



YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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POSTAL PATRON

Referendum Vote for Brodhead School District on April 2

**By David Novy, District
Administrator, Brodhead
School District**

We are excited about the opportunity to present our facility (bond) referendum on April 2.

The referendum question on the ballot states the following:

Shall the School District of Brodhead, Green and Rock Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$17,485,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: construction of additions, renovations, including for secure entrances, window replacements, bathroom upgrades, capital maintenance, building infrastructure and site improvements at Albrecht Elementary School and Brodhead Middle School; construction of an addition and renovations at Brodhead High School, including for a secure entrance and office; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

We have sent out a great deal of information over the last three months to help everyone understand the scope of our referendum, the process we used to involve stakeholders in our recommendation to the School Board, the estimated average tax impact on a Brodhead School District property owner, and how these changes could benefit our District for years to come. We are hoping all the information we have provided will help our District residents make a well-informed decision when voting for the future of our schools in Brodhead. We definitely want to see a large turnout for this referendum so we know we have a great representation of what our taxpayers want.

VOTE Early

•Early In-Person Voting:

Started Tuesday March 19 and runs through Friday, March 29.

District residents can vote during office hours at most voting locations. The Town of Spring Valley—608-897-4288 and Town of Magnolia—608-751-6743 are by appointment only for early voting.

VOTE By Absentee Ballot:

•Absentee Ballots should be requested early and can be requested at any time. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Thursday, March 28. You can request it in person through your local clerk or online at MyVote.wi.gov.

•Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2. The US Post Office recommends mailing your ballot in one [1] week prior or delivering in person to your local clerk.

VOTE on Election Day:

•Tuesday, April 2, 2024

•Hours: 7 a.m.—8 p.m.

Please note the following polling locations within the Brodhead School District:

- Town of Avon—Avon Town Hall
- City of Brodhead—Brodhead City Hall
- Town of Decatur—Decatur Town Building
- Town of Magnolia—Magnolia Town Hall
- Town of Spring Grove—Spring Grove Town Hall
- Town of Spring Valley—Orfordville Fire Station Meeting Room
- Town of Sylvester—Sylvester Town Hall

Please continue to review all the great information we have shared on our District Webpage, or local newspaper, social media, our direct mailers, and our weekly blog. There is a lot of information to sort through as Tuesday, April 2 rapidly approaches. We hope all the work everyone has put into sharing our story has provided the information our Brodhead School District residents need to make an informed decision about the future of our schools.

City Council Citizen Concerned About Water Quality in His Neighborhood By Grace Kufahl

A citizen that lives on 12th Street brought in a jar of yellowish water that he said came from his tap. He said the city has been over to check it out, but after running the water for five minutes, it comes out clear and tests okay. He stated there are three other households he knows of in his area that also have concerns about their water quality. Mayor Jones told him that the Council would not be able to address his concern at the meeting, but that he would bring it up at a meeting with department heads later in the week.

Alder Gritzmacher questioned Attorney Schroeder regarding who may add to the Council Meeting agenda. He had wanted to discuss the Pearl Island Certified Survey Map and Green County Landfill Contract in open session and it was put on the agenda in closed session. Attorney Schroeder stated council members may add to the council meeting agenda and he advised alders to be clear about what they're requesting. Alder Simpson stated he had a list of things that were not added to the agenda that he felt should have been added regardless of how small or trivial they were deemed to be.

Regarding the complaint the emergency siren can't be heard in the 23rd Street area, Alder Simpson had brought up the possibility of moving it to Chief Raupp. Raupp stated he would like to test the siren.

Review and approval of the Agreement for Emergency Dispatch Services with Green County was tabled after Alder Simpson questioned whether Alder Sauer, who is employed by the Green County Treasurer's Office, has a conflict of interest. Attorney Schroeder said he

would have to look into the matter and get back to the council on it.

In Other Business:

Parks Director Wiegel's request to have a \$9,995 assessment done of the pool passed.

Director Wiegel was denied his request to have outside employment in the form of receiving compensation for firefighting in Orangeville, Illinois, where he currently volunteers.

Brodhead Candidate Forum

In continuation of the Chamber of Commerce's Meet The Candidate Night, Better Brodhead will be hosting a Candidate Forum. This will be another opportunity for community members to meet the candidates and ask questions. The Forum will be held on Thursday, March 28, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Brodhead Memorial Public Library.

Join them as they hear from the candidates regarding the issues that are important to the community of Brodhead. The candidates running for election are:

Mayor—Edward "Casey" Jones and Tom Simpson; Alderperson—Paul Naramore, J. Michael Lowery, Jill Baxter, and Ben Gritzmacher; Judge: Rich Bennett.

School Board

English Language Arts Curriculum Approved

By Grace Kufahl

An audit revealed the need for a consistent English Language Arts Curriculum in the Elementary School. A committee was formed and determined Benchmark Advance to be the best fit for the district. Curriculum Director Dr. Lisa Semrow and Albrecht Elementary Principal Kelly Knox presented their recommendation to the Board and the Board approved. Funding will come from the end of the year surplus, Curriculum budget and Esser Funds. There is a possibility some of the cost could be reimbursed by the state in the future.

