

City Council

Matthew Rolli and Katie Porterfield Were Sworn in as New Council Members

By Grace Kufahl

Matthew Rolli and Katie Porterfield were approved, given the oath and seated as council members during the meeting.

During Citizen Comments, former alderperson Ben Gritzmaker thanked the council for addressing the issues with sewer lift station four. Gritzmaker advised that the former council had gotten the lift station cleaned and billed the business in question for the costs. He suggested this as another option in lieu of a municipal bond.

City Administrator DiRe referred the council to a presentation on the Savvy Citizen application, which allows citizens to subscribe to various government notifications from department heads such as Parks and Rec cancellations and road closures. The cost would be \$2,500 annually and \$169 per month plus a one-time fee of \$400. No action was taken.

In Other Business:

T Mobile will be allowed to install a concrete slab for a generator where they have existing equipment at the north water tower.

The council passed an emergency resolution to allow Water and Light to bypass the formal bidding process to repair a roof leak as soon as possible.

The council approved a new contract with Pro-Vision for body cameras at a higher monthly cost, but with unlimited storage, this is a \$6,000 net savings on overage fees.

The council voted to have an ordinance drafted that would allow limited trapping in the Pearl Island corridor to address muskrat damage that is preventing routine maintenance of the area.

The parking restriction was lifted for 17th Street between West Second and Third Avenues from now through potentially Friday, October 30th to allow on-street parking for the Vision Clinic patients since their lot will be blocked due to road construction.



Sawyer Phillips, daughter of Ashley Williams and Jason Phillips, was crowned as Brodhead's 2026-27 Dairy Queen by outgoing queen Kate Olmedo.

A municipal bond was approved for \$1,331 for each violation of the ordinance prohibiting the discharge of grease into the sewer system related to damage to lift station four. It was approved to spend \$21,000,

to go along with additional funds from the Fire District, to replace the emergency siren downtown.

The final 2026 Capital Improvement list for borrowing was approved.

Brodhead 4th of July parade

The Fourth of July parade at noon on Saturday, July 4, begins near the police department and travels north on West 3rd Avenue, past Putnam Park to 3rd Street, east on 3rd to Cedar Avenue, then north to Alpine Street, ending at Legion Park. Contact Jeremy Pinnow & Associates at 608-897-2013 to register. Line-up starts at 11:30 p.m.

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Albany United Methodist Church, 500 Park Street, Albany. 608-862-3206, Elizabeth Staniforth-Seamster, Pastor. Sunday worship 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school 10 a.m. Open Communion each 1st Sunday. Check our web page at albanyumchurch.com.

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Ave, Brodhead. Phone: 608-897-2341 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: 9 a.m. worship June through August. No Sunday school for the summer months. Nursery is available for those who desire. Communion first Sunday of each month—Gluten Free Options. 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. Worship service 9 a.m. No Sunday school until Labor Day Sunday.

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



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org. E-mail: ptd@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; Wednesday evening Impact Youth 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Methodist Church of Brodhead, 501 1st Center Avenue, Brodhead. 608-897-2515. Pastor Francois Mukosa. Church office hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. In-person worship at 10 a.m. Sundays. Fully accessible for people with disabilities. Nursery available. Services live streamed on Facebook.

OBITUARY

Duane L. Menzel

Duane L. Menzel, age 88, of Brodhead passed away on Monday, June 15, 2026 surrounded by his family at home. He was born on February 21, 1938 in Woodstock, Illinois, the son of Lester and Gladys (Smith) Menzel. On December 15, 1956 Duane was united in marriage to Evelyn Smith in Harvard, Illinois. Duane proudly served in the United States Army from 1956-1958.

Duane spent many years farming before going into a career in construction in 1988. He worked in construction for 20 years, retiring at the age of 70. He enjoyed collecting John Deere toys and antiques, woodworking, and fishing. Duane cherished the time he spent at the family cabin in Oxford. His greatest joy was spending time with his family.

