

PHONE: 608-897-4797 • Email: [brodheadfreepress@gmail.com](mailto:brodheadfreepress@gmail.com) • 1035 1st Center Ave., Ste. 107 • Web site: [www.brodheadfreepress.com](http://www.brodheadfreepress.com)

## Relay For Life of Green County Seeks Teams For Event

The American Cancer Society is recruiting teams from businesses, schools, families, and places of worship to participate in the Relay For Life of Green County event. This year's event will be held on Friday, August 4th at the Jaycee Park in Brodhead from 5-9 p.m. Relay For Life teams are committed to finishing the fight against cancer and raise funds to support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission. Teams and individuals can sign up for the Relay For Life event by visiting <http://relayforlife.org/greencountywi> or by calling Jo Ann at 608-728-2980.

"The Relay For Life movement unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved

ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all," said Evelyn Crooks, Green County Relay For Life volunteer. "Many participants are our family, friends, and neighbors who have faced cancer themselves. Each new team that registers brings us one step closer to saving more lives."

Relay For Life is a community-based family event. Cancer survivors and caregivers take a celebratory first lap to start each event. This year, Green County's goal is to raise \$20,000 to support the Society's mission to finish the fight against cancer once and for all. Sign up individually or as a team and be a part of great event that helps support the fight against cancer!

## Decatur Dairy wins at State Fair Cheese Competition

Decatur Dairy won awards for their Havarti, Muenster and curds at the 2023 State Fair Cheese Competition.

"This all starts with the farms and the Co-op investing in our facility and partnering with us to provide a quality product!!! Great team effort, Master Cheesemaker Matt Henze, patrons of Decatur Cheese Co-op and the new Decatur Cheese Plant LLC," said Steve Stettler, Master Cheesemaker, Decatur Dairy.

The awards they won, along with the scores, were:

Flavored Havarti—first, Steve Stettler, Dill Havarti, 100.00

Muenster—second, Decatur Cheesemakers, 99.65

Havarti—first, Matt Henze, 99.725

Havarti—third, Steve Stettler, 99.425

Flavored Curd—first, Steve Stettler, Tomato, Bacon, Basil Curd, 98.85

Flavored Curd—second, Decatur Cheesemakers, Ranch Style Cheese Curb, 98.70

Unflavored Curd—first, Steve Stettler, White Curd, 99.50

Unflavored Curd—second, Matt Henze, White Curd, 99.30

Unflavored Curd—third, Decatur Cheesemakers, Cheddar Curd, 99.05

Also worth noting scoring a 100 on any cheese is almost unheard of so they are VERY proud of that.



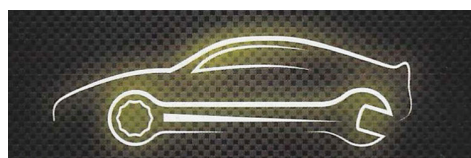
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Albany Hilltop Community Church,  
101 S. Jackson Street, Albany. Web site:  
hilltopalbany.com.

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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.

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Bethany Lutheran Church, 1652 West  
Church Road, Brodhead. 608-897-4158.  
Pastor Rick Gleason. Summer Sunday  
worship 9 a.m. No Sunday school. Holy  
Communion first Sunday of each month.

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E.  
9th Ave, Brodhead. Phone: 608-897-2341  
Email: office@bethlehembrodhead.com.  
Website: www.bethlehembrodhead.org.  
Sunday in-person worship with Commu-  
nion at 9 a.m. Online worship option via  
Facebook—Bethlehem Lutheran Church.  
Vacation Bible school scheduled for July  
29-30. Bingo beginning Thursday, July  
13—doors open at 5:30 p.m.; games at 7  
p.m. Bingo nights will continue on the se-  
cond and fourth Thursdays of each month.  
Follow our Facebook page for more events.

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Congregational United Church of  
Christ, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead.  
608-897-2917. Pastor Shawn Stapleton.  
Sundays: 9 a.m. worship. Nursery care  
is available for those who desire. No Sun-  
day school during summer..Communion  
first Sunday of each month. Quilting and  
crafts workshop every Wednesday at 9  
a.m. AA meetings Tuesday and Thurs-  
day at 7 p.m. Bible study Wednesdays at  
noon. Sunday, July 9: potluck style break-  
fast and worship service at Putnam Park  
(pool park) at 9 a.m.

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Grace Independent Baptist Church,  
Hwy. 81, three-quarter of a mile east of  
junction with 11, Brodhead. Donald Adams,  
Pastor. 608-897-8484. 9:30 a.m. Sunday  
school, 10:30 a.m. morning worship, 6 p.m.  
evening service. Wednesday 6 p.m. service.

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Juda-Zion Community Church,  
N2350 Church Street, 608-934-5398.  
Kelly Jahn, Pastor. Sunday school 9:30  
a.m. all ages; worship service 10:45 a.m.

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Living Word Church, 3825 S. County  
Road T, Brodhead. 608-897-8246. Pas-  
tor Russ Doeblar. 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.

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

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Oakley-Union United Methodist  
Church, W2388 Gerber Road, Juda, 608-  
934-5398. Worship and children's Sun-  
day school 9 a.m.

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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. Sched-  
ule—Sundays: worship 9 a.m. Monthly  
church Council and Ladies Aid meetings  
are held the second Sunday of the month  
at 10 a.m.

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St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church,  
1005 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, part of  
St. Clare of Assisi Parish, Monroe. 608-  
325-9506. Father Tafadzwa Kushamba,  
Pastor. Mass at 8:15 a.m. Wednesday and  
on the first Sunday of the month at noon.