In Other Business:

High School Principal Mathys gave shout outs to Jason and Beth Riesterer and emcee Paul Roemer for a successful Development of the Bands concert and to Ms. Jordan for the Chorus Concert

Building and Grounds Director Chad Dix reported a major part of the Middle School HVAC system

**Will be closing
at Noon on
Friday, March 29th
in observance of
Good Friday.**

was updated and the Elementary School Gym was painted.

Principal Knox went to UW-Whitewater the week prior to the school board meeting to give feedback on their student teacher program.

Director Semrow gave a shout out to all the district art teachers for the nice display of student artwork they put together for Brodhead Memorial Public Library through the end of this month.

A \$400 monetary donation was accepted from Heather and Josh Fenwick of Cardinal Car Wash to help with travel expenses for the Spanish trip.

The Plant Science Class gave a tour of the green house and information on the plant sale to members of the board and staff that were present.

Superintendent David Novy, Board Clerk Michael Oellerich and Board Treasurer Al Schneider were appointed to canvass the election results after the upcoming spring election.

The Board approved High School Early College Credit applications.

The list of contracted and volunteer coaches was approved.

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Albany Hilltop Community Church,
101 S. Jackson Street, Albany. Web site:
hilltopalbany.com.

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

Bethany Lutheran Church, 1652 West
Church Road, Brodhead. 608-897-4158.
Pastor position currently open. Interested
candidates may reach out via Facebook
or call Bethany Lutheran Church directly.
Sunday school 8:45 a.m.; Sunday wor-
ship 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@beth-
lehembrodhead.org. Website: www.beth-
lehembrodhead.org. Sunday in-person
worship with Communion at 9 a.m. On-
line worship option via Facebook—Beth-
lehem Lutheran Church. Bingo the second
and fourth Thursdays of each month at
6:30 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Brodhead Church of the Nazarene,
1004 13th Street. Pastor Ken Lawson.
Adult worship 10-11 a.m.; children's
church 10-11a.m.

Congregational United Church of
Christ, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead. 608-
897-2917. Pastor Shawn Stapleton. Sun-
days: 10 a.m. worship. Sunday school
every other Sunday at 8:45 a.m. Nursery
care is available for those who desire.
Communion first Sunday of each month.
Quilting and crafts workshop every
Wednesday at 9 a.m. AA meetings Tues-
day and Thursday 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.

**DL Newcomer
Funeral Home**

Jarod & Tania Williams
1105 E. 9th Ave. • Brodhead
608-897-2484

www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com

Funeral and
Cremation Services

evening service. Wednesday 6 p.m. service.

Juda-Zion Community Church,
N2350 Church Street, 608-934-5398.
Kelly Jahn, Pastor. Sunday school 9:15
a.m.; worship service 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES



James P. Mair

James P. Mair, age 72, of Gar-
land, Texas, passed away January
17, 2024 at a Hospice Care facility in
Dallas, Texas. He was formerly from
Footville/Janesville area. James was
born March 14, 1951 to Ronald and
Gale Mair. He was a graduate of
Parkview High School, class of 1969.

James is survived, and going
to be missed forever by his fam-
ily. Sisters: Judy (Dale) Wenger of
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and Ronda
Mair, of Reedsburg, Wisconsin;
brother, Jeff (Lynn) Mair of Gratiot,
Wisconsin; and many nieces, neph-
ews, cousins and friends. He will
especially be missed by his beloved
buddy and companion, Tanner. Jim
is preceded in death by his parents,
and sister, Carol Mair.

A celebration of life will be held
Saturday, April 6, from 11 a.m.-4
p.m. at the American Legion in Or-
fordville. A luncheon will be pro-
vided.



Evelyn Mae Menzel

Evelyn Mae Menzel, age 88, of
Brodhead, passed away peacefully
at her home on March 19, 2024 with
her family by her side.

Per Evelyn's wishes, private fam-
ily services will be held at the DL
Newcomer Funeral Home in Brod-
head at a later date.

Online condolences can be
made at [www.dlnewcomerfuneral-
home.com](http://www.dlnewcomerfuneral-home.com).

608-897-4797

Brodhead
FREE PRESS

Please contact us to place a community event,
engagement/wedding announcement,
an advertisement, or nearly anything else.



Cynthia "Cindy" Buttke

Cynthia "Cindy" Buttke, age 63,
of Juda passed away surrounded
by her family on Tuesday, March
19, 2024 at her home. She was born
the daughter of Charles and Eileen
(Haman) Buttke on September 11,
1960. She graduated from Juda High
School in 1978. Cindy was united
in marriage to Michael Dunwiddie
on June 23, 1979; together they had
four children.

Cindy worked at Zim's Cheese
Factory for several years; she later
worked at Mid-Am, and Roth Kase,
now known as Emmi Roth. She was
also a familiar and friendly face as a
bartender in the Monroe area. Cin-
dy loved participating in softball,
bowling and volleyball leagues. She
was also an avid fan, who enthusi-
astically supported, the Juda Pan-
thers, Badgers, Vikings, and Brew-
ers; as well as attending many of
her grandchildren's sporting events.