Duane is survived by his children: Randy (Jody) Menzel of Brodhead, Paula (Steve) Schneider of Brodhead, Michael Menzel of Brodhead, Susan (Pete) Anderson of Appleton, and Jackie Covert of Brodhead; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; siblings: Carol Davidson of Dodgeville, Phyllis Schauer of Union, Illinois, and Alvin (Carol) Menzel of Waterloo, Iowa; sister-in-law, Cindy Smith; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; grandson, Dustin Proefrock; and brother, Lester Menzel, Jr.

Private funeral services will be held. Everson Funeral Home is assisting the family.

SOFTBALL

Tuesday Night Masters' League

Tuesday's 6/16 results: The Bar 2 defeated Bridges Bar & Gill 1 12-2; Bridges Bar & Gill 2 defeated Beef and the Boys 10-4.

Season standings: Bridges Bar & Gill 2 won 4 lost 0; Beef and the Boys 3-1; The Bar 1 1-3; The Bar 2 1-2; Bridges Bar & Grill 1 1-3.

Green County Amateur Radio field day

The Green County Amateur Radio will host a field day at on Saturday, June 27, at Liberty Pole Park, corner of Hwy. 92 and Amidon Road, Brooklyn. Set-up is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; operating from 1 to 6 p.m. All licensed and interested individuals are invited to attend. For any questions please call 608-558-0629.



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34th Annual Gap Church Hymn Sing

The 34th Annual Gap Church Hymn Sing Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 16, at 1 p.m. Music will be by Ernie Saunders and the group "In Bed By Nine". There is no charge and refreshments will be served. A free-will offering is appreciated. The church and cemetery are located at W2401 State Hwy 59, Albany.

The Gap Church and Cemetery was established in 1853 and built in 1856 under the name of "Monticello Prairie Baptist Church and Cemetery". The name Gap Church was given by the local people that lived in the area because of its location between two hills. Eventually the name just faded away and became the Gap Church and Cemetery.

This event is sponsored by the Gap Church Museum, Inc. a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Gap Church and Cemetery. They recently completed the refurbishing of the six large windows in the church and the two partial windows in the church entryway. Next comes the windows in the community hall.

Contacts are Craig Roth at 608-558-5280, Laurie Exum at 608-897-6990 and Jane Copus at 608-214-8289.

Green County Leaders Currently Accepting Community Project Proposals

Does your organization or group have a need or issue that may benefit from the time, talents, and expertise of a Green County Leaders project team? Green County Leaders is currently accepting community project proposals for the upcoming program year!

Community projects link participants with community groups and provide hands-on leadership experience, complete with all the challenges and opportunities that exist in the community. Community projects assist participants in developing their leadership skills and provide a deliverable that would not have been accomplished without the GCL project team assistance. Descriptions of past projects and the proposal form can be found online at <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/community-development/green-county-leaders/community-projects/>. Projects must be completed by the project teams by mid-May.

To submit a project proposal, complete the project proposal form and send it to Victoria Solomon at victoria.solomon@wisc.edu by Wednesday, September 16, 2026. Your proposal will be reviewed by the GCL curriculum committee, which will be looking for feasibility, concreteness, and timeline.

For more information about Green County Leaders or community projects, contact Victoria Solomon, Community Development Educator with UW-Madison Division of Extension Green County at 608-328-9440 or via email at victoria.solomon@wisc.edu.

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.
~Acts 26:8

Agrippa, like the rich young ruler (Mark 10), is one of the tragedies of the New Testament. He was "deeply swayed but not savingly changed" (quoted from *Land of Revival*). It is easy to be stirred emotionally by the message of the cross and yet not be fundamentally changed. Response to the Gospel is more than a momentary release of emotions but rather a surrender of the will in true repentance and a looking to the Lord to help us sustain that decision by the power of His Spirit. —Paul Young

*Fully persuaded—Jesus is Mine! Fully persuaded—Lord I am Thine!
Oh, make my love to Thee, like Thine own love to me,
So rich, so full and free, Saviour divine!*
—J.B. Atchinson

Sponsored by: Brodhead Gospel Hall
2409 E. 3rd Avenue, Brodhead, WI 53520

Galaxy VBS at Living Word Church

Galaxy Vacation Bible School will be held at Living Word Church, 3825 S. County Road T, Brodhead. Summer 2026 Weekend VBS for kids 4K to fifth grade.