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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.

## Maribeth Stair


Maribeth Stair, 81, of Dubuque, Iowa, passed away on June 26, 2023, surrounded by her loving family.

Friends and family may visit from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, July 7th, at Lord of Love Lutheran Church, 219 Summit Street in Gale-  
na, Illinois. A funeral service will fol-  
low immediately after the visitation  
beginning at 12 p.m. Private family  
burial will be at Greenwood Cem-  
etery in Brodhead, at a later date.  
Leonard Funeral Home and Crema-  
tory, Dubuque, Iowa is assisting the  
family.


Maribeth was born on March  
22, 1942, in Janesville, Wisconsin,  
daughter of Clinton C. and Pearl E.  
(Norman) Erickson. She graduated  
from Brodhead High School. On  
January 29, 1966, she was united in  
marriage to Stephen J. Stair. He pre-  
ceded her in death in July of 2006.  
She worked at Universal Foods in  
Brodhead before opening Stair's  
Food Center in Galena, Illinois, op-  
erating from 1977 to 1995. She was a  
member of the VFW Women's Auxil-  
iary, Galena Historical Society, Fort  
Nightly, and Beading Club.

As a member of the Galena Golf  
Club, Maribeth was an avid golf-  
er and enjoyed playing in the ladies  
league, with her family and special  
golf club events. In addition, she  
also enjoyed, traveling, bowling,  
playing cards, especially Bridge. She  
was a loving mother, grandmother,


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## Join Bethlehem Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School!

**Saturday, July 29 – Sunday, July 30**

They hope you and your family can join them for this free and fun overnight adventure. Their vaca-  
tion Bible school (VBS) will begin  
at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 29 and  
continue through the worship ser-  
vice on Sunday, July 30. During  
VBS, they will learn the story of  
Wandering Through the Wilder-  
ness. They will learn about the  
story through different rotations  
such as, art, games, cooking, bible  
story, and creative drama. Follow-  
ing rotations, they will then set up  
their tents and have some time for  
free play. A camp style dinner will  
be served followed by camp crafts  
and games. And no camp out would  
be complete without s'mores and  
songs by the fire!! They will then end  
the night with an outdoor movie. In  
the morning, a pancake breakfast  
will be served followed by the wor-  
ship service at 9 a.m.

Don't miss the fun!!  
Children will need to be ac-  
companied by an adult during the  
camp-out part of the night (begin-  
ning at 5 p.m.). Please bring a tent  
and camping supplies for the over-  
night.

Please call the church office at  
608-897-2341 or email at office@  
bethlehembrodhead.org to reserve  
your spot.

## Vacation Bible Camp at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

You're invited to join St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church for Up in the Air, their Vacation Bible Camp open to all children from kindergarten up through seventh grade. The camp will run from Monday, July 31 to Friday, August 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Peter will once again be partnering with Camp Philip to sing songs, play games, make crafts, and study the Word of God together. Snacks and lunch will both be provided. With this free program, they're hoping to get to know the members of our community, form some friendships, and show you what their all about here at St. Peter. And what better way to get to know each other than with a bit of summer fun?

If you'd like to know more about their Vacation Bible Camp, Sunday School, or the other services St. Peter provides, they offer a number of convenient ways to contact them. Call or text the church phone at 608-618-6090. If you'd like to get acquainted with the pastor, he'd love to hear from you as well! Call or text Pastor Tyler Swiderski at 612-270-259. Otherwise, you can email him at pastorswiderski@gmail.com.


The Camp Coordinator, Joyce Drewes, can be contacted for more info at 608-897-4071. In person visits are also always welcome. Find them at 1708 W. 6th Avenue, Brodhead. Look for the brown A-frame church! All guests are welcome to join them for worship Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., but if you'd like to drop by during the week, that works, too. Camp registration forms can be picked up in-person in the church building or by contacting Pastor Swiderski or Joyce. They're hoping to get all registration forms in by Friday, July 28th, but they're happy to take registrations the day of, if need be. Please note, if you wish to enroll multiple children, they request a separate form for each child.

They hope you join themus for Up in the Air, and have a terrific summer!


# BINGO!!

## \$2,000 in CASH prizes!!

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2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month!



Stay tuned for  
upcoming starting date!




**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
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Pat & Linda Faessler  
Married February 24, 1973

Sunday, July 16, 2023  
12:30 - 5 p.m.  
Please come help us celebrate our  
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Community Park

JOIN US FOR LUNCH, FELLOWSHIP AND LIVE MUSIC BY  
KEITH AND THE KLASSICS (FORMERLY STATE LINE PLAY  
BOYS) FROM 12:30-5 P.M.  
NO GIFTS PLEASE, WE ONLY REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE.

ACTIVITIES  
AROUND TOWN

BRODHEAD COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

The Brodhead Community Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, July 11, from noon to 5 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Avenue, Brodhead.  
For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Use sponsor code: BrodheadWI. Walk-ins welcome! You can save up to 15-minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass. Visit [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) for more information.  
Be part of something big. Make an appointment.

ANNUAL RUNAAS REUNION

The Runaas Reunion will be held on Sunday, July 9, starting at 1 p.m. at Purdy Park, Orfordville. Please bring your own drinks, table service and a dish to share. Coffee and water will be provided. Kindly spread the word to your immediate family.