DL Newcomer Funeral Home welcomes new director—Tad Harnack

Tad was raised in Brodhead
and he and his wife, McKenna, are
working on moving back to Brod-

head. His great grandfather was
Dwight Newcomer, and he is a great
nephew of Daniel Newcomer. His
grandfather Tom Newcomer was
a funeral director and owner of his
own establishment in Orfordville for
around 60 years. Tad is a fourth gen-
eration funeral director and is excit-
ed to be back home. Tad knew since
a young age that it was his dream to
be a funeral director and be able to
help families in a time of need. Tad
went to UW-Stout to get his general
study credits. He then started his
career by serving his apprentice-
ship in Menomonie with Rhie Funeral
Homes. After completing his
apprenticeship, Tad attended Wor-
sham College of Mortuary Science,
where he graduated. After college
Tad worked for Gunderson Funeral
Homes in Madison for over four
years. He enjoys hunting, fishing,
and spending time with his wife. If
Tad is not at work, you can bet that
he is somewhere outside embracing
all that nature has to offer.

Cindy is survived by her mother,
Eileen Buttke; children: Amanda
(Jay) Smith, McKenzie (Russ)
Homan, Lance (Kelsey) Dunwiddie,
and Corinne (Brandon) Bayrhofer;
grandchildren: Madalynn, Quinten,
and Hudson Smith, Phoenix and
Easton Homan, Leighton Dunwid-
die, and Myka Bayrhofer; siblings:
Kim (Jim) Bauman, Tina (Dave) Sa-
voy, and Chuck (Lori) Buttke; God-
daughter, Chelsea Rundle; special
friend, Jenny Strunz; and many
nieces, nephews, cousins, and ex-
tended family.

Cindy was preceded in death
by her father, Charlie; former-
husband, Mike; maternal grand-
parents, Chet and Ida Haman; and
paternal grandparents, Floyd and
Elizabeth Buttke.

Funeral services were held on
Monday, March 25, at 11 a.m. at the
Juda Zion Community Church with
Pastor Kelly Jahn officiating. Burial
followed at Mt. Vernon Cemetery.

A visitation was held on Sunday,
March 24, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Shri-
ner Hager Gohlke Funeral Home. In
lieu of flowers, a memorial fund is
being established in Cindy's name.
Condolences may be sent to the
family at: shriner.111.com.

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

**CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST**
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MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
Thursday, March 28th at 6 p.m.
Join us for this simple service. We
will be hosting a brief Maundy
Thursday service. A simple supper
will be enjoyed by candlelight in
the Fellowship Hall immediately
following service.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

EASTER DAY SERVICES
Sunday, March 31st
Easter Son-Rise Service
8 a.m.
Son-Rise Breakfast
Fellowship Hall
Following Service at 8:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday Service
10 a.m.

Brodhead Evening Garden Club Scholarship

The Brodhead Evening Garden
Club has been offering a scholar-
ship to a graduating high school
senior since 2006. This scholar-
ship is open to current seniors of
Brodhead, Albany, Orfordville or
Evansville including qualified home
school applicants, who are pursu-
ing a degree in agriculture, with a
preference in horticulture, plant sci-
ence, landscaping or turf science.

Students may attend a four-year,
two-year or technical school. The
amount of \$500 will be awarded
upon completion of first semes-
ter. Applicants are asked to submit
an application plus one page essay
detailing their high school achieve-
ments, grade point average, extra
curricular activities, future goals
and career objectives. The deadline
to submit is Monday, April 15.

Applications must be submit-
ted to Ronald Massen, E314 23rd St,
Brodhead, WI 53520.

Advertising Deadline:
Friday, 5 p.m.

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

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"We all have two lives.
The second one starts when we
realize we only have one."
~Confucius





Girls' Basketball Awards

Front row, left to right: Addison Yates—WBCA All-Star Team, RVC 2nd Team All-Conference, Cindy Rice Award (934 points), Captain, WBCA Academic All-State; Onnika Williams—RVC Honorable Mention, MIP, Captain, WBCA Academic All-State; Makenna Schooff—RVC Honorable Mention, WBCA Academic All-State; Alecia Dahl—WBCA All-State Honorable Mention, RVC 1st Team All-Conference and Player of the Year, MVP, Captain, WBCA Academic All-State; Danica Demrow—Scout Team POY, WBCA Academic All-State; back row: Jerrica Schwartz—WBCA Academic All-State; Jaelyn Hilliard—WBCA Academic All-State; Brenley Jones—WBCA Academic All-State; Gretchen Kammerer—WBCA Academic All-State; Taiya Hawkins—WBCA Academic All-State.