God loves us, so . . . love each other! Friday, June 26th, 6–8:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 27th, 8:30 a.m. Donuts and Juice, 9–11:30 a.m.; and Sunday, June 28th, 10 a.m. Kids sing in church. Potluck luncheon to follow services.

Contact church office at 608-897-8246 to register your kids. Each session will center on God's love and will include songs, games, Bible lessons and community service projects.

Sunday morning will include music by the kids, a slideshow of the weekend and a recap of the Bible adventures as well as a special message from the pastor, all followed up with a provided luncheon meal.

Let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4:7

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

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~ Joseph Campbell





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ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

GIVE MORE LIFE

The Brodhead Blood Drive will be held Monday, July 6, 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. Walk-ins welcome!

Come give blood Monday, June 29 to Sunday, July 12, for a classic American Red Cross x Looney Tunes t-shirt, limited quantity.

SCHWARTZLOW FAMILY REUNION

Schwartzlow descendants are having their family reunion on Saturday, July 11, at Putnam Park, 6th Street and W. 3rd Avenue, in Brodhead. The shelter house is reserved from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They plan on eating at noon.

If you plan on staying to eat, please bring a dish to pass. Chicken, ham, table service and bottled water will be provided. Spread the work to other family members.

If questions, call Rita (Ringhand) Vickers at 608-897-2082.



Brodhead Historical Society To Present Revolutionary War Perspectives

If you were a 15-year old boy living a relatively comfortable life with your grandparents, would you abandon good meals, a roof over your head, and safety for the lure of adventure, danger and hardship as a soldier in the Connecticut Yankee Militia during America's Revolutionary War? Many of the soldiers of the Revolutionary War were not "regulars" in any standing army, but became the very brave and hardship-enduring soldiers that won our country's freedom from British control. Come join the Brodhead Historical Society at their June meeting to hear about the American Revolution from one young soldier's perspective.

Did you know that the only person to sign all four of the United States of America's principal founding documents had a grandson who was a prominent early settler of Brodhead? As well, there are several Brodhead area residents who have ancestral ties to Revolutionary War Patriots. You can learn about these interesting people, their experiences, and get a view of the events that led to our country's birth, and its new form of government, as well as help us celebrate the USA's 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Society President Jaine Winters will be leading the presentation on Monday, June 29. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Knight Addition of the Depot Museum, and is free and open to the public.

Gap Church Museum, Inc. Rummage Sale

The Gap Church Museum, Inc. rummage sale will be held Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The Church is located four miles west of Albany on State Hwy 59. Donations accepted with some exceptions, no clothing or electronics.

For more information contact: Craig Roth at 608-558-5280, Laurie Exum at 608-897-6990 or Jane Copus at 608-214-8289.

Classifieds:

\$6 for 20 words

(10 cents per word, thereafter)

Runaas Family Reunion

The Runaas Family Reunion will be held Sunday, July 12th at the Albany Village Park, 201 Sugar River Parkway. It starts at 1 p.m. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. Coffee and water will be furnished.

Kindly spread the word with your immediate family. Any questions please contact Jim Runaas at 608-862-2220.

Albany Lions Club 23rd Annual Car Show and EMS Silent Auction.

The Albany Lions Club will be hosting their 23rd Annual Car Show on Sunday, June 28 at the Lion's building in Albany.

Registration for this rain or shine event begins at 8 a.m. and continues until noon. Registration is \$10 per truck/car and \$5 per cycle. This is a non-judged show with dash plaques to the first 150 entrants, four individual awards, and cash prizes awarded after 2 p.m.

They also have t-shirts available for sale and door prizes awarded throughout the day along with cash raffles.

Also, the Albany EMS will again be holding a Silent Auction inside the building beginning at 9 a.m.

General admission is free, there are refreshments and food with inside seating and restrooms available. For the second year DJ Ron Reiner will provide music.

Please remember, no dogs or bicycles are allowed in the show area.

They welcome you to join them for a fun filled day. Any questions can be directed to Abe or Phyllis Runaas at 608-751-2895 or 608-290-4087.