SCHWARTZLOW FAMILY REUNION

Schwartzlow descendants are having their family reunion on Saturday, July 8, at Putnam Park, 6th Street and W. 3rd Avenue) in Brodhead, from 11 a.m.—4 p.m. Will eat about noon.  
Bring a dish to pass. Chicken, ham, table service and bottled water will be provided. Spread the word to other members of your family.  
If questions, contact Rita (Ringhand) Vickers at 608-897-2082.

RUB-A-DUB DOG WASH

Kiara Quimby is holding a dog wash on Saturday, August 5 and Sunday, August 6 from 8 a.m. to noon each day for her senior project. The dog wash will be held at Cardinal Car Wash, 2409 1st Center Avenue, Brodhead. The cost is \$5 per dog, which includes wash, rinse and dry. Snacks and drips will be sold for pets and people.  
All proceeds will be donated to the Green County Humane Society. Please note: services will be provided by volunteers, not professionals, pets must be leashed.  
For questions, contact [kiaraquimby@gmail.com](mailto:kiaraquimby@gmail.com).

SOFTBALL

Tuesday Night Masters' League  
Tuesday's results: Panoske Plastering defeated Bridges Bar & Grill 12-10; Beast Buffet defeated The Bar 7-5.  
Season standings: Panoske Plastering won 9 lost 0; Beast Buffet 5-4; Bridges Bar & Grill 4-5; The Bar 0-9.

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## ACADEMICS

**LORAS COLLEGE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST**

Loras College has announced the names of students who achieved Dean's List status for the 2023 spring semester. A student must earn a 3.5 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours to be recognized.

Among those named was Rachel Fosler of Davis, Illinois.

**STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST FOR SPRING 2023**

The following students from the area have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester.

The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Those named were Matthew Collins, BS Mechanical Engineering, of Brodhead; and Noah Flood Elyafi, BS Computer and Electrical Engineering, of Orfordville.

**THOMPSON GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT**

Eric Thompson, of Brodhead, graduated in May 2023 from University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, Wisconsin. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Information and Communication Technologies. The university graduated 1,173 students, with 946 undergraduate and 227 Graduate School students this spring.

**UW-LA CROSSE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST**

The following area students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for the spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year, ending May 2023.

Qualification for the Dean's List is limited to students who have attained outstanding academic achievement. To be eligible, students must have earned not less than a 3.5 semester grade point average and carried a minimum of 12 credits.

Students on the Dean's List from this area include: Kassi Heins—Exercise and Sport Science Major: Physical, Adapted, and School Health Education and Ryan Windler—Statistics Major: Actuarial Science Concentration, both of Albany; Gage Boegli—Finance Major: Risk, Insurance and Financial Planning Concentration, Madelynn McIntyre—Exercise and Sport Science Major: Physical, Adapted, and School Health Education, Liam Simons—Marketing Major, Catherine Speckman—Exercise and Sport Science Major: Exercise Science-Pre-professional Track and Amanda Visger—Theatre Arts Major: Performance Emphasis, all of Brodhead; and Seth Rieman—Exercise and Sport Science Major: Exercise Science-Pre-professional Track and Silas Rieman—Exercise and Sport Science Major: Exercise Science-Pre-professional Track, both of Davis, Illinois.

Twilight in the Park

6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m. • Veterans Park  
All concerts will be held on Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m.  
Bring your lawn chairs/blankets—Reminder: dogs are not allowed in city parks. Concerts are FREE to the public - come and enjoy!

Sunday, July 9

Cherokee Rose Band

(classic country)  
FFA Alumni Supporters - Pork chop sandwiches, brats, popcorn & lemonade





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**Saturday, July 8—"Civil War Memories and Mementos" by Leslie Bellais**

(Note Change to second Saturday)

The Green County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting Saturday, July 8 at the Monroe Public Library.

Dr. Leslie Bellais tells the powerful stories of small objects saved by Wisconsinites as mementos of the Civil War. Leslie Bellais, Ph.D. has an extensive background as a curator and historian. Her primary expertise is in pre-1940 American textiles and clothing, but she also has experience with historical and genealogical research. She worked as the Curator of Collections at the Hershey Museum of American Life in Hershey, Pennsylvania, for four years and as Curator of Costume and Textiles (later renamed Curator of Social History) at the Wisconsin Historical Society for 29 years.

She has a Bachelor's Degree in historic preservation from the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Master's Degrees in United States history from the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin is in United States history and material culture. Her thesis focused on textile sales in pre-Revolutionary War Virginia and the history and significance of late 19th century bustles! Her dissertation concerns loyalty issues experienced by Wisconsinites during World War I Wisconsin. As a student she interned at the Chancellorsville Battlefield and Colonial Williamsburg.

The meeting will be held in the second floor meeting room of the Monroe Public Library at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 8. Visitors are always welcome and there is no cost to attend. You may call Ginny at 608-426-1796 or Donna at 608-921-1537 if you have any questions. The GCGS Research Center (located in the lower level of the Monroe Public Library) is available to the public for research each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., other times available by appointment by calling 608-325-7436 on Tuesday or Bill at 608-325-2990.

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# Orfordville Fire/EMS Fighting for Survival

**By Orfordville Board of Fire Commissioners**

The Orfordville Fire Protection District, which provides fire and EMS services to five municipalities in southwestern Rock County, is at a pivotal crossroads that could ultimately result in the demise of the District.

For more than 50 years, the Orfordville Fire Protection District has served residents of the Village of Orfordville, as well as residents of the Towns of Avon, Newark, Plymouth and Spring Valley.

