# Vol. 17, No. 57 - Wednesday, November 26, 2025

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

PHONE: 608-897-4797 • Email: brodheadfreepress@gmail.com • 1035 1st Center Ave., Ste. 107 • Web site: www.brodheadfreepress.com

397-4797 · Email: brodheadfreepress@gmail.com · 1035 1st Center Ave.,

#### **City Council**

### Concerns Raised about BAEMS Contract

#### By Grace Kufahl

Brittney Mitchel from MSA conducted the required Community Development Block Grant public hearing for the West Third Avenue and 13th Street project. A question was asked about the nature of the project, but no citizens raised concerns.

Due to interest from the Planning Commission, David Adam Mattox from E-Plan Exam advised the Council his company offers an alternative to state building code review. Mattox explained they guarantee 15-day turn around compared to 60-90 days when going through the state and further advised that they return 10% of the fees which would otherwise all go to the state. The Council later approved to accept the E-Plan Exam agreement.

City resident and teacher, Lori Riese, expressed concerns that the city reported they signed an agreement with Brodhead Area EMS but she understood that it was their own contract rather than the contract requested by BAEMS. She stated she is further concerned if BAEMS doesn't agree to the city's contract, it may jeopardize EMS services after the first of the year.

The Budget Approval Resolution passed after Treasurer Miller reported the assessor's contract, approved following the public budget hearing, resulted in a \$10,000 saving, which was then added to the contingency fund.

#### In Other Business:

The operator's license for SD Minimart was referred to Public Safety for verification of the 90-day state residency requirement.

The Mobile Food Vendor License for Eat at Joe's was granted with the condition that the person submitting the request not be the one to drive the truck.

After discussion, a new organization chart was approved contingent upon moving the city council to show that they are co-equal to the mayor.

The Council approved the second contractor payment in the amount of \$744,029.55 for the Crosswinds Development.





#### Woodsview Duplexes Has Openings

If you are over 65 and looking to downsize, we have room at woods view duplexes. Our community is located on 23rd Street, Brodhead, close to wildlife on a quiet dead-end street. You will have a life-long lease and we will cover all utilities, snow removal, lawn maintenance, appliances and routine maintenance inside and outside of the duplex. The only things you will need to provide is your cable, phone and internet. There is a \$180,000 deposit that is 80% refundable after your move out. A monthly maintenance fee of \$715 will give you peace of mind and comfort. We are taking applications for a two bedroom, two bath apartment with a one car garage and a four seasons room. The unit is available for a December 2025 move-in. Contact Casey at 602-315-9191 for more information or to be placed on our waiting list for future openings. The unit is 1,300 sq ft.

## Brodhead Area EMS responds to City of Brodhead information

Some of the information presented in the recent newspaper articles and City of Brodhead Facebook page regarding the EMS contract is misleading, and other parts are false.

The contract the Brodhead Mayor/City Council are reporting having signed, was NOT the same Brodhead Area Emergency Medical Services, Inc's contract that the surrounding five (5) municipalities have recently signed and that the City of Brodhead has signed in the past. The current Brodhead Area EMS contract offering is the same basic contract language that the City of Brodhead signed covering the period from January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2025. The contract the

City of Brodhead representatives recently reported signing was new contract language the city attorney drafted that provides the Mayor/ City council to have some power over the EMS's Board of Directors decision making ability. The Brodhead Area EMS serves five (5) municipalities in addition to the City of Brodhead, and the EMS Board determined it would not be fair to give one municipality more power that the majority of the municipalities. Though negotiations for the future may ensue, all other municipalities have already signed the Brodhead Area EMS proposed contract for 2026. Additionally, since early 2024,

(Continued to page 2)



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#### **CHURCH DIRECTORY**



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Albany United Methodist Church, 500 Park Street, Albany. 608-862-3206, Elizabeth Staniforth-Seamster, Pastor. Sunday worship 8 and 10 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9 a.m.; Sunday school age three through 12th grade at 8:45 a.m. Open Communion each 1st Sunday. Check our web page at albanyumchurch.

Bethany Lutheran Church, 1652 West Church Road, Brodhead. 608-897-4158. Pastor position currently open. Interested candidates may reach out via Facebook or call Bethany Lutheran Church directly. Sunday school 8:45 a.m.; Sunday worship service 10 a.m. Holy Communion first Sunday of each month.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Ave, Brodhead. Phone: 608-897-2341 Pastor Callie Arendt. Email: office@bethlehembrodhead.org. Website: www.bethlehembrodhead.org. Sunday in-person worship with Communion at 9 a.m. Online worship option via Facebook-Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Bingo the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Congregational United Church of Christ, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead. 608-897-2917. Pastor Shawn Stapleton. Sundays: 10 a.m. worship September through May. Sunday school every other Sunday September thru May at 8:45 a.m. Nursery is available for those who desire. Communion first Sunday of each month. Quilting and crafts workshop every Wednesday at 9 a.m. AA meetings Tuesday 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. evening service. Wednesday 6 p.m. service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Patrick Catholic Church, 410 E. State Street, Albany, part of Christ the King Pastorate. Fr. Chahm Gahng, Pastor. Mass on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8 a.m. www.ctk-p.org, 608-325-9506 or secretary@ctk-p.org.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 1005 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, part of Christ the King Pastorate. Fr. Chahm Gahng, Pastor. Mass on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 11 a.m. www.ctk-p.org, 608-325-9506 or secretary@ctk-p.org.

St. Victor Catholic Church, 1760 14th Street, Monroe, part of Christ the King Pastorate. Fr. Chahm Gahng, Pastor. Mass on Monday 6:15 p.m., Tuesday through Friday 8:15 a.m., Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 and 10 a.m. www.ctk-p. org, 608-325-9506. Fully accessible for people with disabilities.

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

hear about upcoming initiatives, and enjoy a slice of pizza. All are welcome to attend!

And don't forget—Community Bring a friend, grab a puzzle, and

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

#### **Sunday Night Winter** Volleyball

11/23 standings: I'd Smack That won 20 lost 1, That's What She Set 18-3, Getting Diggy With It 14-7, Net Ninjas 13-8, The Goon Squad 13-8, Super Soy 12-9, Victorious Secret 12-9, Killer Serves 10-11, All Sets Are Off 9-12, One Hit Wonders 8-13, Hit Happens 7-14, Fambam Slammers 6-15, Cactus Squad 4-17, It's A Set Up 1-20.

