80 points and Curt Elmer—65 points, both of Albany.

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## Free Electronic Waste Recycling Event

Green County Residents Only — No Businesses

Monday, January 15 - Friday, January 19, 2024

from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at  
Green County Landfill,  
W2002 CTH SS, Brodhead  
608-897-8605

No need to pre-register, proof of Green County residency required.

# BINGO!!

## BIG CASH PAYOUTS!!

(Running Progressive Pot)

Thursday, January 11

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.

**NEW TIME**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
405 E 9th Ave, Brodhead, WI  
608-897-2341

## Saturday Mornings at the Durand Library

### Upcoming Programs in 2024

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

Several programs are planned for the coming year at the Durand Library. If you have not yet visited the combined Village and School Library, we hope you will plan to attend these presentations and, at the same time, learn what services the library offers.

In January it is all about water—watersheds and the waterways in Winnebago County. Susan Lehnhardt, an ecologist with broad experience and training, is a tireless advocate for clean water. She led the way in establishing the Lower Sugar River Watershed Association. We live in that watershed whether we realize it or not. We'll learn why protecting the waterways in Winnebago County is so important both locally and as far south as the Gulf of Mexico. Susan will be speaking at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 13.

In February Phil Raines, a local beekeeper for many years, will give guidance on beekeeping and explain the health benefits of honey. He will be taking his bees to the almond orchards in California sometime in February, so the date of his talk is yet to be determined. We will learn what is involved in that long trip. His honeybees will spend several weeks in California providing essential pollination duties so that the almond blossoms develop into those delicious nuts. In turn the nutritious almond pollen gives the bees a good, healthy start for the coming spring.

In March Master Gardener Julie Thomas will explain the importance of planting native plants in our yards. She will share the many species, which benefit wildlife and explain how the delicate web of life depends on insects and how it all begins with plants. Julie will speak Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m. Be sure to bring your questions!

The Durand Library is located in the school Media Center and is open from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday. The combined village and school library is available to the public during Saturday morning hours which are maintained by the Friends of the Durand Library.

Please enter from the east, or playground, end of the building and follow the signs. For questions about any of the talks or library service please email [villagelibrary@gmail.org](mailto:villagelibrary@gmail.org).



The Brodhead Optimist Club presented 22 Webster Dictionaries to the Juda third graders on the morning of Monday, December 19. Every year the Optimist gives the Brodhead and Juda third graders their own dictionary to use for all their lives. The Juda group had finished reading a story about dictionaries and were very happy to learn about the author, Andrew Clements, and a special word "Frindle." These happy faces were looking up words as they received their books. Nancy Sutherland and Michele Benesh, from the Brodhead Optimist Club, passed out the dictionaries. Brodhead third graders received their books on the fourth of December and made 70 happy faces as well.

## Are you struggling through the holidays?

Learn to understand and cope with grief and loss.  
Moving Forward: Grief and Ambiguous Loss  
Associated with Dementia Caregiving

The Aging and Disability Resource Centers of Rock and Marquette Counties are offering the 16-week grief and bereavement educational support group on Monday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. beginning Monday, January 15 and running through Monday, April 29, 2024. This is a virtual group. There is no cost to attend. Registration and screening are required.

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

For more information or to register, please contact Rock County Dementia Care Specialist, Karen Tennyson at 608/741-3615 or [karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us); Marquette County Dementia Care Specialist, Melissa Klebs at 608/297-3148 or [mklebs@co.marquette.wi.us](mailto:mklebs@co.marquette.wi.us).

## 37 Snows To Go!

## Classifieds: \$5 for 20 words (10 cents per word, thereafter)

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

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Bank of Brodhead

2024

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Cardinal Gavin Pinnow #2 fights for and gets control of the ball in this scramble with Andy Miller #32 for Cuba City. The boys will travel to Whitewater on Monday, January 8th to resume conference play. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

## Rock County Public Health Partners with Beloit Public Library in New Community Initiative

Rock County Public Health (RCPH) is proud to announce a first-of-its-kind partnership with Beloit Public Library (BPL) and the City of Beloit. Beginning January 2024, RCPH staff will be present at BPL on Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide the greater Beloit community with access to public health resources and information.

The intent of the partnership is to maintain a physical presence in the southern part of the county, help connect residents to public health programs and services, and engage the community in collaborative planning for new initiatives. People who visit us at the library will meet

a variety of staff, including Environmental Health Specialists, Public Health Nurses, and Public Health Strategists, to name a few.