The Town of Newark has decided to leave the Orfordville District and enter into a service agreement with the Town of Beloit. The exodus of Newark will result in a 30% loss of tax base for the Orfordville District, placing a punitive financial burden on the remaining District taxpayers. That financial burden could ultimately cause the collapse of the District.

Failure of the Orfordville Fire Protection District would leave its roughly 5,500 residents in serious jeopardy. Additionally, the tens of thousands of residents being served by neighboring departments could also be jeopardized, as those neighboring departments will inevitably be asked to help fill the void left by a failed department currently tasked with servicing a 120-square-mile area.

While it is every municipality's right to take the necessary steps to provide the best services for its residents, the circumstances surrounding the proposed fire/EMS service agreement between the Town of Beloit and the Town of Newark are puzzling. For example, residents of the Town of Beloit would pay roughly three times more for fire/EMS services than residents of the Town of Newark. Furthermore, the amount Newark would be asked to pay would only allow for the hiring of one additional full-time person. Given the call volume the Town of Beloit is already tasked with, it's difficult to understand how the hiring of just a single additional employee would allow the Town of Beloit to answer all of the roughly 90 calls emanating from Newark.

How did we get here?

In late 2022, in response to a rapid and dangerous erosion of volunteer personnel, the Orfordville Board of Fire Commissioners took fast and decisive action to develop a budget based on a hybrid model of six full-time fire/EMS professionals, supplemented by varying levels of part-time personnel, to ensure a reliably staffed department. This plan required a massive budget increase of roughly 300%. Unfortunately, the voters of one of the District municipalities, the Town of Newark, rejected the idea.

For the past several months, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the staff, the Orfordville District has experienced a remarkable turnaround. For example, ambulance out-of-service hours have been reduced by more than 80% to just 5%. However, the current mode of heavily relying on a handful of dedicated part-time staff is not sustainable.

Thus, the Orfordville Fire Protection District continues to work toward a hybrid personnel model of full-time and part-time employees. This model will allow the Orfordville District to provide the reliable, high-quality service that is necessary—necessary for not only the residents of the District, but also the tens of thousands of residents throughout the Western Rock County region. Regardless of whether they are deliberate or inadvertent, any actions that undermine the Orfordville Fire Protection District put the entire region at risk.



New Concert in the Park sign.



Back row, left to right: Maddie Ruegsegger, Kiera Indergand, Addison Curran, Aleigh Zettle; middle row: Coach Heather Burkhalter, Riley Nicholson, Gracie Atkinson, Mads Josephs, Jackson Kundert, Coach Dawn Lederman; front row: Lexie Zimmerman, Aubree Cook, Sydney Dunlavy, Allison Curran, Ruby Edler, Mylie Jelle, Virginia Salyer, Evelyn Buholzer. Missing from photo: Elliana Shank

## 16 Gymnasts Shine at YMCA National Gymnastics Championship Meet

**Submitted by  
Luke Smetters,  
Membership and  
Community Engagement  
Director**

The Green County Family YMCA is proud to announce the outstanding achievements of its 16 talented gymnasts who recently competed at the prestigious YMCA National Gymnastics Championship Meet in Cincinnati, Ohio from June 21-25. The young athletes showcased their skills, determination, and sportsmanship, leaving an indelible mark on the national stage.

Over 1,700 gymnasts from 77 teams from across the USA attended the meet, which featured a Keynote Address by Shannon Miller, a Gymnastics Champion at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. Gymnasts from our YMCA's GEMS Gymnastics Team were eligible to compete at the national meet based on earning qualifying scores at previous meets. 16 GEMS Gymnasts attended the meet, coached by Dawn Lederman (Brodhead) and Heather Burkhalter (Monroe), bringing home a total of 30 medals.

These dedicated gymnasts demonstrated exceptional talent in various categories and levels, attesting to their commitment to the sport and countless hours of practice. Their hard work and perseverance have truly paid off. Their outstanding performances not only exemplified their individual skills but also showcased the supportive and nurturing environment provided by the Green County Family YMCA's gymnastics program. The team's success

is a testament to the dedication and expertise of the coaching staff, who have worked tirelessly to guide and mentor these young athletes.

We are incredibly proud of our gymnasts' achievements at the YMCA National Gymnastics Championship Meet and extend our sincere gratitude to the parents, families, and community who have supported these fine gymnasts.

If you have a daughter or son interested in becoming a gymnast, the Green County Family YMCA offers Preschool, Non-Competitive, and Homeschool programs aimed at teaching the fundamental skills of gymnastics. Gymnasts in those programs are invited to join the GEMS team during the spring of each year.

The following gymnastics received medals at the YMCA National Gymnastics Meet:

Level 2 Team Members: Ruby Edler (Dakota) and Mylie Jelle (Monroe). Ruby Edler—third place-Bars, sixth place-All Around; Mylie Jelle—second place-Vault, fourth place-Floor, third place-All Around.

Level 3 Team Members: Aubree Cook (Monroe), Allison Curran

(Monroe), Sydney Dunlavy (Brodhead), and Virginia Salyer (Monroe). Aubree Cook—fourth place-Beam, sixth place-Floor, fourth place-All Around; Sydney Dunlavy—fourth place-Bars; Virginia Salyer—third place-Vault, fifth place-Bars, sixth place-Beam, fifth place-Floor, fourth place-All Around.