UW-Madison Division of Extension to Offer "Planning AHEAD" Program in Argyle

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is pleased to announce an upcoming Planning AHEAD program to be held at the Argyle Public Library, located at 401 E. Milwaukee Street, Argyle, Wisconsin.

This educational series will consist of four sessions held on Mondays, beginning July 13 through August 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. each week.

Planning AHEAD is a comprehensive program designed to help individuals organize important personal, financial, and end-of-life information. Participants will gain valuable tools and guidance to communicate their wishes clearly, reduce stress for loved ones, and make informed decisions about fu-

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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, June 28th

Ghosts In The Room

(Americana Style Music)

FFA Supporters - pork chop sandwiches, brats, popcorn & lemonade

Coordinated by the B.I.D. Board

BINGO!!

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Thursday, June 25th

Continuing 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month!

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Bingo starting at 6:30 p.m.
Food stand open at 5:30 p.m.

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ture planning.

The program provides a supportive environment for participants to take proactive steps toward organizing key documents, considering healthcare preferences, and ensuring their affairs are in order.

Program Details:

- Location: Argyle Public Library, 401 E. Milwaukee Street, Argyle, WI
- Dates: Mondays, July 13, 20, 27, and August 3
- Time: 3–5 p.m.

For more information or to register, please contact: Bob Wiegel, UW-Madison Division of Extension at phone: 608-482-0620.

The UW-Madison Division of Extension provides research-based education and resources to

strengthen individuals, families, and communities across Wisconsin.

Advertising Deadline: Friday, 5 p.m.



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Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to the Monroe Moose Lodge, Barb—all the cooks, dishwashers, setup crew, servers, coffee makers; Joanne—coffee servers, cashiers, clean up crew, raffle ticket sellers. Maple Leaf Cheese Store for cheese trays and Bruno for making the sausage links.

A big thank you to all who came & enjoyed the fantastic breakfast for Badger Honor Flight Benefit to help send our Veterans to D.C. to see memorials built in their honor! Thank you!

LUCKY RAFFLE WINNERS:

American Flag Quilt King & Chair Picture	Steve Schmitt
Samsung 75" Smart TV & Cheese Springbrook	Eric Jerdee
Lady's Citizen Watch & Crocheted Blanket	Cheryl Ripp
American Flag & Pole & Fleece Blanket	James Markham
Charge Board & Eagle Picture	Ryan Schutte
Wooden Chest Wild Cherry & Barn/Tractor Picture	Steve Mick
Metal Flag & Minhas Gift Card	Gene Anderson
Always Stay Humble Wood & Metal Wall Hanging	Tim Robinson
Plane Decor & Air Force Picture	Steve Lowrey
Winter Chickadee Picture & Metal Flower	Carol Stevenson
Whitetail Inn Picture & Metal Flower	Sue Crooks
Wine Basket/Cubs Plate & Gift Card Brenda's	Greg Stamm
Green Tractor-Red Truck & Winter Barn Picture	Vince Duecker
3 Fishing Pictures	Robert Bump
3 Birdhouse Pictures	Dawn Splittgerber
Black Lab/Coke Sign & Outhouse Picture	Dale Voss
Covered Bridge/Old Mill Pictures	Brian Einbeck
2 Fleece Blankets	Doug Wagner

**Thank you to all the raffle winners!!
Save the date for next year's benefit breakfast & raffle—
June 6, 2027**

THANK YOU EVERYONE - SEE YOU IN 2027!

ACADEMICS

UW-LA CROSSE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2026 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 2025-26 academic year, ending in May.

Qualification for the Dean's List is limited to students who have attained outstanding academic achievement. To be eligible, students must have earned at least a 3.5 semester grade point average and carried a minimum of 12 credits.

Students on the Dean's List from this area include: Ava Ahnen—Bi-

ology Major: Biomedical Science Concentration, McKenna Broughton—Management Major, and Alana Durtschi—Exercise and Sport Science Major: Physical, Adapted, and School Health Education, all of Albany; Stella Arn—Marketing Major, Gage Boegli—Finance Major: Personal Financial Planning Concentration, Kylee Gosnell—Public Health and Community Health Education Major, and Amanda Visger—Theatre Arts Major: Performance Emphasis, all of Brodhead; Hannah Kauffman—Elementary/Middle Education Major, of Davis, Illinois; and Laith Pautsch—English Major: Writing and Rhetoric Studies Emphasis, of Orfordville.