#### **Brodhead Area EMS**

#### (Continued from page 1)

Brodhead Area EMS has optionally provided the City of Brodhead with monthly financial documents to provide the transparency they are asking for, and the EMS has offered to advise the EMS's current liability insurance coverage.

Regarding the Brodhead Area EMS's lack of communication, an EMS representative did reply to the city attorney's September 23rd, 2025, email the very next day, on September 24th, 2025. In turn, the city's attorney confirmed receipt of that response and thanked the EMS representative for the information shared.

Unfortunately, some Brodhead City council representation has publicly stated that the City of Brodhead is attempting to pressure the Brodhead Area EMS to merge with the Brodhead Fire District. The Brodhead Area EMS sees this pressuring to merge, as an attempt to gain absolute power over this private, not-for-profit organization that has served the citizens of Brodhead and surrounding townships for decades with well trained staff, excellent equipment, and with fiscal financial oversight by an experienced nine (9) member board of directors. The Brodhead Area EMS owns a modern facility that was originally built and then expanded a few years ago with the generous funding assistance of local organizations and citizen donations, but without any levy on the tax base. The City of Brodhead's pressure to sign an exclusive contract is not viewed as a move to better the emergency medical response for Brodhead and the surrounding

To ensure there is thorough communication between Brodhead Area EMS and the Brodhead Fire District, quarterly meetings are held involving the two organizations; however, the City of Brodhead representation hasn't attended the last two meetings.

We appreciate the support of the Brodhead community and the other five municipalities that have signed the Brodhead Area Emergency Medical Services, Inc's contract, and hope continued interactions with the City of Brodhead will allow us to serve the City of Brodhead citizens into 2026.

#### **DEADLINE** APPROACHING FOR CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE

The Children's Christmas Benefit is accepting holiday referrals for families with children in the rural communities of Rock County. The Children's Christmas Benefit delivers food and gifts anonymously and confidentially to families who typically are not served by other charities or organizations. Many families are going through temporary crisis, health and medical problems, or job loss, and could use a little extra help during this holiday season. If you know of a family that could use help this holiday season with food and gifts for the children, please email childrenschristmasbenefit@yahoo. com. Referrals would be appreciated by Friday, December 5, 2025 so that adequate time can be allotted for filling the gift orders.

#### **ACTIVITIES** AROUND TOWN

#### FIRE AND ICE FESTIVAL LIGHTED PARADE

Entries are being taken for the Brodhead Fire and Ice Festival— Brodhead Water and Light parade to be held Friday, December 5, starting at 7 p.m. The parade will travel from 10th Street down 1st Center Avenue to 12th Street.

Register today by emailing admin@brodheadchamber.com.

#### SANTA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Santa uses the Brodhead Optimist Mitten Tree Project to help make Christmas special for all children in our community. This year is no exception. Anyone wishing to help Santa gather gifts for those children in need is asked to pick a set of mittens from the tree in the Bank of Brodhead lobby, or the Bank of New Glarus-Brodhead Branch lobby. As a reminder, the bank lobbies are closed on Saturdays.

Beginning Friday, November 21, please pick up and fill out the mitten asking for your contact information and leave it in the mailbox nearby. Then take the other mitten containing the child's age, size and wish list with you. After shopping, just wrap your gift and attach the mitten with the child's info on the package and drop it off where you picked up the mitten. The gifts must be returned by Tuesday, Decem-

Happy shopping to all of Santa's helpers and thank you for participating in this great Optimist project. If you have any questions, please call 414-405-6203.

#### BRODHEAD LIONS CLUB COLLECTING DEER HIDES

The Brodhead Lions will join in with Lions from across the state of Wisconsin in collecting deer hides again this year. Hides are sold, made into gloves, with the tails made into fly fishing lures. Monies made from this sale will go to support the Wisconsin Lions camp for the blind or visually impaired. Hides may be dropped off any time, look for the area at Gassers Hardware.

#### BMS HOLIDAY SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The Brodhead Middle School TOOL team is proud to collaborate with BMS staff and students to host our annual holiday luncheon on Friday, December 12. The Team of Outstanding Leaders will organize a program of musical performances, trivia, readings, crafts, and door prizes. The program will begin at 11:30 a.m., with lunch service at noon, and wrap up around 1 p.m. This luncheon is an opportunity for senior citizens in our community to gather for good cheer and festivities before the holidays. Contact the Brodhead Middle School office at 897-2184 by Wednesday, December 10, if you plan to attend.

Free-will donations are accepted at the luncheon to support this holiday tradition, as are donations from area businesses to be added to our door prize table. Contact stresemer@brodhead.k12.wi.us for donations.



Pictured, left to right: Judy Kaderly, Kim Shields, Shelly

#### **Christmas Is Coming—** Sing For Joy

The cantata "Christmas Is Coming—Sing For Joy" will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Juda Zion Community Church. Written by Steven Curtis Chapman, Jason Gray, and Chris Tomlin, and directed by Shelly Jordan, the cantata highlights both new songs and old Christmas favorites. Narrators for the program are Kay Carter and Bob Severson. Lily Williams is cast in the role of Mary and Lucas Woodward is Joseph.

Members of the adult choir are: Steve Anderson, Kathy Broger, Jen Coppas, Sara Carr, Kay Carter, Irv Case, Sharon Creuzer, Julie Davis, JoAnn Eberle, Rose Engen, Seth Engen, Beth Figi, Jake Hoesly, Joyce Hoesly, Peg Jordan, Judy Kaderly, Kalvin Kaderly, Rudy Kaderly, Laurie Martenson, Debbie Mason, Nicole Ramirez, Carrie Schwartz, Bob Severson, Kim Shields, Lily Williams, Lucas Woodward and Pastor Mark Woodward. Also participating, is the children's choir, directed by Sara Carr.

Following the performance a time of refreshments and fellowship will be held in the church Fellowship Hall. The program is free and open to the public. Juda Zion Church is located at N2350 Church Street, Juda.



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

#### Brodhead Memorial Public Library

#### By Sarah Carpenter

As the holiday season approaches, the Brodhead Memorial Public Library would like to remind patrons of our upcoming Thanksgiving closures. The library will be closed on Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, in observance of the holiday. We will reopen for our regular Saturday hours—9 a.m. to 12 p.m.—on November 29. Please also note that there will be no Preschool Story Time on Wednesday, November 26.