Level 6 Team Members: Addison Curran (Monroe), Riley Nicholson (Monroe), Maddie Ruegsegger (Monroe), and Aleigh Zettle (Monroe). Addison Curran—sixth place-Vault; Riley Nicholson—sixth place-Vault, third place-Bars, fourth place-Beam, third place-All Around; Aleigh Zettle—second place-Vault, third place-Bars, third place-Beam, second place-All Around.

Xcel Silver Team Members: Evelyn Buholzer (Monroe) and Lexie Zimmerman (Monroe).

Xcel Gold Team Members: Kiera Indergand (Monroe), Mads Josephs (Monroe), Jackson Kundert (Monroe), and Elliana Shank (Brodhead). Kiera Indergand—sixth place-Beam, third place-Floor; Mads Josephs—fourth place-Beam; Jackson Kundert—first place-Vault, first place-Beam, first place-All Around; Elliana Shank—fourth place-Vault.

## One in Four people aged 65 and older has a fall each year!

Stepping On graduates have a 31% reduced rate of falls!

The ADRC of Rock County, in partnership with SSM Health Systems-Janesville, is pleased to offer Stepping On, their most popular health and wellness class for those ages 60+ starting July 11, 2023.

Stepping On is a seven-week workshop proven to help participants prevent falls. The classes will include strength and balance exercises, home safety check suggestions, expert guest speakers, and a medication review. The workshop is for people who have fallen and for people who fear falling.

A Stepping On workshop will be held on seven Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at SSM health in Janesville from July 11-August 29, 2023 (no class 8/15). A suggested donation of \$15 is asked to cover the cost of class materials. Space is limited to 12-14 participants.

For questions, or to register by Friday, July 7th, call the ADRC of Rock County at: 608-757-5309 or email: [Lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:Lisa.messer@co.rock.wi.us)

The program was developed by Dr. Lindy Clemson of Sydney, Australia, to help older adults learn ways to prevent falls. It was brought to the United States by Dr. Jane Mahoney, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, with funding from the CDC and other partners.

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- Principal's Citizenship Award—Molly Arn, Gunnar Olesen, Stella Kempel.
- Presidential Academic Award (80% or above on Reading and Math)—Rosalie Kraemer, Moira Logan, Hannah Wade.
- Reading Excellence Academic Award (90% or above on Reading)—Blake Fernandes, Eirelyn Friel, Moira Logan, Lukah Menuey, Stella Oellerich, Gunnar Olesen, Carmen Strohecker.
- Math Excellence Academic Award (90 % or above on math)—Rosalie Kraemer.
- I-Ready Reading Stretch Growth Award—Mikah Bishop, Bryce Bockhop, Callum Buchanan, Liam Butters, Jaiden Cephas, Eirelyn Friel, Moira Logan, Lukah Menuey, Stella Oellerich, Gunnar Olesen, Wren Oswald, Luciano Rivera, Carmen Strohecker, Roman Whitehead.
- I-Ready Math Stretch Growth Award—Mikah Bishop, Callum Buchanan, Liam Butters, Kaylie Henderson, Jemma Huntington, Rosalie Kraemer, Oliver Mertens, Malcolm Moore, Stella Oellerich, Gunnar Olesen, Wren Oswald, Zenon Real Banos, Kayson Richards, Carmen Strohecker, Hannah Wade, Grayson Wallin, William Zimmerman.
- Academic Achievement Award —Molly Arn, Kamden Bacon, Paige Bauman, Ryker Bennett, Emmett Benway, Jordan Burkhalter, Jaiden Cephas, Josiah Coplien, Lilly Douglas, Logan Douglas, Sydney Dunlavy, Alaina Duren, Elizabeth Fellows, Jacob Fields, Caden Gray, Devin Haney, Addi Hanson, Au'Briana Harvey, Selena Hasselmann, Parker Kaderly, Stella Kempel, Moira Logan, Malachi Mahlkuch, Chesney Malcook, Charlie Martin, Oliver Mertens, Aspen Moore, Malcolm Moore, Braelyn Olson, Amarra Ostenson, Ayva Perez, Brielle Phillips, Reese Popanz, Easton Riese, Cullen Risum, Aiden Simons, Ayden Stephens, Zenon Real Banos, Anna Wahl, Roman Whitehead, Archer Yates.



## 2022-2023 Green County Leaders Graduation

Green County Leaders is proud to announce the graduation of 32 community leaders from the 2022-2023 leadership development program. These participants were celebrated during a graduation ceremony and were recognized for their community project accomplishments and educational achievements. Those being recognized included:

Aaron Courter, representing Colony Brands, Inc; Alex Aurit, representing Colony Brands, Inc; Alex Zahn, representing Duxstad, Bestul & McNaughton, S.C.; Amanda Gerber, representing Aster Assisted Living; Angela Blizzard, representing SSM Health Monroe; Angie Mathews, representing SSM Monroe Hospital; Ashley Geisler, representing SSM Health Monroe; Ashley Servin, representing Precision Biolabs; Ashley Rieder, representing Hughes Resources; Bridget Zimmerman, representing Green County Public Health; Christine Nelson representing SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group; Claire Rindal, representing Monroe School District; Cory Kundert, representing CUNA (Credit Union National Assn); David Ewert, representing Duxstad, Bestul & McNaughton, S.C.; Grace Spangler, representing Kuhn North America; Greg Gratz, representing Colony Brands, Inc; Janelle Rucker, representing Woodford State Bank; Jessica Bystry, representing Bank of Brodhead; Joshua Wilson, representing Monroe School District; Kristen DeMay, representing Precision Drive & Control; Luke Molinaro, representing Molinaro Dairy Queen; Maria Johnson representing Pleasant View Nursing Home; Matt

Sheaffer, representing RES-Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries; Matthew Schenk, representing Kuhn North America; Nicholas Martin, representing Colony Brands, Inc; Skyler Myers, representing The Bank of New Glarus; Stephanie Edmunds, representing Kuhn North America; Stephanie Plath, representing SSM Health-Monroe Clinic; Timothy Lucas, representing SC Data Center Inc; Tyler Hocraffer, representing SC Data Center Inc; Will Oemichen, representing Green County Board of Supervisors; and William Fedders, representing Colony Brands, Inc.