This Team of Outstanding Leaders served and provided cleanup during the breakfast. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



The Lions Club held their annual spring pancake breakfast to help raise funds to promote field trips within Brodhead School District. (Free Press photos by Teresa Earleywine)

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Guys and Dolls present Wisconsin Singers

“Guys and Dolls,” a collaborated group of high school students from Brodhead, Juda, and Parkview, so far have raised \$3,350 from the generosity of our communities!!! Thank you all who have helped with this. They still need to raise \$1,650 for Wisconsin Singers to come to Brodhead in order for all ticket proceeds to go towards “Guys and Dolls”. There is no set sponsor fee, whatever amount you feel comfortable donating is appreciated. They will be performing at Brodhead High School Gymnasium at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 13th.

Please make checks payable to Brodhead High School Show Choir. Mailed donations can be sent to: Brodhead High School, 2501 W. 5th Ave, Brodhead, WI 53520

Tickets can be purchased at the Brodhead High School office. \$15/adult, \$10/youth and 65+, three and under are Free.

Please email Niteal Pinnow, Show Choir Director, at npinnow@brodhead.k12.wi.us with any questions.



Brodhead's Dairy Queen, Leilah King served cheese along with Albany's Emma Grosz, Brooklyn's Isabelle Brewer and Green County Dairy Queen Alyssa Broge greeting those attending the breakfast.



STEM Camp in Whitewater

Katie Crum and Molly Arn attended a STEM camp in Whitewater recently. Can you tell? These two had loads of fun and are just all around great kids!

Music In Our Schools Month—Meet Our Educator

By Brodhead Music Boosters

This month we’ve provided information regarding the Brodhead Schools Music Programs. To wrap things up, we’d like to introduce you to our music educators. While gathering information, we asked a number of questions and here are their answers.

Niteal Pinnow, Show Choir: Mr. Calhoon played a big part in my love for music and performing. Being in dance since I was three also planted the seed to perform and grow my passion for music. I try to stay up to date on well known music and clothes that may be trending for our costuming. My favorite childhood music memory would be just being a part of the show choir and performing every weekend. I’m so proud of our show choir this year. We started out a little rough and the improvements that I have seen this year are amazing. I love the song She Used To Be Mine from the musical The Waitress. My go-to comfort food would be tacos. One thing I want my students to take away from working with them is that hard work pays off and if you do your best, that’s all you can do.

Beth Riesterer, Middle School Band: My middle school band director Mrs. Tweed and my high school band director Mr. Robinson have both been such amazing role models and influences to me. Some of my favorite music memories are learning to play the piano, concerts, a brass quintet I participated in during high school, Solo and Ensemble, and the Band trips that we took. As a teacher, I am constantly looking for new and fun ways to engage my students. I try to keep up with the current music and allow my students to help choose music they are interested in playing. I am so proud of how hard my students have worked this year. They did a great job in the Homecoming Parade and were really prepared for Solo and Ensemble. The group of students that participated in Jazz Band were wonderful and put on a great concert. And, one of our biggest and best accomplishments of the year is always the Development of Band’s Concert. It’s such a great way to showcase our talented band students. One of my favorite songs is “Simple Things” by Jim Brickman. It reminds us to not take anything for granted and to enjoy the “simple things” in life. Go-to comfort food: chocolate and ice cream. I had a hard time thinking of a hidden talent so I’m going to say ping pong. I love playing ping pong and my family has a hard time beating me. I always hope that my students know that they have a safe space when they leave my classroom and that they realize that I am always in their corner and will continue to support them throughout their lives.

Jennifer Perry-Jones, Elementary General Music: My middle school band teacher inspired me to become a music educator. He made music fun and exciting, and he was there for me during a difficult time in my life. How do I keep things fresh? I have a theme in my classroom and change it up every

two-three years. I also change up the music frequently. My favorite music memory is when I made it to the State Solo Ensemble playing my flute for four events in the same year. One of the accomplishments I’m proud of this year is the second grade singing a three part song during their winter performance. My go-to comfort food is chicken pot pie with honey in it. One of my hidden talents is replacing popular song lyrics with my own fabulous prose. I don’t have a favorite piece or song; I truly enjoy music from most genres. I hope my students leave my class knowing that it’s okay to like whatever kind of music you like, and that music can be a wonderful outlet for self-expression.

Sara Jordan, Middle and High School Choir: I have always liked music from a young age. In third grade, I dressed up as a choir teacher for career day. I owe a lot of my success to my past music teachers: Julie Zimmerman, Greg Smith, Bob Demaree, Stephanie Klien, and Susan Day inspired me to pursue music as a career. My favorite choral piece is “Road Home” by Stephen Paulus. This year, the combined middle and high school concert was my greatest accomplishment. It was incredible having 100-plus singers on stage. I’m also very proud of the school musical Guys and Dolls. The students really brought that show to life and took it to a whole new level. To keep things fresh, I like to search Tik Tok for new warmups. My go-to comfort food is ice cream and special hidden talent—I can rap the McDonald’s Drive Thru Rap. I hope each of my students can leave my class with a sense of belonging.