Looking ahead to December, the Friends of the Brodhead Memorial Public Library invite the community to their next meeting on Tuesday, December 2, at 5:30 p.m. This month's gathering will be held at Fat Boyz Pizza, located at 1002 1st Center Avenue. This informal meet-up

is an excellent opportunity to connect with current Friends members,

Puzzle Night is coming up on Friday, December 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. enjoy a relaxing evening at the library. All ages are welcome!



We invite you to join us and celebrate the Christmas Season at Albany United Methodist Church!

Sunday, December 7th – 6:00p – 7:00p

Enjoy the sounds of the season with a special musical performance from Marcus Adams and scripture readings!

Bake Sale by Senior High Sunday School

Albany United Methodist Church, 500 Park Street, Albany WI



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#### Juda Craft Fair

The Juda Booster Club will be hosting the Juda Craft Fair on Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Juda School, N2385 Spring Street. There will be jewelry, ceramics, handmade signs, homemade soaps, quilts, cross stitch, easy to prepare food, spices, drink mixes, wickless candles, plastic canvas, gourmet food products and much more.

Concessions will be available all day, with breakfast and lunch options as well, sponsored by the junior class.

Santa will be visiting from 10 a.m. to noon.

Admission is free.

## Football contest

The highest scoring football game of the week was Washington over UCLA, 48-14. Dennis Schwartz, Brodhead, won first place with one incorrect game and 48 points. Second place was a three way tie with one incorrect game and 49 points: Ann Schwartz of Brodhead, and Lynette VonAllmen and Tom Brewer, both of Albany.

Eric VonAllmen, Albany, also had one incorrect game and 52 points.

Thank you to our sponsors and participates for another successful year.

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

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

Students, the Oratorical Contest has even bigger prize money available. You must be under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2026, and create a speech that lasts between four and five minutes on the topic of "The Moment I Realized I Belonged—My Definition of Community". Pick up your application at the middle school, high school or library as soon as possible and return by Monday, January 5th to secure your space!

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

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

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

#### NO PICKUP ON THANKSGIVING

**TRASH & RECYCLING CUSTOMERS** 



Due to the Thanksgiving
Holiday, City of Brodhead
residents normally collected on
Friday will be collected instead
on Saturday, November 29th.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



#### Join us in Ireland!

April 17-25, 2026

This Guided Tour offers stops at legendary pubs along with plenty of traditional highlights.

Contact Travel Scope at 608-756-3666, cherylr@travelscopeinc.com.



1034 1st Center Avenue Brodhead, WI 53520 608-897-9065





Wednesday, November 26

Drink Specials
Karaoke — 8 p.m. to Midnight

#### Juda Fire Department's

#### 32nd Annual GUN SHOW

Sunday, December 7th 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Held at the
Juda Community Center & Fire Station
N2350 County Road S
Juda, WI 53550

Sell ★ Trade ★ Buy ★ Browse



1034 1st Center Avenue Brodhead, WI 53520 608-897-9065



Bridges
Breakfast with
Santa!
Sunday, December 7
8 - 11 a.m.

Featuring Breakfast Buffet only

Free Hot Chocolate and Cookies for the kids.

Bring your camera to take a picture with Santa! Santa will be at Bridges from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

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

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS



"Life is like riding a bike. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." ~ Albert Einstein



Allie Dahl led the Cardinal girls' basketball team, with 18 points, four from beyond the arc, in a non-conference match against Cambridge last Tuesday. They won against the New Glarus Knights on Friday. This week, they play at Edgerton on Tuesday for their conference opener. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



## Family Promise of Green County expands program

By Rick Gleason, Executive Director, Family Promise of Green County

Family Promise of Green County provides emergency housing services and other critical needs for Green County families and individuals facing homelessness or who have become homeless. This organization began in the early spring of 2011 when a book study group at Monroe United Methodist Church explored poverty in our Green County community and discovered a need for further action. This group, led by Robert (Bob) and Cheryl Beck, Arthur and Barbara Bartsch, and others, with boots on the ground, took this mission seriously and began to explore ways to address a growing need. Bob Beck reached out to the Family Promise National Office, and by the late spring of 2011, Family Promise of Green County was officially a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization created to serve our local families in need.

This group of people moved from the study room in the church to the streets of our communities and brought churches and community organizations together to turn an idea into reality. This group grew to more than 30 local churches, organizations, and civic groups that were on a mission. Grace Lutheran Church in Monroe graciously provided their vacant parsonage to be the first home for Family Promise of Green County.

Fast forward to 2019, by this time, Family Promise had outgrown its location in the parsonage and began to explore options for expansion. Greg and Penny Fedders had offered a property to Family Promise, and by October of 2019, they had closed on their first property. This was an upper and lower duplex, which allowed the organization to operate with offices and emergency shelter services in the lower level while creating a transitional housing program in the upper apartment and continuing their partnership with approximately 30 local churches, which provided for their rotational shelter program.

In 2020, with the COVID pandemic, the program changed, and the emergency shelter was brought into the main building and eventually became a static site shelter housed in the lower level of the duplex. As homelessness continued to grow in Green County, so did the need for more space to allow the organization to serve more families at one time. The organization began to explore the addition of a small fourplex housing unit onto their current building and moved forward with renderings and discussions with the city of Monroe Zoning. With a plan

to move forward and begin construction in 2025, something unexpected happened. Something that no one saw coming.

In January of 2025, a local business owner by the name of Jody Neuenschwander-Hauser reached out to Family Promise of Green County with a gift that would serve Green County in a way no one could have even imagined. Jody and her mother (Donna Severson) had owned and operated Graceland Manor Assisted Living on West 17th Street in Monroe for more than 30 years. A dream that Jody and her mother had built and grown out of their love for serving people in Green County. Jody had lost her mother and continued to operate this facility on her own, and in 2025, she had decided that she was ready to retire. She reached out to Family Promise to ask if we would be interested in purchasing the property to expand our program. Family Promise Director, Rick Gleason, had worked with Jody in the past, and she knew this would be a program that would use the property to continue to serve the people of Green County. Jody told Rick that she had multiple corporate groups trying to buy her CBRF property from her, even before she had decided to retire, but Jody said, "Mom and I built this place to serve the people of Green County, and I do not want to sell to any outside corporate people. I want this property to continue to serve Green County families, and I know Family Promise will make that happen." Family Promise purchased the Graceland Manor property on October 1, 2025, and Jody officially retired.