Green County Leaders is an educational program where individuals practice leadership skills, deepen their understanding of community issues, and prepare for leadership roles, thereby creating a network of active and visionary individuals who leverage their experience and expertise to benefit their community and local community-based organizations. Green County Leaders participants attend a full-day program once a month, held in various locations, from September through May. This year participants met over 100 community leaders and toured 22 sites in 7 communities.

Participants also take part in a team project and other activities to hone leadership skills and community impact. This year's class projects were instrumental in laying groundwork for future efforts and included:

- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Feasibility Study, exploring issues and opportunities regarding ev stations in Green County.
- Art in Public Spaces, partnering

with Monroe Main Street, Monroe High School, and Kuhn North America Engraving to develop an art piece for downtown Monroe.

•Aspiring Leaders of Green County, partnering with Green County United way to create and maintain a group of individuals who want to improve Green County. To do so, the group plans to provide members with civic, social, and professional opportunities.

•Green County Beautification, partnering with the City of Monroe Parks and Forestry Department to create a living catalog to support the City of Monroe Terrace Tree Program and plant a pollinator garden in Twining Park.

•Youth Sports Equipment Swap, developing an opportunity for families to swap youth sports equipment.

•Homelessness in Green County, partnering with Family Promise of Green County and the school districts in Green County to create and share informational resources for youth dealing with homeless in Green County.

•ATV/UTV Mapping, to create an updated ATV/UTV map for Green County to promote tourism and economic development.

Applications for the 2023-2024 Green County Leaders program are available on June 1, 2023 online at [www.greencountyleaders.com](http://www.greencountyleaders.com). Applications are due on Friday, July 28. Tuition assistance is available. For more information on the Green County Leaders program, please contact Victoria Solomon at the Extension Green County Office at 608-328-9440 or [victoria.solomon@wisc.edu](mailto:victoria.solomon@wisc.edu).



## Pastor's Corner

**Pastor Shawn Stapleton**  
**Congregational**  
**United Church of Christ**

There are two emotions that seem to govern our American culture writ large, and the dialogue that accompanies it—fear and anger. Both emotions emanate from the same place in the brain. These primitive regions of our brain respond to external stimuli with impulse behaviors, like anger (fight), and fear (fright). The only difference between the two is whether we perceive that there is something we can do to “neutralize the threat,” so to say. If not, our brain tells us to run. If there is something we can do, we tend to get angry, and may even attack.

Now, we know that humans have

evolved beyond being governed by the most primitive regions of our brain. We can critically analyze the way in which we respond to the world around us. God gave us a highly developed frontal cortex that allows us to think about our thoughts, to dream about things that defy explanation, and to rise above our impulses. Jesus affirms that we are to “love the Lord your God . . . with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37), not just with our whole heart and soul.

But if you're wondering why there seems to be a drastic reduction in what society used to call “common sense”—which I define

as the ability to find the most reasonable, sensible solution to a problem or issue—it's because we have turned off that part of our brains in America.

Frankly, I don't think it's entirely our fault. It's no coincidence that the seeming decline in calm, rational decision-making among us as a culture strongly correlates with the increasing number, volume, and omniscience of “spin doctors” or “influencers.” Their only job is to convince us how we ought to feel about something and what to do about it. They're everywhere, blaring their spin at full volume.

There is an unstated formula for how it works. They affirm our desire for a more peaceful existence (step one), then tell us who is at fault for its collapse (step two). Those at fault get denigrating nicknames, and are found at fault for everything considered objectionable (step three). Before we know it, we join the chorus (step four).

It's a common formula in advertising as well. An advertiser identi-

(Continued to page 6)

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## Pastor's Corner

(Continued from page 5)

fies a “problem” (step one), as well as the product you need to address it (step two). Eventually they introduce new ways to use their product so you not only develop brand loyalty, but purchase the product more often than necessary (step three). Their hope is that you will recommend the product to your friends, expanding their sales with no additional investment on their part (step four).

Our brains are bombarded and tired, so we retreat into primitive thinking, responding with fear and anger. Anyone who thinks or acts differently from us must be an enemy—after all, the influencers told us so. Facts are irrelevant. Humanity and empathy are irrelevant. Context is irrelevant. Enemies must be eliminated. Our primitive brains tell us it’s a matter of survival. That’s precisely how the influencers want it.

God gave us highly developed brains, and it’s time we reclaim them. It’s time we unplug from the influencers and get re-introduced to our neighbors. When we spend quality time with other humans, our brains begin to calm down. Before we know it, we are telling stories, and finding common experiences. As we build trusting relationships with actual people who live, shop, work, eat, and sleep in our community, we rely less on our primitive brains to do the thinking for us. We will still disagree, but we remain civil and respectful. After all, we have discovered that our disagreements don’t define us.