Jason Riesterer, High School Band: My two main inspirations are my mom who always made music a big part of my life and surrounded me with music, and Mike Leckrone who demonstrated what a passionate teacher looked like. My favorite childhood music memory is playing TAPS each Memorial Day with my uncle. I believe the fact that I get to work with students who want to be in band helps to make each day unique and fun for everyone. Working with Beth is another way things stay fresh—we can continually bounce ideas off of each other, work together and help support each other. I have really enjoyed watching opposing fans or game officials come up to our students at various events this year and recognize them for their hard work, dedication and appreciate them being there...it has been fun and makes me proud to see our dedicated students get recognized for their efforts. Favorite song or piece: 1) On Wisconsin, for a whole number of reasons, and 2) Unity: Fanfare and Celebration; it is a piece that we as a Band Department worked to have written just for us. It makes me proud because it is ours. Favorite go-to food—Skittles. I hope students take the life skills learned here at school (teamwork, perseverance, dedication, etc.) with them for the next chapter of their lives. It is my hope as an educator that we have prepared our students for the next phase. Also, it is my hope that our students continue to

make music an important part of their lives.

Thanks to each of these wonderful music educators for working with our students. We appreciate your time, energy, and dedication. For additional information regarding music events in our schools, please log onto www.brodheadmusicboosters.com.

Referendum point of view from Community Licensed Childcare Businesses

The upcoming referendum is not only building and maintenance improvements, it also states that the half-day 4K program will be expanded into full day 4K. We understand that old buildings need updating and there are safety features that should be addressed. We do not disagree with this maintenance but the 4K going full days will have consequences for the entire community and we wanted everyone to be aware of this.

As childcare providers we are part of the community. We work long hours and for very low wages with no benefits. We share the love of children and enjoy what we do. We have college degrees and are certified to teach preschoolers. That is our job and you as a community will have a say on Tuesday, April 2nd as to whether we will continue to support the children of this community or be forced to make some hard decisions.

Chelsea Andrews, Owner of The Nurturing Tree Academy and Little Learners Daycare in Brodhead, also voiced similar concerns and how an approved referendum will be devastating for the children and the pocketbooks of the families in her care.

Jodi Schwartz from Tiny Town Daycare and Preschool stated that parents need to remember that all day 4K sounds convenient, but they will still need before and after school care for these children and in all honestly we are not accepting any more school agers because I can’t afford to fill a fulltime spot with a part time school ager spot. Plus, I firmly believe that we should

(Continued to page 7)

Casey Jones background, experience and views



Hello, my name is Edward “Casey” Jones. I am running for re-election as the Mayor of the great city of Brodhead.

I graduated from Brodhead High School in 1979. I served 3 years in the Navy after high school and one year in college. I married my best friend and soulmate in 1982. Lori and I are still happily married for 41 years so far. We have two children.

At the age of 30, Lori and I moved to Arizona. I was very blessed to have been given a chance to work with good people that taught me how to build businesses and give back to people along the way. I have had the privilege of sitting with many candidates for national offices.

I left the insurance business in 2000 because we had built a very profitable eBay business. In 2002, I became a storage auctioneer and still own an online auction company. In 2017, We purchased the old UCC Church building in Brodhead and turned it into an 8 bedroom Bed and Breakfast while still living in Phoenix. Several other opportunities were presented to us in the next few years in Brodhead including the purchase of the Brodhead Free Press. In 2021, we decided it was time to move back to our hometown so we could give back to the community. Since then, we have purchased the Woods View Senior living duplexes and in December opened Keeping Up with the Jones’s Quilting shop in the former Gospel Hall.

I was elected Mayor in 2022. Many things have happened under my leadership the have helped erase a \$330,000 deficit. We worked with the Brodhead Fire District to develop a better working relationship which helped with the budget. We also replaced our Police Chief with our current Chief. This move helped us reduce the deficit even further. The third step was to make trips to Wisconsin Dells and Madison to address the Legislature and Senate to increase our share of the Revenue Sharing pie. This resulted in an increase from \$80,000 to over \$150,000. These measures plus others allowed us to add a person to our Public Works department and add \$80,000 to our roads budget for 2024 which came in on budget.

Since then I have been participating in training on ways to finance and develop housing. I have experience in developing property which I believe is a great advantage for the City of Brodhead.

My greatest attribute is that I am a positive person who looks for solutions to challenges rather than just pointing out the challenges. I have a strong math background and know what it takes to balance a budget. I am also skilled in the art of negotiation which is also a strength needed to be Mayor.

I am an active member of the Lions Club, Brodhead Optimists and the American Legion. We attend the Living Word Church. I enjoy going to many of the festivals and activities that Brodhead hosts.

The future of Brodhead is bright. I hope that I am allowed to continue many of the things we have started.



Brodhead Middle School Welcomes New Principal

Brodhead Middle School is proud to announce the hiring of Mr. Adam Ferger as the new principal starting with the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Ferger brings over 15 years of education experience to his new leadership role.

“We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Ferger to Brodhead Middle School,”

said District Administrator David Novy. “His passion for student success, creative approach to learning, and proven track record of driving academic achievement make him an ideal fit to lead our outstanding Middle School.”

Mr. Ferger has served as assistant principal at Fruzen Middle School in the School District of Beloit since 2022. Prior to that, he has 14 years of experience as a Middle School teacher at both the fourth grade and sixth grade levels, all in the School District of Beloit. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, a Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University, and a Principal Certification from St. Mary’s University /Educate WI.