The generosity of Jody cannot go unnoticed in this community. Jody could have received a much greater offer for her property by selling out to corporate realtors, but her heart has always been focused on serving the people of Green County, and that makes her a community hero in my book. What Jody gave Green County was a huge gift. First, it allowed Family Promise of Green County the opportunity to increase staffing and triple the number of families we could serve at one time. Our previous property, located along Highway 69 South, would become our new Affordable Housing program, but it doesn't end there. The Graceland Manor property consists of two CBRF buildings. each 4,700 sq. ft. Family Promise is utilizing one building for their own program, and the second building is being leased to the Green County Homeless Shelter and Warming/ Cooling Center. Officially "FIELDS of Green County" (Fostering Independence, Empowerment, Lasting Dignity, and Stability). The Green County Shelter program has been a topic of discussion for many years; however, finding the right building has been a challenge until now. This winter, Green County residents will have a safe, warm place available to them with services and resources to help them work toward independent housing and stability. Dan Williams, Director of Green County Human Services, has been working long hours to create this program, and it is scheduled to open in early December 2025. For more information, you can visit their Facebook page, "Green County Homeless Shelter," or visit their Green County Human Services website, go to Economic Support, and then click on the Shelter link. There is a need for volunteers who would be interested in assisting with staffing, meals, and items needed to supply the shelter, as well as financial donations to support the program. All the details can be found on their website.

To Jody Neuenschwander-Hauser, Green County is beyond grateful to you for your commitment to the community and your generosity. May your retirement be as wonderful as you are, and for the entire Green County Community, I say thank you for such an amazing gift!

#### Saturday Mornings at the Durand Library

Toys and Books Galore for Young Visitors Submitted by Barbara Flores, President, Friends of the Durand Library

Are you expecting young guests at your home this Thanksgiving weekend? Please know that the library offers books as well as toys and games to check out and share with them. Nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren will love snuggling with a family member and hearing a story read to them

Through a collaboration with the school, the Friends of the Durand Library maintains public hours so that residents of the school district can check out children's as well as adult books.

The elementary section of the library is just huge ranging from board books to all reading levels for children. There are terrific nonfiction books, which are full of information on so many topics which are fascinating to children: animals, nature, farms, trains and much more. Many adults will find themselves pleased to learn themselves as they share these books with their young guests. And, of course, there are delightful fiction and fun books for every age group, from old favorites to the newest children's literature.

In addition to books, there are several STEM quality games available for checkout from simple building and stacking toys to ones such as the spirograph, which requires a battery and challenges the adult as well as the child.

The volunteers at the Durand Library urge you to take advantage of the array of material for children. Sharing a book with a child by reading to them (or letting them read to you!) increases children's skills and interest in learning. And, of course, when your little guests go home, you can simply return the material.

During the Thanksgiving weekend the library will have regular public hours Saturday morning, November 29 from 9 a.m. to noon. Entry to the library is at the east, or playground, end of the building. Just follow the signs along the wide paved walkway. Hours are 9 a.m.—noon Saturdays and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday evenings.

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



#### Connect **Green County** announces **Third Annual Ugly Sweater Holiday Party**

Connect Green County will host its 3rd Annual Ugly Sweater Holiday Party on Thursday, December 18, at the Monroe Golf Club, 2205 21st Street in Monroe, Wisconsin. The event runs from 4 to 8 p.m. and is free for all attendees. Guests will also receive a complimentary raffle entry and one drink ticket.

Connect Green County is a networking group created to bring together local professionals, community members, and newcomers who want to build relationships and get more connected in Green County. The group hosts casual events throughout the year to help people meet one another, share ideas, and engage in the community.

"The Ugly Sweater Party has become one of our favorite traditions," said Michelle Prien, Connect Green County Board President. "It's a simple, fun way for folks to unwind, make new connections, and enjoy the holiday season together."

Attendees are encouraged to wear their most festive or outrageous holiday sweaters and join in for an evening of relaxed conversation, light activities, and seasonal cheer.

For more information, contact Olivia Otte at 608-328-9452 or gcdc@greencountydevelopment. com, or check out the Connect Green County Facebook page for updates.

#### St. Peter thanks community for coming to our annual dinner

By Pastor Tyler Swiderski

Another year, another Thanksgiving Dinner in the books! St. Peter Lutheran Church was honored to present its 44th annual dinner on Monday, November 10th. As always, it was a wonderful group effort, and we are incredibly grateful for everyone involved in making it happen. Thank you to those of you who prepared and served the food, and thank you to everyone who attended and made this dinner such a joy to host! In all, we were able to raise \$500 for Brodhead's own EMS and another \$500 for Christian Aid and Relief, our synod's organization for providing disaster relief and humanitarian aid all around the world. Special thanks also go out to Thrivent Financial, Texas Roadhouse, Ten Eyck Apple Orchard, and Justin and his associates at Piggly Wiggly for their generous contributions to our meal. Of course, we invite you to come back Wednesday, November 26th, too, when we will be gathering for our annual Thanksgiving Eve worship service at 7 p.m.! And with all that being said, what a joy it is to be a part of such a wonderful community! From all of us at St. Peter, have a blessed Thanksgiving! Pictured to the right: Pastor Swiderski, Joyce

Nipple, and Ken Hoesly



#### **Brodhead BackPacker** Program received almost entire trailer of food

#### **Submitted by Kirsten** Novy, District Communication Specialist, Brodhead **School District**

The Battle of Businesses took place on Saturday, November 15, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Brodhead Piggly Wiggly. The following businesses or organizations participated to help collect food donations to be distributed between White Gift Food Pantry, Brodhead Family Promise Community Food Pantry, and the Brodhead BackPacker Pro-

Rolli Worx, Newcomer Funeral Home, Brodhead Family Promise Community Food Pantry, Backpacker Program, Jeremy Pinnow and Associates, EXIT Professional Real Estate, Schlittler Construction, First

Center Floral and Garden, Sugar River Bank-Brodhead, Optimist Club, KC Lawn Care, Bank of Brodhead, Stateline Mental Health, Living Word Church, Campbell's Piggly Wiggly, Bullwinkle's Coffee and More, Cove's Electric, Floors for Less, Bridges Bar and Grill, Green Pec Valley-Monticel-County, lo, Western Rock County ATV Clubs, The Nurturing Tree Early Learning Academy, Brodhead Jaycees, Kobussen Busses, Huntington and Sons Plumbing, Brodhead Dance Academy, Rustic Road Training, Goecks Concrete, and White

In total, 82 shopping carts were filled with food to donate to our community. Jeremy Pinnow and Associates won first place with nine full shopping carts, EXIT Pro-



#### **Elite Eighth Graders**

Chosen by the Brodhead Middle School eighth-grade team of teachers in appreciation for hard work, kindness, willingness, and responsibility shown throughout the first quarter in the classroom and out.