That’s a tall order, and it’ll take time. But, every impossibly sized project has a starting point. God started creating the universe by first separating the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:1). Maybe we ought to start by looking for the light too. Find reasons to not be afraid or angry today. Look for pleasing things. Tune out the influencers and give your brain a break. Call a friend and reminisce. Or better yet, go meet someone not like you. Ask them how they define beauty. Find out what gives them hope.

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## POLICE

### Two Green County men arrested in Death Investigation

By Jeff Skatrud, Green County Sheriff

On Thursday, June 1, at approximately 3:55 p.m., the Green County Sheriff's Office was notified of a medical emergency at a residence on 6th Street in the Village of Albany. Deputies, Albany EMS and First Response and Green County EMS were dispatched to the residence. Despite attempting life saving measures, first responders were unable to revive a 37-year old Albany man and he was pronounced dead at the scene by the Green County Coroner's Office. An adult female collapsed in first responders' presence and was revived and transported by ambulance to an area hospital, where she was treated and later released. Deputies suspected opioid use as a contributing factor in the incident and began an investigation into the source of the suspected opioids. Albany Police assisted Sheriff's Office personnel at the scene.

On Friday, June 23, Green County Sheriff's Office personnel executed a search warrant related to the Albany incident at a residence in the 600 block of 14th Street in the City of Brodhead. During the search, two occupants of the home were arrested. Shannon J. Woollums, age 52, was arrested and transported to the Green County Jail. Shannon Woollums was tentatively charged with delivery of controlled substances, second degree recklessly endangering safety and first degree reckless homicide by delivery of controlled substances. It is anticipated that Woollums will make a court appearance on the charges in the next couple of days. Tywanna A. Woollums, age 49, of the same residence was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia and later released pending court.

During the weekend, a second suspect in the Albany incident was located and taken into custody. Matthew B. Riese, age 45, of Albany, was charged with party to a crime of delivery of controlled substances, party to a crime of second degree recklessly endangering safety and party to a crime of first degree reckless homicide by delivery of controlled substances. Riese is incarcerated in the Green County Jail and is also expected to appear in court in the next couple of days. The incident remains under investigation.

### Farmers of the Sugar River Hold Field Day May 23

On Tuesday, May 24, the Farmers of the Sugar River watershed group held a field day near Evansville to show the importance of conserving your soil and the benefits of doing so. There were thirty people in attendance ranging from farmers, agronomists, and land conservationists as well as three students and two agriculture education instructors from Evansville High School. A huge topic of the day was soil health and what makes soil able to sustain itself. The significant demonstration of the day was the rainfall simulation test performed by Tonya Gratz, a Soil Conservationist with Green County Land and Water Conservation.

The rainfall simulation test used 5 different specimens. All the samples for this were taken in a one-mile radius of where the event was held. The samples that were tested were: continuous no-till planted green, vertical tillage, conventional tillage, lawn grass, and ditch grass. The samples were collected by taking a "cookie cut-out" of the ground and placing it into trays with holes on the bottom to allow for water to flow through. Two jars were used to collect water with jar one collecting water that ran off the top of the samples and jar two collecting water that flowed through the sample or infiltrated the soil. The specimens were placed on a raised platform to show attendees what effects a one-inch of rain has on different management practices.

The results of the continuous no-till planted green sample were about one-quarter of jar one (runoff) filled with lightly tinted water from runoff and about one-quarter of jar two filled with water from the infiltration of the water. The vertical tillage sample resulted in about one-third of jar one (runoff) filled with brown-tinted water from runoff and about one-fourth of jar two filled with water from infiltration. The conventional tillage sample shocked the group with the results showing about one-half of jar one (runoff) filled with dark brown water from runoff and there was no water in jar two which means zero water infiltration! The yard grass sample showed about one-sixth of jar one filled with water from runoff and very clear water and about one-third of jar two filled with water from water infiltration. Ditch grass surprised the group as well by showing only about one-eighth of jar one filled with runoff and crystal-clear water and about one-fourth of jar two filled with water from infiltration.

## POLICE

**Green County Sheriff's Department June 26-July 2, 2023**

At approximately 8:17 p.m., Wednesday, deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the W3000 block of State Highway 11, Town of Jefferson, for speed. Further investigation resulted in the operator, Dana M. Sangermano, 18, of Brodhead, being cited for possession of drug paraphernalia. Dana was issued a future court date and was released.

At 10:08 p.m., Saturday, deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a registration violation

tion. These results go to show that having a cover and or even just root systems to help create pore space to allow water to flow where it needs to go and protect the soil from runoff can have lots of benefits not just for soil health but for the farmer as well.

The conventional tillage and the planted green samples were then flipped out of their trays and set side by side to be examined. Everyone was astonished that the conventional tilled sample was dry as a bone on the bottom which indicates all the one-inch rain on the sample did not soak in and just washed off the surface. The planted green sample was moist, which indicates all the water was soaked up and evenly distributed throughout the sample. Why is this? Tonya explained, "Air space created by roots and worm activity is a huge determining factor in whether the soil will soak up water or not. If we keep tilling, we destroy the soil structure, the biology in the soil, and break up roots which reduce infiltration."

Now this raises the question, why do we till? Do we do it because we want to prepare a fine seedbed for delicate seeds to be able to germinate and grow? Because there is no better feeling than getting the tractor already to go to get out into the field? Or is it because that is what Dad and Grandpa did so that is what I am going to do? While change can be scary and confusing, especially changing what farmers have always done year after year, we must take that leap of faith and start considering what may be best for the land and future generations of farmers. Even changing what we do little by little will start to show the improvement in your soil health. Do not be afraid of change, embrace it! It can show you a better future for you and your operation.