Health Officer and Health Department Director, Katrina Harwood, says, “We are looking forward to this partnership as a way to create stronger relationships with the community and other service providers in the area.”

“This partnership with Rock County Public Health is another opportunity for Beloit residents to receive the resources and expertise they need, at the times they need it, and in a highly accessible and efficient way. We appreciate the faith

that Rock County has placed in BPL, and we look forward to working together with them,” says Nick Dimassis, Beloit Public Library Director.

Residents can speak to RCPH team members on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. During these hours, staff can be found in the co-working space on the first floor of the library or circulating throughout the library. Direct services such as vaccinations will not be offered, but residents can access well water test kits from staff.



The Brodhead boys traveled to New Glarus and participated in a tournament. In their opening game, they saw their lead slip away and lost 58-54 against the Knights. In their final match it was the Cardinals taking on Cuba City where Brodhead came up short. Nathan Engen #24 gets pressure on Gavin Vaassen #2 for the Cubans. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



Brody Riese #21 makes the drive to the basket for two points. He was one of two Brodhead players that earned double digit scoring against the Cubans. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

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## Solar project

(Continued from page 1)

projects, Alliant Energy is able to deliver exceptional value to their customers while keeping project dollars in the community,” said Emily Pritzkow, executive director of the Wisconsin Building Trades Council. “The construction of renewable energy projects with skilled union labor creates a ripple effect that drives local economic growth and supports strong communities.”

Using only sunlight for fuel, these state-of-the-art solar arrays automatically track the movement of the sun to maximize energy generation. Durable, high-performance, bi-facial solar panels improve site efficiency and are designed to withstand severe weather conditions including high winds, snow and hail. Additional features, including native low-growth grass and approximately 300 acres of native pollinator habitat across these six sites, enhance the environmental benefits of the arrays to ensure a more sustainable energy future.

“It is clear that Alliant Energy understands and recognizes the multiple benefits that large-scale solar power plants bring to Wisconsin,” said Michael Vickerman, clean energy deployment manager for RE-NEW Wisconsin. “More than just a clean source of electricity, solar power reduces agricultural runoff, restores soil fertility, keeps carbon sequestered in the ground and recharges local economies.”

The six newly completed sites are among the 12 utility-scale solar projects Alliant Energy has advanced in Wisconsin as part of its Clean Energy Blueprint to deliver greater energy reliability, sustainability and customer value. The company placed three solar projects totaling 250 MW into service in 2022. The remaining three projects are in final construction phases; the company expects to complete them by mid-2024. Once all 12 projects are in service, they will be able to generate 1,089 MW and power nearly 300,000 homes annually.

Alliant Energy’s increasingly diverse and resilient energy portfolio, combined with recently approved battery energy storage systems, is a major step for the company as it works toward its aspirational goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from utility operations by 2050.

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## Sen. Mark Spreitzer’s Bipartisan Farmland Preservation Bill Signed Into Law

Governor Tony Evers signed into law a bipartisan bill authored by Sen. Mark Spreitzer to strengthen and update our state’s farmland preservation program. Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement after Governor Evers signed 2023 Assembly Bill 133, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 42, into law:

“I am deeply proud and grateful that the farmland preservation program bill was signed into law today,” said Sen. Spreitzer. “The Land Conservation staff in Rock County first brought this issue to my attention in 2019, and I have been working with my colleagues over the last two legislative sessions to ensure it becomes law. I would like to thank the bipartisan coauthors of this bill—including Rep. Loren Oldenburg (R-Viroqua), Sen. Patrick Testin (R—Stevens Point), Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) and Sen. Brad Pfaff (D-Onalaska)—who helped ensure this crucial legislation to support our farmers and protect our environment made it across the finish line.”

2023 Wisconsin Act 42 will maintain and increase participation in the farmland preservation program by increasing farmland preservation tax credit amounts and making other updates to the program. The farmland preservation program provides a refundable, per-acre tax credit to farmers that commit to keeping their land in agricultural use and that certify compliance with state soil and water conservation standards. Prior to this act’s enactment, farmland preservation tax credit amounts had not been increased since 2009. Because the cost of the required soil and water conservation standards and agricultural inputs did increase over this period, enrollment in the program has declined over the last decade. From 2013 through 2022, the number of participants decreased by 29% and the number of enrolled acres decreased by 23%.