Front row, left to right: Anna W., Molly A., Brielle P., Moria L., William W., Oliver M., and Hannah W.; back row: Chesney M., Addi F., Sydney D., Lukah M., Malachi M., Gunnar O., Mikah B., and Rosalie K. Absent: Emmett B.





fessional Real Estate took second place with eight full shopping carts, and Schlittler Construction and First Center Floral and Garden tied for third place with seven full shopping carts of food donations.

Our BackPacker Program received almost an entire trailer full of food that we will use to send home in our weekly weekend bags as well as the larger bags that we send home for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter breaks. The food donated also allows for the BackPacker

program to save on the cost of that food, which allows for us to put that money towards the weekly Piggly Wiggly vouchers we send home with the bags, which include fresh items such as milk, eggs, bread, veggies, fruit, and ground beef. The outpouring of donations of food, money, time and participation in this event has been amazing and has made our hearts full with pride and gratefulness to be a part of such a wonderful giving community.

#### **Monday Night Mixed League**

11/17—High series: Ryan Flood 699, Ty Powell 656, Robert Murray 644. High games: R. Flood 269, Zack Hefty 249, R. Murray 247. Broughton's Bar-high team game 1,049 and series 3,085. Standings: Broughton's Bar won 18 lost 9, Beloit Chiropractic 17-10, Center Tavern 16-11, Fosters Gaming 11-16, Albany Lanes 10-17, Bartelt 9-18.

#### **Tuesday Shaningans**

11/18—High series: Karrie Laws 376, Becky Hanneman 348, Shi Strommen 337, Dennis Atkinson 554, Dan Eaton 534, Doug Hawkins 488. High games: K. Laws 139, B. Hanneman 129, Linda Neuenschwander 128, D. Atkinson 200, Rick Clark 193, D. Eaton 188. Sweet Mini HaHa-high team game 778 and series 2,265. Standings: Sweet Mini HaHa won 34 lost 15, The Young & The Restless 32-17, Misfits 32-17, Perfectly Aged 31-18, Greightful Dead 11-38.

#### Badger

11/18—High series: Ryan Brugger 698, Ethan Pfueti 666, Rob Kubesh 654, Don Nieman 629. High games: R. Brugger 268, E. Pfueti 241, John Elmer 241, R. Kubesh 237. Jim's Mechanic Shophigh team game 857 and series 2,408. Standings: Renks won 7 lost 0, Jim's Mechanic Shop 7-0, Counter Attack 7-0, Decatur Dairy 0-7, Team 6 0-7, TUGS 0-7

#### Wednesday Night Ladies

11/19—High series: Sarah Flood 474, Jessica Holtsapple 438, Marcie Brugger 421, Amy Golz 421, Brenda Jacobson 417. High games: S. Flood 192, Barb Larson 159, Jen Cole 158, J. Holtsapple 155, M. Brugger 154, A. Golz 154. Albertson's-high team game 572 and series 1,593. Standings: General Store won 54 lost 23, Larson Acres 54-23, Glenn-Ann Ladies 41-36, Albertson's 31-46, Stables Bar & Grill 30-47, Crystal's Team 21-56.

#### **Thursday Afternoon Ladies**

11/20—High series: Barb Chapman 410, Laurie Thommen 401, Becky Riese 393. High games: B. Riese 164, B. Chapman 162, Priscilla Kaderly 145. Mikes' Flooring-high team game 538. Knutes-high team series 1,435. Standings: Knutes won 60 lost 24, Briggs Heating and AC 58-26, Nolte's Garage 52-32, Mike's Flooring 48-36, Albany Lanes 32-52.

#### **Thursday Night Mixed**

11/20—High series: Robert Murray 723, Ryan Flood 703, Brandon Bayrhoffer 676, Scott Wahler 654. High games: R. Murray 280, TJ Golz 279, R. Flood 255, Josh Fenwick 245. Albany Laneshigh team game 1,068 and series 3,059. Standings: Golz Electric won 12 lost 2, Glenn Ann Holsteins 9-5, Albany Lanes 7-7, Broughton's Corner Bar 1 7-7, Broughton's Corner Bar 2 4-10, Attica Bar 3-11.

#### **Brodhead Juniors**

11/22—High series—boys: Casey Johnson 435, Alexander Ramirez-Vogel 427, Evan Johnson 400, Carter Fenwick 370, Tristan Modaff 359, Jayse Bennett 308. High games—boys: E. Johnson 181, A. Ramirez-Vogel 180, C. Johnson 159, J. Bennett 147, T. Modaff 142, C. Fenwick 140. High series—girls: Aubrie Bartelt 372, Kelsee Brugger 364, Emma Welbig 348, Lilly Johnson 252. High games—girls: K. Brugger 148, E. Welbig 132, A. Bartelt 128, L. Johnson 119.

#### **Brodhead Youth**

11/22—High series: Jaxson Brewer 138, Braxton Normington 104, Thorin Perrin 67, Ayla Brugger 173, Amelia Fenwick 112, Abigail Fenwick 95, Kinslee Brewer 69, Keira Shrader 39. High games: J. Brewer 79, B. Normington 54, T. Perrin 39, A. Brugger 87, Abigail Fenwick 72, Amelia Fenwick 63, K. Brewer 39, K. Shrader 22.

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South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union Board Members, left to right: Alicia Gasaway, Sheila Everhart, Olivia Roth, Jonas Moench, John Peck, Mark Doudlah, Kathy Pennington, Penny Molina. Not pictured: Sue Nelson.

#### **South Central Chapter of Wisconsin Farmers Union Elects New Leadership Team**

The South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union serving Green, Lafayette and Rock Counties is a member-driven organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for farmers and rural communities. SCWFU is a vibrant, engaged local group that welcomes people who enjoy and support local food, farming and maintaining our rural countryside.