An Evening to Celebrate Voices of Independence

Thursday, July 2nd—5:30-7:15 p.m.

Monroe Public Library

Hosted by the Colonel Benjamin Harrison Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and sponsored by the Wisconsin Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The community is invited to An Evening to Celebrate Voices of Independence, a twopart historical and theatrical program honoring the diverse voices that shaped America's founding era. This special event features a presentation on William Whipple, signer of the Declaration of Independence, followed by the acclaimed onewoman show "Remember the Ladies: An Afternoon with Abigail Adams," performed by JaNelle Powers.

The evening begins with historian Tom Mitchell presenting William Whipple: A Signer's Story. Mitchell explores Whipple's remarkable life—from his early years as a sea captain to his pivotal role in the Continental Congress—and highlights his contributions to the cause of American independence. Through engaging storytelling and deep historical insight, Mitchell brings renewed attention to one of the Revolution's often-overlooked patriots.

Following the presentation, audiences will be transported into the world of Abigail Adams, one of the most influential voices of the Revolutionary era. In “Remember the Ladies,” performer JaNelle Powers embodies Adams with wit, intelligence, and emotional depth, drawing from her letters and legacy—including her famous 1776 plea urging John Adams to “remember the ladies.” This dramatic monologue offers a powerful counterpoint to Whipple’s story, illuminating the perspectives of women whose voices helped shape the nation’s ideals.



BMS Geography Bee Champion announced

On Friday, May 29, Brodhead Middle School hosted its annual Geography Bee. Ten students from each grade level, sixth-eighth, earned their place to participate in the GeoBee. After four rounds of questions, everyone knew more about states, countries, continents, and cultures. Additional rounds narrowed the field to eight students. Congratulations to the semi-finalists, Mykenna Jordan and Magdylen Wilson, and to the BMS Geography Bee champion, sixth-grader Camden Stephenson.

Super job to all the participants for knowing their way around the world!



Multicultural Day at BMS

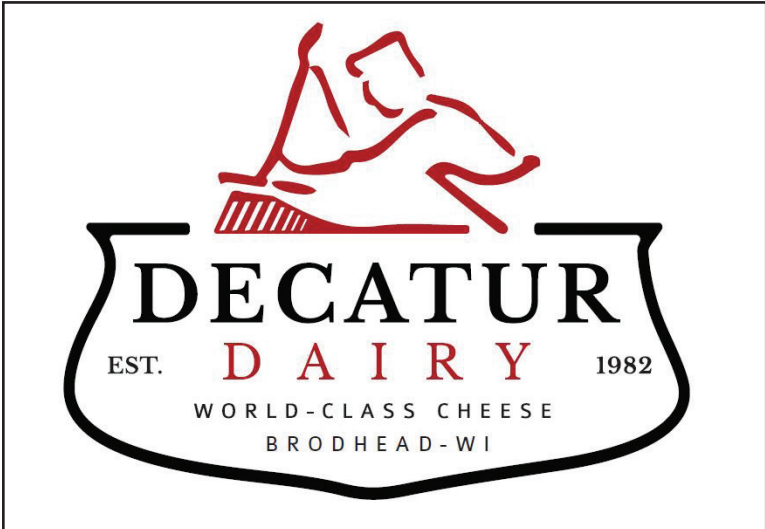
On Wednesday, May 27, seventh-grade students at Brodhead Middle School “traveled” beyond the walls of a traditional classroom as part of Multicultural Day. They visited multiple destinations, including Greece, Fiji, Egypt, Botswana, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Nairobi, China, and New Zealand.

While “traveling,” students heard stories from other cultures. They learned about holiday traditions, local festivals, historical landmarks, and daily life among diverse ethnic groups. A selection of international snacks was provided to boost stamina while exploring the world.