“This important act addresses the two top issues named by Wisconsin farmers that prevent them from participating in the farmland preservation program: it increases the farmland preservation tax credit amounts for the first time since 2009, and will allow greater flexibility for farmers by decreasing the length of farmland preservation agreement contracts,” said Sen. Spreitzer. “The bill also requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the legislature to regularly review the program and tax credit amounts to ensure that the program meets the needs of Wisconsin farmers into the future.”

Sen. Spreitzer stated, “I am deeply grateful to the bipartisan coalition of legislators, agriculture and conservation groups, and farmers that worked together to pass this new law with strong bipartisan support in both houses of the legislature. I also want to thank Governor Tony Evers and DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski for their partnership and leadership on this legislation. I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of this act on farmers and our local communities for decades to come—both in our district and across the state.”

## Saturday Mornings at the Durand Library Watershed and Waterways of Winnebago County

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

The Durand Library is very pleased to have Susan Lehnhardt, senior ecologist at Three Waters Reserve, speak with us January 13 about water resources in Winnebago County. Susan is a tireless advocate for the protection of water resources. Concerned, as many are, about the nutrient pollution of local streams, several years ago she spearheaded formation of the Lower Sugar River Watershed Association.

The group has recruited volunteers to do stream water monitoring in Southern Wisconsin under a Department of Natural Resources program and has orchestrated the regular collection of water samples from local streams for analysis of nitrogen and phosphorous by the DNR lab.

Susan will discuss the watershed of the lower Sugar River, its sub watersheds and the waterways of Winnebago County and help us understand why and how we must protect the many creeks and rivers, which flow through our county. We will learn what “nutrient pollution” is and how it adversely impacts the Gulf of Mexico more than 1,000 miles away.

Please join us for this presentation at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 13 in the Durand School Media Center. The Library is open from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday and all residents of the school district enjoy check out privileges as well as use of the Interlibrary Loan system. Please enter at the east, or playground, end of the building.

Please be reminded that children and their families are invited to Story Time Saturday, January 6th and 20th at 10 a.m. This is a great opportunity to introduce children to libraries and the wonderful books waiting for them there.

Saturday morning library hours are maintained by the Friends of the Durand Library. Questions and comments about library services are most welcome at [villagelibrary@cusd322.org](mailto:villagelibrary@cusd322.org).

*This free newspaper is only possible due to the generosity of many fine area businesses. Please show your gratitude by supporting them. Thank you! -Brodhead Free Press*

## South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union Know your Food

By Dela Ends



In 1994 at Scotch Hill Farm in Brodhead we began raising vegetables for local families on a seasonal basis through the Community Supported Agriculture model. Recently, we transitioned to running a B&B called Innisfree Farmstay. I prepare farm-raised breakfasts for guests. These meals provide the opportunity to talk about where food comes from. It has been enlightening to both our guests and ourselves. I’ve become keenly aware that most

people don’t understand our food system.

Until the 20th century most humans in the world survived on locally raised food. Now we live in a society dominated by a few corporations, mass-producing processed food where profits are more important than nutrition.

When I was visiting my mother in hospice care, a few years ago, I was shocked to read the label on pre-packaged fruit cocktail she was eating. This product was produced in Indonesia with no mention of where fruits had come from. What had been done to that food to give it shelf life, to package it in a wasteful little plastic cup, to ship it across the ocean to the US then all around the country, to sit on shelves indefinitely?

Can this be healthy food? How many miles had that product traveled? This was being served in a healthcare facility where fruit loops were also a breakfast option.

Cheap and convenient does not mean good for your health. Consumers need to pay attention and speak up.

We have a serious problem with health and our food system.

Today, ultra-processed foods make up 73% of the United States’ food supply, according to Northeastern University’s Network Science Institute. Research has linked ultra-processed foods to diabetes, obesity, cancer, and other serious health conditions. These foods are designed to produce cravings and food addictions that sicken us.

Industrial processing of food dramatically changes the structure of the food. Experts say this affects how much you eat, what the body absorbs, your weight and risk for chronic disease. Ultra-processed foods are transformed from simple ingredients into highly processed products with unusual combinations of flavors, additives and textures, which are not found in nature.