The South Central Chapter of Wisconsin Farmers Union held its annual board meeting to elect its leadership team and envision the year ahead. The chapter's leadership team is a strong mix of newer members and experienced Farmers Union individuals. The board for the upcoming year is as follows:

Penny Molina (Brooklyn, Green County)—President

Sheila Everhart (Janesville, Rock County)—Vice President, Policy Committee Chair

Olivia Roth (Albany, Green County)—Secretary, Communications Committee Chair

Kathy Pennington (Brooklyn, Green County)—Treasurer and Parliamentarian

John Peck (Brooklyn Green County)—Membership Committee Chair

Alicia Gasaway (York, Green County)—Events Committee Chair

Mark Doudlah (Evansville, Rock County)—Ag Business Committee Chair

Jonas Moench (Orfordville, Rock County)—Ag Business Committee member

Sue Nelson (Browntown, Green County)-Events and Policy Committee member

The chapter's 2025-26 focus includes providing networking and mentorship opportunities, including assisting local farmers, ag businesses and rural communities with resources, advocacy, policy, civic orientation and education. The chapter hosts three to four chapter events per year which are open to all. To sign up for the chapter's monthly newsletter or more information visit https://scwfu.com/ or email wfusouthcentral@gmail.com.



#### By Laura Roth, Children's Librarian

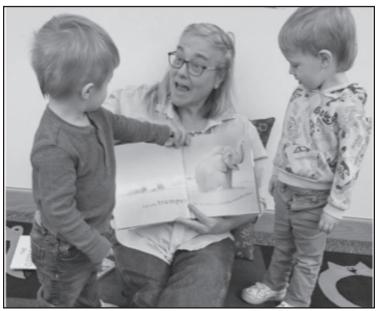
Another fun day at Albertson Memorial Library's Preschool Story Time! The first story, Can You Growl Like a Bear (Butler) had the preschoolers acting like animals! Wow, can they growl! Then a book about animal acting like humans: Dogs Don't Wear Sneakers (Numeroff)! What a fun, silly story! Imagine a moose going bowling and chickens diving into a swimming pool! Can a cow dance? Finally, The Cuddle Book (Genechten) highlighted different animals showing affection. (Porcupines cuddle carefully!) The kiddos finished with a cuddle craft, tracing their arms to create a hug.

Next week will be the last Princess themed story time. (Switching to family: parents, grandparents, etc.) After hearing the story Never Let A Princess Paint With Her Unicorn (Alber), the preschoolers will make their own unicorn-tail paint brush and paint a unicorn with it. There might be a princess song or two and finally, a search for Cinderella's glass slipper.

Story Time meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Albertson Memorial Library in Albany. There's a great group of participants presently, but plenty of room for more. We'd love to welcome new friends.

See you next week?









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#### **Craft Sales**



1601 19th Street (in the heated back shed) Zuhlke's 9th Annual Holiday Craft Sale. Sat., Nov. 29 and Sun., Nov. 30, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free hot chocolate and cookies. NEW variety of gift baskets and other items; bake sale; homemade lefse; dehyrated sourdogh bread starter; home, yard and Christmas decor; metal wall hangings; solar lights; wooden Packer, Badger and John Deere plus more signs; cement Packer. Badger. animal statuary; baby sweaters, baby blankets; scrubbies, pot holders, dish cloths; plush animal doorstops/shelf sitters; Christmas bells of all sizes; garden goodies; Christmas towel sets; handmade cards; gnomes; Highland Cow tree ornaments and baskets; hand knitted ear warmers. Christmas items—old and new. Shirley Zuhlke, 608-289-5729.

#### **Green County Sheriff's Department** November 17-23, 2025

At 10:26 p.m., Tuesday, deputies, along with Brodhead Police Department, Brodhead Fire Department, and Brodhead EMS, responded to the N4600 block of STH 104, in the Town of Decatur, for a single vehicle crash with injuries. The investigation found that Cory R. Hanson, 32, of Brodhead, was traveling southbound when he swerved to miss a raccoon in the road. Hanson then lost control of the vehicle and entered the west ditch, where the vehicle overturned and then came to a rest. Hanson sustained apparent non-life-threatening injuries and was later released. The vehicle sustained disabling damage, with airbag deployment, and was towed from the scene.

At 3:25 a.m., Saturday, deputies responded to the W1200 block of Ten Eyck Road, in the Town of Decatur, for a reported suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, Deputies located an unoccupied vehicle involved in a crash. The investigation found that Sydney L. Curran, 24, of Juda, was traveling westbound when she swerved to avoid a deer in the roadway and then struck a bridge. Curran advised that she was wearing her seat belt and was uninjured. The vehicle sustained disabling damage, with airbag deployment, and was towed from the

#### **Juda School District**

**Board Meeting November 12,2025** 

•Heard from parents during the open forum regarding their concerns with the book "The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie for the Freshman English Class that is currently part of the curriculum.

•Accepted donations of pumpkins from Jeff Wiedman and Steven Keen. \$1,000 from Dennis Pfingsten for student needs, Campion Charitable Fund donation for \$14,000 for the park and the drone program, Juda Community Zion Church in the amount of \$138.59 for hats and gloves, Travis Larson in the amount of \$500 for family support and Green County Beef Producers in the amount of \$250 for families in need.

 Presented a WASB Business Honor Roll award to Will Burchard from Burchard Welding.

•Heard a report from FFA Students who attended the National FFA Convention. They spoke of their experience at the convention and reviewed the activities that have taken place this school year.

·Learned that current Board Members Jessica Matzke and Pat Daniels will not be seeking re-election in the spring. District residents interested in running for the board should reach out to the District Office for more information and forms.

 Report cards from the DPI show the district has made great improvement. Overall, the district exceeds expectations with the elementary (K-8) significantly exceeds expectations and the High Scholl had significant improvement and scores in the meet's expectations category.

·Learned the staff is looking at different companies to work with the district to improve the website to communicate better with parents and students and easy to adminis-

•Learned the District has enough funds in debt service to make one full payment and a partial prepayment on the debt. A resolution to proceed will be presented at the next board meeting.

•Was informed the new flooring has been installed in the computer

•Approved the Recreation District budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. They will report to the board each month with updates.

•Took no action coming out of Executive Session.

•Next Board meeting will be held on December 10, 2025 at 7 p.m.

scene. The investigation resulted in Curran being cited for failure of operator to notify police of a crash. Additionally, Jessica L. Curran, 48, of Juda, and Rebecca M. Beutel, 49, of Monroe, were cited for obstructing an officer. All parties were released pending court.