Mr. Ferger will officially begin his new role on July 1, 2024. He succeeds Dr. Lisa Semrow, who will be retiring on June 30 of this year.

Welcome to Brodhead as our newest Cardinal Mr. Ferger!





The Green County Holstein Breeders would like to say a huge **Thank You** to all of their sponsors that helped to make this year’s Wisconsin Holstein Convention a success. Without your generosity this event would not have been possible!

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Albertson Memorial Public Library

By Laura Roth, Children's Librarian

We read about dragons this week! Did you know Dragons Love Tacos? We made some pretend tacos and then pretended to be dragons! We

even sampled dragon fruit, which didn't go over very well. Who knew dragon fruit is white? With little black seeds? We found out that the sneaky dragon in the basement after bedtime is really the family cat! (No wonder it could slip into the house through the cat door!) So much fun! Thanks to Jenny McNeely for the pictures.



Juda School District

Regular Board Meeting March 13th 2024

At the board meeting on Wednesday night the Juda School Board:

- Accepted a \$240 donation from Greater Dane County Advance Learner for the math team. Donations for the FFA from Foreign Type Cheesemakers Association for \$1,500, Bank of Brodhead for \$100 and Bank of New Glarus for \$150.
- Penny Ramos and Julene Elmer spoke to the Board on behalf of the Collaboration Committee with some recommendations for the board to consider for the staff handbook for next year regarding payout of sick days and funeral/bereavement pay.
- Traci Davis reported that spring sports are in full swing. ACT Testing is completed. National Honor Society induction will be taking place. Several staff members and students are taking training in Sources of Strength, which is a program that empowers youth to prevent suicide, violence and bullying and substance abuse by strengthening their protective factors and social networks.
- The board reviewed a postcard mailer that will be sent out regarding the referendum. Next informational meeting will be held at the school on Tuesday, March 19th at 7 p.m. at the school.
- Approved an overnight trip for the Middle School FFA to Chula Vista on Thursday, April 11th and Friday, April 12th.
- Took no action coming out of Executive Session.

Next regular board meeting will be held Wednesday, April 10th, 2024.

Mental health bill passed

By Bridget Mouchon, NAMI Green County President

In a mental health crisis, immediate expert care can transform the worst day of your life into a turning point. A newly passed bill from Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Clint Moses establishes regional crisis urgent care centers—psychiatric emergency rooms—to serve people who walk in or are brought by first responders. Today, people must sit...and wait for hours in emergency rooms for medical clearance before being released or transferred to psychiatric hospital. It's frustrating and traumatizing, wasting precious time that could be spent helping the person find a different path.

The new crisis centers will be staffed 24/7 with prescribers, nurses, and counselors to assess mental health, substance use and medical conditions. They will provide mental health and substance use care on site for a few hours or up to five days. With immediate mental health crisis care, fewer people will need to go to psychiatric hospital. And if the person does need to be transferred to another facility, the bill stipulates that transportation will not be provided by law enforcement. Join NAMI Green County in thanking Senator Marklein and our legislature for passing this important bill and ask Governor Evers to sign it into law.

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Garage Sales



BRODHEAD

403 9th Street, Fri., Mar. 29, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 30, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Vintage Watkins mugs, kids bicycles, grill, boys' clothes to size 8, girls clothes to size 12, mirrors, hutch, treadmill, houseplants, toys, youth sports equipment and lots of miscellaneous. Watkins products available.

Respect for Law Enforcement Poster Contest

Sponsored by the Brodhead Optimists

Make a poster and you could win a prize! All you have to do to enter is create a poster showing how much you appreciate members of the police or sheriff's department.

Requirements:

- Your poster must be a minimum of 8.5"x11". It can be larger.
- You can use words showing your appreciation, but pictures are better.
- On the back you need to include your first and last name, age, phone number and also a few sentences telling us about your poster.
- All posters need to be turned in by Monday, April 1st. You can turn them in at the school office or the Brodhead Free Press.

PRIZES for elementary entrants are:

First Place: A day with a policeman including lunch, recess and a tour of the inside of a police car!

Second Place: \$10 Gift certificate to McDonald's

Third Place: \$5 Gift certificate to McDonald's

PRIZES for middle schoolers:

First Place: \$25 Visa Gift Card

Second Place: \$10 Gift certificate to McDonald's

Third Place: \$5 Gift certificate to McDonald's

Winners will be notified by Tuesday, April 30th. If you have any questions please contact Lori Jones at 608-897-9401.

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Referendum Point of View

(Continued from page 5)

be allowed to offer the 4K program within our center and want parents to be aware that this is also something we are trying to fight for in our legislation. These kids are already being pushed to sit and learn from an earlier age than I was, and I think it's why we see so many more behavior/attention issues these days. Let the kids play... this is how they learn at this age, not sitting and doing worksheets.