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From boots to Master Cheesemaker, Steve Stettler builds Decatur Dairy legacy



By Christina Paschen,
Cheese Market News



At Decatur Dairy, cheesemaking isn't just a career for Steve Stettler—it's something he's been doing for nearly as long as he can remember. "They put me in boots as soon as they could put me in boots," he says of starting in cheesemaking at five years old.

That early start set the course for a lifetime in cheese, one rooted in family tradition and shaped by decades of hands-on work, industry relationships and a willingness to evolve.

Stettler's father began making cheese in 1955, eventually building a business that handled about 30,000 pounds of milk from 27 farms. When Steve stepped in, he saw both opportunity and responsibility—not just to grow the business, but to do it the right way.

Today, Decatur Dairy processes about 600,000 pounds of milk a day from 51 farms.

"What's contributed to that success," Stettler says, comes down to "a good group of farmers and good advice over the years by individuals met in the industry."

"It's about meeting great people. I deal with good business people

and marketers finding a niche for our product," he adds.

Growth rooted in relationships

Growth at Decatur hasn't been rushed. Instead, it's been shaped by demand and relationships built over time.

"We've been fortunate to have slow growth," Stettler says. "We were encouraged to grow by our buyers. As far as sales and growth, it's been a good relationship."

That growth has led to four plant additions, expanded production and a broader portfolio of cheeses. But even as the business has scaled, Stettler has remained deeply involved in the day-to-day work.

On any given day, he might be in the make room, the vat deck or the tables working alongside his team to ensure everything is running as it should.

Tradition meets innovation

That hands-on approach extends to product development, where Stettler has leaned on both instinct and collaboration. Over the years, Decatur has developed a range of cheeses, including its signature Swiss-lace cheese, Stettler Swiss.

Lacy Swiss gets its name because, when sliced, its ivory-colored interior resembles lace. According to Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin's www.wisconsincheese.com site, it features smaller, more numerous holes than traditional Swiss-style cheeses and is made in the United States using lowfat milk rather than whole milk or cream, resulting in a lighter texture and a nutty flavor with lower calories and sodium than classic Swiss varieties.

Stettler Swiss is unique in that it's made with three different cultures, according to Stettler. The result is "a mild, creamy Swiss cheese" that melts nicely, says Decatur's website.

"People who don't eat Swiss will eat Stettler Swiss," says Stettler.

Innovation, however, hasn't happened in isolation. Stettler credits its partnerships — particularly with the Center for Dairy Research (CDR)—as instrumental in the growth and progress of some of his products.

"There are a lot of tools available now to make a better product that weren't available in 1982," he says, referring to CDR's classes and partnership opportunities to performing make projects and test runs in CDR's production facilities. "You have to use those tools."

And the CDR staff is an essential part of the process. Stettler says the CDR professionals specializing in cultures have a lot of helpful technical knowledge and can provide helpful advice "on how to create flavors and better products."

From developing Havarti to now experimenting with String cheese, those resources have helped Decatur stay competitive while maintaining quality.

Focus on quality

That focus on quality is perhaps most visible in Decatur's top honors earned through the years, including at the 2026 World Championship Cheese Contest. Its Muenster earned first and third place; Decatur Dairy Havarti and Dill Havarti swept categories; Oaxaca cheese curds earned first place; and Muenster cheese curds earned third place.

For Decatur Dairy, cheese curds are one of their most well-known and purchased items. Its cheese curds won best of class in the 2022 and 2024 World Championship Cheese contests.

For Stettler, curds are more than a product—they're a point of pride. His commitment to making the highest-quality cheese curds led to him introducing cheese curds as one of the cheeses in the Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker program.

Stettler is a Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker specializing in seven varieties including Brick, Cheddar, Farmers, Havarti, Muenster, Swiss and Cheese Curds.

The Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker Program is an advanced education and certification program for experienced cheesemakers, jointly sponsored by CDR, UW-Madison Extension and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. To qualify, cheesemakers must hold a Wisconsin cheesemaker's license and have



at least 10 years of experience working in a Wisconsin plant, along with participation in a rigorous quality assurance process that includes plant and product inspections. It's the only program of its kind in the United States, and is designed to elevate cheesemaking standards, add value through the "Master Cheesemaker" designation and strengthen the competitiveness of Wisconsin-made cheese in national and global markets.