“Extrusion cooking at very drastic pressures and temperatures is a kind of pre-digestion of your food,” said Anthony Fardet, a nutrition scientist at the French National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment who studies the effects of food processing on health. “Ultra-processing breaks the links between nutrients, it creates new links that our bodies may not recognize, and by doing this it disturbs the digestive process.”

So what if each one of us started buying less processed foods? What if each one of us started buying fresh produce?

In the grocery store, do we know where the fresh produce and meat we buy come from, or how it was raised? Was the ground that grew the vegetables and fruits doused with fertilizers and pesticides? Was the “fresh” produce shipped from overseas and treated with chemicals to maintain “freshness?”

Is “fresh produce” really fresh? There is little to no transparency in our food labeling.

Local foods are fresher, contain more nutrients, and require less packaging. Supporting local food businesses makes stronger local economies. Purchasing locally grown foods keep farmland viable. When farmers can profit from food production, they are less likely to sell land for development. Purchasing locally also reduces the environmental impact of shipping food.

When you purchase locally produced food, the money you spend stays where you live. That money recirculates in your community. Local farmers spend their earnings in their community, supporting other local businesses like feed stores, equipment suppliers, repair shops, hardware stores, gas stations, butchers, and grocers.

When we shop at corporately owned stores like Wal-Mart or Dollar General our money leaves the community to pad the pockets of executives and investors in a system motivated solely by profit and not by the wellbeing of consumers or their communities. We pay an unseen price for the convenience of big box stores.

Local foods promote a safe, shortened, and reliable food chain. Paying a little more to a local farmer not only benefits the farmer, it also positively impacts our personal health, our community’s financial health, and our environment.

Supporting local businesses and your neighboring family farmer. Go to the farmer’s market. Join a Community Supported Agriculture farm. Learn who in your community raises livestock, fruits, vegetables, grains. Read labels. Ask questions.

With a passion for transforming our food system, Dela Ends blends her farming experience with a commitment to leading change for the next generation. Pioneers in Community Supported Agriculture, Dela Ends and her husband, Tony have operated Scotch Hill Farm for over 30 years, near Brodhead, Wisconsin. Committed to collaborative farmer organizing, Dela is a founding board member of the South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union and has hosted many workshops and educational events on her farm.

South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driven chapter committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement in Rock, Green, and Lafayette Counties.



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1. **Pick** the winning team listed in each advertisement. Write name of the team opposite the advertiser's name on the entry blank.

2. **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.

3. **One entry** per contestant. Entry forms must be returned to the Brodhead Free Press, 1035 1st Center Ave., Ste 107, Brodhead, WI 53520 by 5 p.m. Friday.

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1/1—High series: Robert Murray 736, Jason Shrier 673, Ty Powell 660. High games: R. Murray 258, Glayden Wahler 256, Denny Schultz 250. Deb's Bar-high team game 1,004 and series 2,960.  
Standings: Deb's Bar won 34 lost 8, Center Tavern 28-14, Beloit Chiropractic 19-23, Broughton's Bar 18-24, Albany Lanes 14-28, Fosters Gaming 13-29.

**Badger**  
12/26—High series: Ryan Brugger 649, Tony Brewer 634, Josh Brugger 610, Guy Stamm 605, Megan Anderson 384, Jen Parrish 275. High games: T. Brewer 267, Craig Krueger 246, G. Stamm 244, Cole Krupke 235, M. Anderson 135, J. Parrish 100. Jim's Mechanic Shop-high team game 854 and series 2,375.  
Standings: Renks won 35 lost 7, Jim's Mechanic Shop 26-16, Counter Attack 24-18, Pearl City Elevator 20-22, Decatur Dairy 13-29, Team 3 8-34.

**Thursday Night Mixed**  
12/28—High series: Ty Anderson 691, Brandon Bayrhoffer 661, Chad Malcook 634, Dave Brugger 623. High games: T. Anderson 247, B. Bayrhoffer 233, D. Brugger 225, C. Malcook 225. Rosheisen Rapper-high team game 1,029 and game 2,973.  
Standings: Broughton's Corner Bar 2 won 27 lost 15, Attica Bar 26-16, Rosheisen Rapper 23-19, Broughton's Corner Bar 1 21-21, Glenn Ann Holsteins 16-26, Golz Electric 13-29.