The referendum that is being proposed would remove the four-year-olds from our care for a large part of the day. If you are like most parents, you work beyond the 3 p.m. school day. Your children will need to find care after school. Children form attachments with their caregivers and can be confused by the disruption of going from home to daycare to the bus to school and back to the bus and then back to daycare before going home. These kids will have long bus rides and are exposed to kids up through high school. I live on the edge of Brodhead a couple of miles from the school. Kids in this area are picked up at 7 a.m. and the 4K children arrive here 55 minutes after they get out of school. This means these little ones spend almost two-hours of their day on a bus. With more students being added to the bus routes this will add longer times to each route. This takes an emotional and a physical toll on children at this age.

If the school implements all day 4K, daycares will have to depend on the youngest children to fill enrollments. As the children get younger, they require more attention and thus we are only allowed a few of them each day. Currently under state licensed home daycare rules we can take eight children but if we have to care for primarily ages 0-two then we can only have four children, forcing us to substantially increase prices and only helping

half as many families. Before and after school care will probably not be offered in home daycares. Daycares may close as opposed to imposing large rate increases on young families. Our income needs to support salary, food, crafts, furniture, toys, educational supplies to nurture and support your children's emotional, physical and social needs. We are the first educators these children will see, and we take that very seriously. If we can't provide quality care, then we could be forced to close.

When I was working outside the home, I was using childcare outside of Brodhead as the few licensed childcares that were here were always full and had a five-year waiting period. I was considering open enrollment of my children to the next community because that was where the available childcare was. I fear that passage of the referendum in its present form could create consequences that result in licensed childcare loss in this community.

Why are we taking a school that states it has no space, not enough money to pay staff and expenses and adding more children? More children to the lunchroom, two more classrooms, two more teachers. Per DPI changing 4K to full day will not increase state funding at all. When Brodhead went to full day 5K the implementation of 4K began. Can we expect 3K to be far behind? Is that the route we want to go as a community?

Let the children be little and grow before they are placed in public schools. Let them develop physically, socially and emotionally so they can be successful. Stress is a major concern and the more transitions a child has the less secure they feel. Let's grow happy secure children in Brodhead.

Lori Sutherland—Owner of Little Prairie Family Daycare

Chelsea Andrews—Owner of The Nurturing Tree Academy and Little Learners Daycare

Jodi Schwartz—Owner/Administrator of Tiny Town Daycare and Preschool

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Monday Night Mixed League
3/18—High series: Tyson Foster 760, Denny Schultz 723, Rick Reed 659. High games: D. Schultz 278, T. Foster 267, Glayden Wahler 239. Fosters Gaming-high team 1,052 and series 3,024. **Standings:** Fosters Gaming won 34 lost 15, Deb's Bar 32-17, Center Tavern 29-20, Broughton's Bar 22-27, Beloit Chiropractic 19-30, Albany Lanes 11-38.

Tuesday Shanigans
3/19—High series: Alexis Sies 585, Chris Rosheisen 433, Barb Brugger 409, John Thill 602, Rick Clark 510, Ted Yaun 503. High games: A. Sies 212, C. Rosheisen 177, B. Brugger 158, J. Thill 223, R. Clark 199, Dan Eaton 196, T. Yaun 196. Boomtastic 4-high team game 751 and series 2,188. **Standings:** Albany Lanes won 110 lost 44, Boomtastic 4 92-62, Barely Upright 89-65, Misfits 60-94, Greightful Dead 57-97, Sweet Mini HaHa 54-100.

Badger
3/19—High series: Craig Krueger 634, Don Nieman 591, Randall Anderson 583, Brian Purdy 582, Megan Anderson 430, Kim Qualley 317, Jen Parrish 246. High games: B. Purdy 234, Tim Kaderly 225, C. Krueger 222, D. Nieman 211, M. Anderson 166, K. Qualley 117, J. Parrish 87. Jim's Mechanic Shop-high team game 752 and series 2,225. **Standings:** Pearl City Elevator won 36 lost 13, Jim's Mechanic Shop 26-23, Decatur Dairy 26-23, Counter Attack 25-24, Renks 19-30, Team 3 15-34.

Wednesday Night Ladies
3/20—High series: Zoe Krattiger 508, Alice Patchen 474, Kari Johnson 473, Sarah Flood 467, Julie Williams 456. High games: S. Flood 193, A. Patchen 184, Z. Krattiger 172, Tami Behnke 171, K. Johnson 169. Crystal's Team-high team game 625 and series 1,718. **Standings:** Crystal's Team won 60 lost 31, Larson Acres 51-40, Glenn-Ann Ladies 47-44, Albertson's 44-47, Broughton's Bar 40-51, New Glarus Brewery 31-60.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies
3/21—High series: Becky Riese 430, Nancy Salzwedel 403, Barb Chapman 395. High games: B. Riese 167, Priscilla Kaderly 159, B. Chapman 146. Mike's Flooing-high team game 557 and series 1,494. **Standings:** Knutes won 62 lost 36, Ball's Installation 60-38, Mike's Flooring 58-40, Nolte's Garage 58-40, Albany Lanes 48-50.