"That program is so strong right now," he says. "People will look for your cheeses if you're a Master Cheesemaker."

Preserving cheesemaking history

Stettler's commitment to preserving and strengthening cheesemaking extends beyond Decatur Dairy. He is actively involved with the National Historic Cheesemaking Center Museum in Monroe, Wisconsin, where he currently serves as president.

The organization is dedicated to preserving the history of cheesemaking in Wisconsin through artifacts, education and storytelling. A key part of that mission is capturing cheesemakers' experiences on film, ensuring their stories are documented for future generations.

"The goal is to get more participation," Stettler says. "We're trying to preserve history."

He emphasizes that the center is focused on inclusion and accessibility across the industry.

"It's open to any cheesemaking story anyone wants to tell," he says. "It doesn't matter where you're from."

Through his volunteer work and outreach, Stettler has met people across the cheese industry he otherwise would not have encountered—many of whom have

become close friends. For him, the effort is about honoring the people behind the craft as much as the cheese itself.

A destination for cheese lovers

That same network of relationships—and a growing appreciation for artisan cheesemaking—has helped raise Decatur Dairy's profile well beyond rural Wisconsin. The dairy has since become a destination, drawing customers from across the region and beyond.

"The whole world has changed from local people visiting our store to people traveling from hundreds of miles away to seek us out," Stettler says.

What once was a small counter near the whey tank serving a handful of local customers each day has grown into a retail operation welcoming hundreds—sometimes up to 1,000—visitors daily.

"A lot of people want good cheese," he says. "They're curious and seek us out."

Even with industry recognition—including earning the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association Life Member Award in 2016, volunteering 26 consecutive years as a judge at the U.S. and World Championship Cheese Contests and earning the contest's Eggebrecht award for outstanding contest volunteers in 2026—Stettler measures success in simpler terms.

"At the end of the day, walking out of the factory, if someone says 'Thank you for what you do,' it makes it all worth it," he says.

For Stettler, it always comes back to the people—the farmers, the employees, the customers and the broader cheese community.

"If you ask any cheesemaker, it's the people you deal with who make you who you are," he says.



Discovering Brodhead

On Thursday, May 28, BMS seventh graders took a walking field trip to several locations in Brodhead. Along the way, students collaborated to learn practical math at Veterans Park, life and environmental science at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Compost Site, and local history at the Brodhead Historical Society.

Volunteer docents at the Brodhead Historical Society were very helpful as students completed a scavenger hunt for facts and figures about historical events in and around Brodhead.



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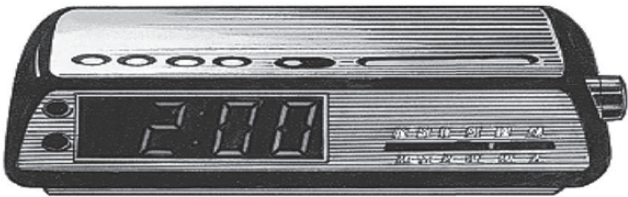
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1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Another young Albertson Memorial Library patron has read 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. What an achievement! He just finished K4 and will be in kindergarten this fall. Way to go!

Reading one thousand books sounds like an impossible goal. Reading three books (or the same book three times!) every night means over 1,000 books read in less than a year. The Library's Brag Board is getting full! Come on in and see all the Super Readers that call Albertson Memorial Library their home base for good books!



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Albertson Memorial Public Library

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

Another great day for the Summer Library Program at Albertson Memorial Library! This time the focus was on the Tyrannosaurus Rex. How to Be a T Rex (by North) was all about the advantages and disadvantages of being a T Rex. The second book, T Rex Would NOT Make a Good Knight (by Troupe), described a T Rex's experience as a knight in shining armor. Let's just say the job wasn't a good fit for him. The morning class made I-Spy bottles using rice and small dinosaurs, marbles, stars, and even a shark and a shark's tooth. As the kiddos rotate the bottle, the rice moves, revealing the trinkets. The afternoon class worked on making a plaster cast of a dinosaur footprint, pressed into playdough. A multi-step project that turned the room into a grand mess! The youngsters did a fine job of following directions and even cleaned up at the end.