#### Trees, Lights and **Traditions! Enjoy** the **Holiday Tree** Show at the Lincoln-**Tallman** House

Festively decorated trees of all shapes and sizes will transform the Lincoln-Tallman House into an elegant wonderland this holiday season. The Rock County Historical Society's (RCHS) annual Holiday Tree Show features a sparkling collection of trees creatively decorated by local businesses, nonprofits, individuals, and families. Visitors of all ages can wander through the beautifully adorned Italianate mansion, located at 440 N. Jackson Street in Janesville, from December 4-28.

Presented by Blackhawk Community Credit Union (BHCCU), the Holiday Tree Show features more than 100 trees with unique, personal decorations on the main and upstairs levels of the Lincoln-Tallman House. The show includes a scavenger hunt and holiday activity booklets for extra fun for younger

At the heart of the show stands a stunning 20-foot tree, rising through the mansion's elliptical to the second floor. Each room surrounds guests with the glow of twinkling lights, creating a magical, immersive holiday experience.

"The annual Holiday Tree Show is a community celebration of joy! So many local businesses, families, and nonprofits participate to embody the beauty of the season for Rock County and the region," said Catherine Barton, RCHS board secretary and Holiday Tree Show volunteer. "The decorations are so inventive and special, and every year there is something new to see."

Visitors may continue the fun by strolling to the Tallman Carriage House to enjoy a beverage and stop for a selfie with Santa and Mrs.

This year, the Holiday Tree Show is partnering with the spectacular Holiday Light Show at the Rotary Botanical Gardens. People who buy advance tickets to the Holiday Tree Show can enjoy a special discount for the Holiday Light Show. This local collaboration highlights the fact that visitors can enjoy two gorgeous holiday displays while supporting two local organizations.

Tree Show dates are Thursdays-Sundays in December. Hours are 3-7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and noon-4 p.m. on weekends. Closed Christmas day. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit rchs.us. Ticket pricing is \$15 for adults (13+) online; \$18 at the door; \$5 for children ages 3-12. Children two and under are free.

#### **District 8 AA locations**

Tuesdays: Congregational UCC, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead, 7 p.m.; handicap access, closed meeting.

Thursdays: Congregational UCC, E201 23rd Street, Brodhead, 7 p.m.; handicap access, closed meeting.

Fridays: Promises Group, Orfordville Lutheran, 210 Main Street, 7 p.m.; handicap access, closed meeting.

Any questions call 608-751-5684 or visit www.rockcoaa.net.

#### **Monroe Theatre Guild Presents** a Holiday Celebration for the Entire **Family**

The holidays at Monroe Theatre Guild will be bursting with laughter and merry melodies as they present The Best Christmas Pageant Ever with Voices of the Season. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, written by Barbara Robinson, is directed for MTG by first-time director Marcia Bredeson, with Melissa Schnepper as Assistant Director. Bredeson and Schnepper bring years of community theater experience to the role as they team up to present a familyfriendly holiday play on the MTG Colony Brands Stage.

Voices of the Season brings together local performers who begin each show with festive songs and stories. Each performance showcases a mix of musical artistsmany familiar from previous MTG productions-sharing their favorite holiday tunes through solos and duets. Santa Claus himself will also make an appearance, delighting children by reading "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (commonly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas) in his own special style.

Following the musical preludes, the featured presentation begins. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, a comedy, centers on the Herdman children, the town's most notorious delinquents, who take over the annual church Christmas pageant. Once the siblings assert themselves to secure all the lead roles, Grace, the director, faithfully guides the children as they discover the origins of the first Christmas. The townspeople are horrified by the Herdmans' roles in the town's traditional celebration. But as the chaotic rehearsals progress, the Herdmans begin to learn the true meaning of the Christmas story, leading to an unexpected and heartwarming performance. The play explores themes of grace, kindness, and inclusion, showing how the most unlikely people can teach the biggest lessons.

As part of the Colony Brands performance series, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever with Voices of the Season will be presented in eight performances at the Monroe Theatre Guild, 910 16th Avenue, Monroe. Performance dates and times are Friday, December 5 at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 6 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m., and the following weekend, Friday, December 12 at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 14 at 2 p.m.. Tickets can be purchased online at monroetheatre.com, at the ticket window on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., or by calling 608-325-1111.

Helping make **Brodhead** a place to call home.

#### **A Full Day** of Holiday Fun at Three Waters

Reserve: **Breakfast with Santa & Holiday Open House** 

The Brodhead Jaycees and the Southern Wisconsin Land Conservancy are excited to kick off a festive day with Breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11 a.m. at Three Waters Reserve, N3941 Golf Course Road, Brodhead.

This free, family-friendly event invites the community to stop in, meet Santa, enjoy donuts, fruit, and assorted breakfast treats, and enter Give-Away Baskets in the upper level. Downstairs, children can take part in a variety of holiday-themed activities, including coloring, a magic reindeer food station, and other seasonal crafts. Make sure to bring items to donate for our community food drive. This event is free and open to all!

The festivities don't stop there!

Beginning at 12 p.m., Three Waters Reserve will host their Holiday Open House, running until 3 p.m. Guests are invited to tour the newly updated facility, including the completed Bridal Suite, a newly added pergola and grand stone staircase, and a refreshed lower level. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and yummy holiday cocktails by Culinary Nirvana!

In the spirit of the season, the Southern Wisconsin Land Conservancy is honored to partner with Family Promise of Green County to support a community food drive benefiting families in need during our Holiday Open House! Highpriority, non-perishable items requested by Family Promise include:

Spaghetti sauce

Peanut butter

•Tuna or packaged white chicken

Cereals

Soups

All other non-perishable items are welcome as well! Bring FIVE items to donate and you will receive THREE free tickets to enter their Give-Away Baskets. Plus, SWLC will be matching donations up to \$500 in supplies collected during the

The festivities continue with their Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, with the winner announced at 1:30 p.m.! By making a donation or signing up for an SWLC Membership, you will receive bonus entries for their variety of Give-Away Baskets. Tickets will be available from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and winners will be drawn at 2:30 p.m.!

This special day offers something for everyone, and they look forward to welcoming community members to celebrate with them. The trails at Three Waters Reserve will also be open for visitors to enjoy throughout the events.



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

Call 608-897-4797



# Special Mailbox Has Arrived at Brodhead Post Office

It's that time of year, so full of cheer, When children think of gifts so near. A special mailbox has arrived in town, at the Brodhead Post Office, just look around!

Write your letter, neat and bright, Address it to Santa, and seal it tight.

Drop it in the box with care, And Santa will get it, he's always there! The North Pole staff is ready to read, And Santa himself will take the lead, Answering each letter with care, A Christmas reply beyond compare. But hurry, don't wait too long, The box is here until Sunda, December th!