**Brodhead Juniors**  
12/30—High series—boys: Parker VanderPal 611, Ashton Hale 603, Brittian Paulson 445, Alexander Ramirez-Vogel 361, Rowan Krattiger 359, Casey Johnson 315. High games—boys: P. VanderPal 258, A. Hale 256, B. Paulson 161, R. Krattiger 146, A. Ramirez-Vogel 132, C. Johnson 125.  
High series—girls: Grace Gold 484, Harper Krattiger 380, Kylee Wahler 332, Lilly Schwartzlow 313, Aubree Brugger 267, Aubrie Bartelt 232. High games—girls: G. Gold 182, H. Krattiger 143, L. Schwartzlow 139, K. Wahler 126, A. Brugger 92, A. Bartelt 85.

**Brodhead Early Rollers**  
12/30—High games: Stella Brugger 76, Abigail Fenwick 66.

**Brodhead Youth**  
12/30—High series: Carter Fenwick 170, Jack Norris 97, Henry Johnson 84, Jayse Bennett 83, Kole Dillard 42, Lily Johnson 169, Kelsee Brugger 165, Ryan Stevens 94, Ayla Brugger 93, Brynlee Brugger 62. High games: C. Fenwick 97, J. Norris 56, H. Johnson 56, J. Bennett 53, K. Dillard 21, L. Johnson 87, K. Brugger 84, R. Stevens 64, A. Brugger 48, B. Brugger 33.

**Saturday Night Live Mixed**  
12/23—High series: Jason Shrier 664, Tyson Foster 662, Robert Murray 660, Amber Foster 426, Dana Harper 402, Emily Tucker 378. High games: Brian Vanderpal 263, T. Foster 254, R. Murray 660, D. Harper 157, E. Tucker 156, A. Foster 156. Up In Smoke-high team game 855. Broughton's Bar-high team series 2,317.  
Standings: Payne's Pub won 45 lost 11, Rosheisen Baling 35-21, Fearsome Foursome 28-28, Up N Smoke 23-33, Brodhead Free Press 23-33, Broughton's Bar 14-42.

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**POLICE**

**Green County Sheriff's Department**  
**December 26, 2023-January 1, 2024**

At approximately 7:52 a.m., Thursday, deputies along with Brodhead PD Officers responded to the W1600 block of County Highway F, Town of Decatur, for a single vehicle accident. Investigations found that a vehicle operated by Michael J. Keller, 43, of Brodhead, was eastbound on County Highway F when he lost traction negotiating a curve in the roadway. Keller reported losing traction due to the snow-covered roadway. Keller's vehicle entered the ditch and struck a pole. Keller and his passengers: Ariel Sabita Anna Marti, 34, of Brodhead and Christopher A. Keller, 49, of Brodhead, reported no injuries, all reported wearing their seat belts, and there was airbag deployment. Keller's vehicle sustained disabling damage and was towed from the scene.

**Brodhead FREE PRESS**  
Thanks for Reading...



# Tis' the Season for Prescribed Burns: Managed Fires Target a New Nonnative Invasive Plant at Three Waters Reserve



Japanese Hedge Parsley

When present, it prevents the germination of many native plant species and can take over the plant community.

Japanese hedge parsley has arrived in our neighborhood. The plant has bristly seeds that cling to the fur of deer, racoons and also to the clothing of hikers. As a result, it started showing up along the deer trails where the seeds had fallen from the fur of passing white tailed deer and grew into trail-bordering thickets.



Intern monitoring JHP at TWR

plant closely resembles its next of kin: A thin version of the domestic carrot. After a full year of growth in this rosette stage, during the spring of year two, the flowering head ascends, flowers, and the life cycle recycles.

Most of the basal rosettes do not yet develop adequate root stores of carbohydrates until nearing the end of the first year of growth. The prescribed burning conducted last week at Three Waters Reserve provided a rare December opportunity to torch the young rosettes. The goal was to try to use fire as a tool to greatly reduce the tens of thousands of rosettes. The results appeared to be very successful as fire not only burned up the green leaves, but in many locations, fire burned through the oak leaf litter and actually consumed most of the plants' shallow rooted seedlings in entirety.



and several years following the burn. The spread of special plants like Spiderwort, St. John's Wort, Shooting Stars, and many other native plant species can be seen as a result.