Thursday Night Mixed
3/21—High series: Eric Woodruff 669, Ty Anderson 665, Chad Malcook 654, Austin Heath 636. High games: John Pluss 267, T. Anderson 246, E. Woodruff 236, Michael Morton 234. Rosheisen Rappter-high team game 1,067 and series 3,114. **Standings:** Broughton's Corner Bar 1 won 42 lost 14, Glenn Ann Holsteins 38-18, Rosheisen Rapper 32-24, Attica Bar 26-30, Broughton's Corner Bar 2 19-37, Golz Electric 11-45.

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Better Brodhead is offering a ONE-time, this year, FREE mental health training. The training is called ASIST, which stands for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. In this training, you will learn how to recognize someone having thoughts of suicide or someone in a suicide crisis, how to de-escalate someone in crisis, and how to connect them to the proper resources. While this sounds intimidating, this training is vital in saving someone's life.

After you have taken the training, you will be given access to the mental health agencies they have partnered with in Green, Rock, and Lafayette Counties to make direct mental health referrals as you see fit.

This will be held on Friday, April 12th and Saturday, April 13th. Please email aspath@betterbrodhead.org or call 608-897-9081 to register.

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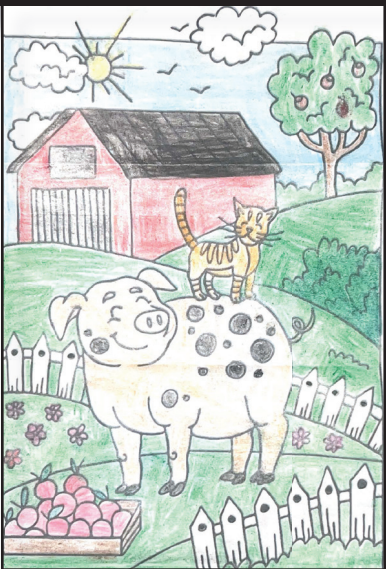
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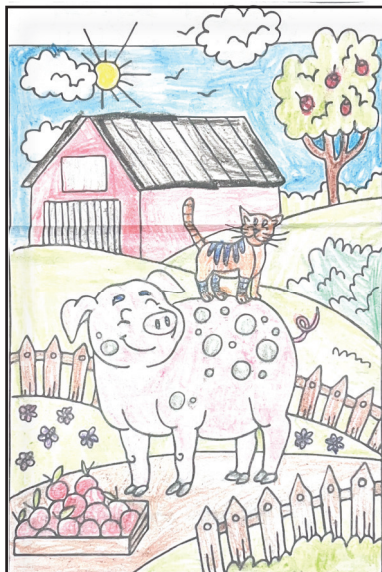
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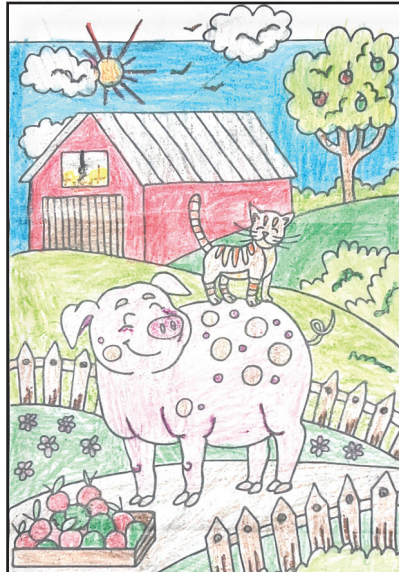
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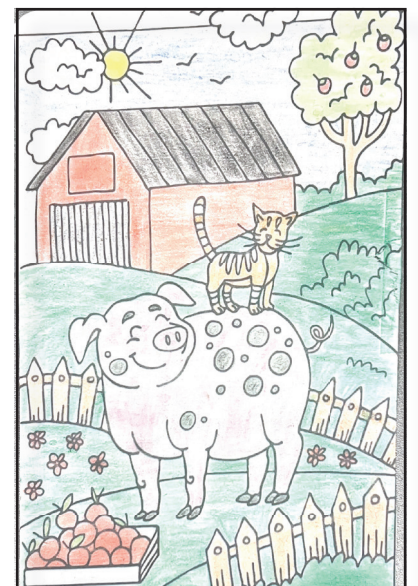
EASTON HOMAN - Age 7
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IRIS NELSON - AGE 10
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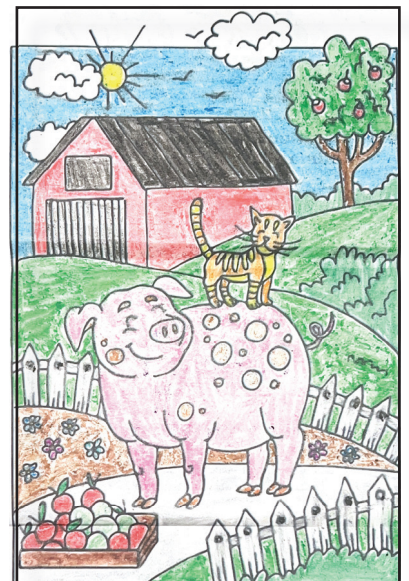
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