Santa's busy, as you can see, But he'll find time to reply—guaranteed!

## Brodhead Fire and Ice Festival: A Holiday Tradition Returns!

Get ready to kick off the holiday season at the annual Brodhead Fire and Ice Festival, presented by Bridges Bar and Grill, on Friday, December 5th, from 4 to 9 p.m. in downtown Brodhead. This beloved community tradition promises an evening full of festive fun, sparkling lights, and holiday cheer for the entire family.

Visitors can enjoy beautifully crafted ice sculptures and the fiery excitement of mesmerizing fire twirlers lighting up the crisp winter night. Families are invited to stop by Brodhead Family Chiropractic with Santa, where Exit Professional Realty will be handing out a sweet treat for everyone who visits.

Thanks to sponsors Body Crafters and Kuhn, horse-drawn carriage rides will take guests on a festive journey through downtown, offering the perfect way to experience the twinkling lights and seasonal atmosphere.

The highlight of the evening is the Brodhead Water and Light Holiday Parade kicking off at 7 p.m. featuring dazzling floats, festive music, and plenty of holiday spirit. After the parade, warm up by the fire pits, roast marshmallows or hot dogs, and enjoy the friendly fun of the Frozen T-Shirt Contest, where participants can compete for some "cool" prizes.

On Saturday morning, the holiday celebration continues with Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Brodhead Jaycees, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Three Waters Reserve. Families can enjoy a delicious breakfast and take a photo with Santa to capture a special holiday memory. For more information and to register for contests, the memory tree, or the lighted parade, visit Brodhead-FireAndIce.com. Join the fun as downtown Brodhead transforms into a holiday wonderland during this year's Fire and Ice Festival!

#### 27th Annual Children's Christmas Benefit

The 27th Annual Children's Christmas Benefit will be held at the Orfordville American Legion on Saturday, December 6. Many exciting holiday events will highlight this year's benefit.

At 6 p.m. the evening will kick off with a delicious pork chop community supper.

Santa Claus will be on hand for the children at 7 p.m.

Raffles will be held throughout the evening. Donations will be accepted for the meal. The State Line Play Boys will provide entertainment from 8 p.m. to midnight. Bring your entire family for an evening of holiday fellowship and fun!

The toys and gifts collected are distributed discreetly and confidentially among local county children so their Christmas will be a bit merrier. The purpose of the benefit is to give to the kids what they would not otherwise have during the holiday season. It is an organization that is 100% volunteer driven.

There is no charge for the evening's entertainment or the meal. Donations will be accepted at the event. All cash contributions will be used specifically for purchasing hats, mittens, boots, clothing, toys, and supplies for children from birth to high school age. The contributions also supply a Christmas meal to each of the families. Community members are encouraged to join in the fun and holiday spirit so that many deserving children will have a merrier Christmas this year. If you are interested in donating raffle items, would like to refer a family in need, or for questions regarding the event, please contact Brian Knudson at 608-289-2498.





#### By Cindy Clint, Outreach Coordinator

Here's what's happening during the month of December at the Albertson Memorial Library:

Write a letter to Santa Claus. Utilize a letter template from the Albertson Memorial Library or create your own at home. Once your letter is ready, simply drop it off at the library, and we will ensure it gets mailed to the North Pole for you.

December 2nd, 9th, and 16th at 10 a.m., gather with us for Preschool Storytime led by our Children's Programming Specialist, Miss Laura. Each week, we'll explore captivating tales that highlight:

- Princesses
- Canines and felines
- •Animals and nature

Due to the holiday, Preschool Storytime will not take place on December 23rd or 30th. We will resume our Storytime sessions on January 6, 2026.

The Albany Joint Library Board Meeting is scheduled to take place, at the library, on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is open to the public. The agenda will be available on our website and posted at the library the Friday prior to the meeting. Join us to discover the library's future plans!

At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 6th, get ready for the grand entrance as Santa rolls up to the library in a firetruck! Come meet the man



in red, whip up some elf-themed crafts, and munch on tasty treats. Remember, Santa's sleigh departs for the North Pole at 11 a.m. sharp, so don't be late!

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m. and get ready to learn how to craft 'Glitter Foam Christmas Ornaments.' You'll have the opportunity to create four unique foam ornaments this holiday season, adding a delightful sparkle to your tree! Can't make it? No worries! You can collect a kit from the library anytime during December and enjoy crafting this project whenever it suits you!

Embark on an unforgettable journey in our Dungeons and Dragons campaign, "Shadows of the Infinite Staircase," taking place on Saturday, December 13th at 4 p.m.! Immerse yourself in a thrilling adventure as you assist the Guildmaster in lifting a shadowy curse from the mystical staircase. Jump in anytime—no need for a magical portal! If you missed the character creation party, give us a shout to arrive early and get your hero ready. This campaign is ideal for adventurers aged

15 and older. On the fence? Curious about the chaos and camaraderie? Check out our Facebook and Instagram for thrilling recaps of past sessions! We're hitting the pause button on the Saturday, December 27th game to soak up some holiday cheer. Fret not, we'll be back and ready to roll the dice again on Saturday, January 10th.

Heads up! Creative Capers, All Booked Up, and the Sugar River Writers are hitting the holiday snooze button and won't be hosting events in December. But fear not, the fun picks back up in January!

The library will be closed in observation of Christmas on December 24th and 25th, reopening on December 26th. Additionally, we will close for New Year's on December 31st and January 1st, resuming normal hours on January 2nd.

Please follow us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/AlbertsonMemorialLibrary, Instagram https://www.instagram.com/albertsonmemoriallibrary or check out our calendar of events on our website at https://www.albertsonlibrary.org for additional information.



Branson, Missouri, this time of the year will put you in the Christmas spirit. The Bank of Brodhead bus trip left on Monday, November 10th and returned on Saturday, November 15th. While in Branson they saw seven enjoyable shows, several of them with a Christmas theme. The town was all decorated with Christmas lights. One evening they toured the Lights of Joy. It is a one-mile drive thru featuring over 250 dazzling displays.





The Members of the Juda Zion Community Church Youth Group and The Juda High School National Honor Society would like to thank the Juda Community for their generous donations of food for the food drive held recently in Juda. A total of 559 pounds of food was collected and given to the Little Blue Food Pantry at the church in Juda and the Green County Food Pantry. Thanks again for your generous contributions!!