Farmers that want to learn how to make changes to their farming operation have other farmers to go to for advice and information. Farmers of the Sugar River is a producer-led watershed group willing to share the "secret sauce recipe" to healthy soil. The group offers incentive payments to offset some of the risk of trying these practices. They have a website- <https://greencountylwcd.com/farmers-of-the-sugar-river/>

The group collaborates with the Green County LWCD for administrative support and fiscal management. Contact Tonya Gratz with the Green County LWCD at 608-325-4195 ext. 121 if you'd like further information.

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

### Prairie Nature Program—Saturday, July 15th

Have you ever observed a plant or heard a bird call and wondered, "What is that?" Your cellphone has the answer. A program will be held at the Sunny Peace Prairie, 2604 S. Coon Island Road, Orfordville, on Saturday, July 15 beginning at 11 a.m. introducing two cellphone apps which identify plants and bird calls. The apps are Seek by iNaturalist, and BirdNET from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The program will cover the use of these two apps followed by a scavenger hunt for practice. Download these two free apps ahead of time from your favorite app store, and bring your cell phone to the event or pair up with someone who has a phone.

The program will last less than two hours and be held regardless of weather. What is a little rain to lovers of nature! Questions? Contact the Parkview School District, 608 879-2717.

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### Time is running out to register Powerful Tools for Caregivers Education Series Offered by Rock and Dodge Counties

Feeling Stretched as a Caregiver?

The Aging and Disability Resource Centers of Rock and Dodge Counties are pleased to offer Powerful Tools for Caregivers, an educational series designed to provide family caregivers of someone with dementia the tools needed to take care of themselves beginning on Thursday, July 27th from 5:30-7 p.m. This series will be offered virtually.

Held over six weeks, The Powerful Tools for Caregivers program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, improve communication, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources. Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming help caregivers to choose tools and put them into action.

Registration is required. Class space is limited. For more information or to register, in Rock County contact Karen Tennyson at 608-741-3615 or [karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us). In Dodge County contact Brittany Borchardt at 920-386-3580 or [bborchardt@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:bborchardt@co.dodge.wi.us).





“Grass Attack” brought their style of bluegrass to the Sunday Concert in the Park series. This week it will be Cherokee Rose at 6 p.m. at Veterans Park. (Free Press photos by Teresa Earleywine)



Grass Attack including Brodhead’s Ernst Saunders on base.



Pictured, left to right: Jackie McCarville, Extension Green County Dairy Agriculture Educator, Owen Siegmann-Rubicon; Blake Loeffler-Waterloo; Casey Johnson-Juda; Eric Brewer-Clinton; and Dustin Williams, Blackhawk Technical College Farm Management and Agri-Business Instructor. Blake Folgate-Browntown, is seated in the tractor.

### Green County Youth Complete Tractor Safety Certification

Twenty-one youth completed the 2023 Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) Tractor Safety Training Course held April 3-May 16th. Youth completed 24 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction in various aspects of tractor safety to comply with Wisconsin Act 455. Act 455 states that “No person may direct or permit a child under age 16 years to operate a farm tractor/self-propelled implement of husbandry on the highway unless the child has been certified as successfully completing a tractor and machinery operation safety course.”

Participants included: Eric Brewer, Owen Siegmann, Blake Folgate, Casey Johnson, Blake Loeffler, Jack Jordan, Troy Spotts, Aydan Leopold, Reece McIntosh, Griffin Schlafl, Miranda Anderson, Sean Larsen, Logan Gilman, Dalia Williams, Weslee Nedland, Luke Boston, Braiden Crawford, Ava Dyreson, Rahfi Pfeuti, Tanner Hilliard, and Cruz Jennrich. Upon completion

of the program, participants were awarded a Farm Safety First Aid kit, donated by Extension Green County. Jackie McCarville, Extension Green County Dairy Agriculture Educator was on hand to present the youth with their kit.

This course was delivered virtually via zoom technology with online required assignments. In addition, the class had face-to-face sessions for driver preparation, training, and testing. To achieve Wisconsin Certification, participants needed to pass both the written and driving exam to successfully complete the program.

Currently the Blackhawk Technical College Tractor Safety program is offered annually and coordinated by Dustin Williams, Farm Management and Agri-Business Instructor. For more information on the program, please contact Dustin at [dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu](mailto:dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu) or 608-329-8210.

### GCDC to Begin Pop-Up Shop Program

Green County Development Corporation (GCDC) has announced the launch of a local Pop-Up Shop program for Green County entrepreneurs.

“The goal of the program is to help revitalize the smaller downtowns in Green County, and in turn help entrepreneurs who are ready to launch their business.” GCDC Executive Director, Olivia Otte stated.

The program offers startup assistance to entrepreneurs with new business ideas for retail options in the rural communities of Green County. GCDC, with support from a grant provided by Compeer Financial, will work with Green County towns outside of Monroe to provide short-term rental/mortgage assistance for entrepreneurs that can fill vacant storefronts and expand retail options in rural downtown areas of Green County.

The intention of Pop-Up Shop programs is to increase downtown appeal and foot traffic, and to support entrepreneurs that are ready to launch their business. Local landlords are able to fill vacant storefronts, local investment grows, and livability of our communities increases.

Entrepreneurs and storefront owners can contact GCDC for more information on the Pop-Up Shop program, at [gcdc@greencounty-development.com](mailto:gcdc@greencounty-development.com) or by calling 608-328-9452.

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