One way to combat the spread of Hedge Parsley and other non native and invasive weeds is to diversify plant communities. The Winter Frolic at Three Waters Reserve—Saturday, January, 27 from 12-4 p.m., RSVP at [threewatersreserve.com](http://threewatersreserve.com), provides an opportunity for attendees to participate in this very important step in the restoration of healthy ecosystems. During the event, participants will have the opportunity to help spread bags of collected wildflower seeds throughout the property. Each bag will be color coded in accordance with a vegetation map of the reserve. Somewhat like a treasure hunt, but with a delayed treasure, spreading the bags of seed will result in more wildflowers in the future.



germinate rapidly in the ash left behind afterwards. The fire stimulates the growth of tens of thousands of oak seedlings so TWR may continue to have a healthy oak savannah in the future. A percentage of acorns will become teenage and mature adult oaks. Mowing of the lawns under the oaks at TWR have created a geriatric ward of older oaks. Most are about the same age—150-225 years of age, and have the same vulnerabilities to storm damages, insect depredations and diseases. This will take time, but next fall look for the thousands of baby oaks. In five years, look for the hundreds of teenage oaks. And, envision several decades from now the older oaks co mingling with a younger generation that will move into the canopy as the storms, tornado's take out the old cronies.

The week before Christmas is usually focused on coordinating parties, preparing a feast and fussing over where to seat the family. However this year, the Three Waters Reserve family came together to address a challenging new plant that is taking southern Wisconsin by storm. Landowners need to get to know about this invasive weed.

During mid-summer we mowed the second-year plants, which as a biennial, send up a flowering head that matures to produce abundant seeds. The seeds fall to the ground, sprouting in late summer and growing as a basal rosette—an evergreen young plant that during the following growing season sets a deep, tangled mature root. The

Fire has a rejuvenating function in most ecosystems of North America including the oak savanna's, prairie, various types of wetland and even forests. Many shallowly-buried native plant seeds respond to the heat the next spring by germinating and flourishing for the first

and several years following the burn. The spread of special plants like Spiderwort, St. John's Wort, Shooting Stars, and many other native plant species can be seen as a result.

This December's fire was not only effective, but also beautiful. There is something to be said about the dark stalwart oak forms emerging from the mysterious shrouds of smoke. Oaks are truly the living manifestation of the mystical phoenix. As they endure fire, their acorns



## An Evening with Wisconsin Author,

**Annelise Ryan**  
By Sarah Carpenter, Outreach Specialist

The Albertson Memorial Library will be hosting a special guest to start off the new year! Annelise Ryan is the USA Today bestselling author of the Monster Hunter Mysteries and the Mattie Winston mystery series, and she is also the author of the Mack's Bar Mystery series written as Allyson K. Abbott.

Ryan will be at the Albertson Memorial Library in Albany on Monday, January 22nd at 6 p.m. to celebrate the recent release of the second book in her Monster Hunter Mystery series, 'Death in the Dark Wood'. This series follows cryptozoologist and bookstore owner, Morgan Carter, as she investigates strange happenings that may or may not involve unknown and legendary creatures in Wisconsin.

In her newest book, Morgan finds herself exploring a potential Bigfoot sighting in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest area of Bayfield County, Wisconsin after a man is found dead from a vicious throat injury in the forest. When Morgan and her dog, Newt, begin their investigation, they uncover a trail of lies, deception, and murder. It seems a mysterious creature is indeed living in the forest, and Morgan might be its next target.

This event is being held in memoriam of Catherine Blakemore, who passed away in August of 2022. Catherine was a beloved member of the Albany community, and dedicated years of her life to the Albany Library, leading their book club for over 20 years. Catherine was also a published author, and many of her books can be found at the Albertson Memorial Library.

Ryan's visit will also be functioning as the January meeting for the All Booked Up! book club. The January selection is Ryan's first book in the series, 'A Death in Door County'. Reading the book or being a member of All Booked Up! is not required for attendance; all are welcome to join in on this exciting night.

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## Did you struggle through the holidays as a caregiver?

Understand the grief, loss and mourning associated with caring for someone with dementia.  
Join us for Moving Forward:  
Grief and Ambiguous Loss Associated with Dementia Caregiving

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock Counties is offering the 16-week grief and bereavement educational support group on Monday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. beginning January 15 and running through April 29, 2024. This is a virtual group. There is no cost to attend. Registration and screening are required.

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

For more information or to register, please contact Rock County Dementia Care Specialist, Karen Tennyson at 608-741-3615 or [karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us).

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