Next week will be all about the Stegosaurus. The books will include Can I Have a Stegosaurus, Mom? Can I? Please? (by Grambling), The Dinosaur (by Milbourne), and Stegothosaurus (by Heos). Crafts will be a dinosaur bookend and a dinosaur dig, unearthing a dinosaur from a 'rock.' It'll be fun, for sure.

Family Movie Night is every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m., with a kid-friendly movie all about the adventures of a group of dinosaur tykes. You don't want to miss this! We'll provide the pillows and the popcorn; you bring your water bottle.

Finally, Albertson Memorial Library is gearing up for the first ever SHARK WEEK! There will be all the normal things for the Summer Library Program on Tuesday. But every evening that week will feature shark games, shark crafts, and shark snacks!



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Brodhead School District
High School Administrative
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Brodhead School District is accepting applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant at Brodhead High School for the 2026-27 school year. The ideal start date for this position is July 20, 2026. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Candidates should have a strong background in technology, solid written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to build good relationships with staff, students, and families. Applicants may pick up an application form at the District office located within the Brodhead High School or on the District website.

Send letter of interest and resume to:
Jim Matthys, Principal
Brodhead High School
2501 W. 5th Ave
Brodhead, WI 53520
jmatthys@brodhead.k12.wi.us

Deadline for applications: June 30, 2026
Brodhead School District is an equal opportunity employer.



Livestock Farmers Are Encouraged to Manage Mortality Through Proper Composting

The Green County Land and Water Department (LWCD) wants to share information with livestock owners to save money, recycle nutrients on the farm, and give them another tool for water quality practices they could implement. Most people realize that if you have livestock, eventually you'll have deadstock. Some farmers are able to pay a dead truck to come and take the deadstock away to be properly disposed of, while others choose to dispose of them in other ways. Unfortunately, there are many that take the animal to the back part of their property and pile them—leaving them for nature to decay or scavengers to consume them. This method is actually the riskiest environmentally and for containing disease transmission on the farm. The LWCD would like to offer another option- composting.

The composting process is rather simple. Create a base of 18-24" of high carbon materials like wood chips or shavings. Lay the carcass on the base, making sure there's two feet all the way around the animal to the edge of the pile. Then cover the carcass with a 24" thick layer of a biologically active high carbon material like bedding pack, waste feed or active compost. Make sure the pile is mounded so any precipitation sheds off the pile. Let it sit for four-six months before checking to see if the carcass is fully degraded. The material can be reused or land applied. Large bones will likely take longer to break down. Site cleanliness is important to deter scavengers, control odors and keep good neighbor relations.

The Green County LWCD wants farmers (or anyone with livestock) to know that it is legal to compost their mortality in Wisconsin and wants to encourage more farmers to properly compost on the farm. The WI DNR cites 95.50 of state statutes that a carcass owner or landowner cannot leave a carcass exposed for more than 24 hours April through November or no more than 48 hours December through March if they know of the carcass. On site farm composting of animal carcasses is legal as long as only carcasses, manure, crops residues and clean chipped wood are composted. It all has to come from the farm its composted on and used as fertilizer on the farm, it may not leave the farm. And if wood chips from off site are used it can't exceed 10,000 cubic yards.

Last spring, a Monroe High School LAUNCH class edited and created videos to highlight the composting practice and showcased the field day that was held in August of 2023 by the LWCD on the subject. To view the videos, search online for "Green County LWCD mortality composting". If you have any questions, please contact Tonya Gratz with the Green County LWCD at 608-325-4195 ext 2684.

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Easterseals Wisconsin Celebrates Centennial Milestone with Benefit Concert at Fawn Creek Winery

Americana-bluegrass band WheelHouse to headline an outdoor evening of music, community and 100 years of empowering individuals with disabilities.

As part of its historic milestone year, Easterseals Wisconsin invites the community to celebrate a century of impact at a special Centennial Benefit Concert on Sunday, July 12. Hosted at the scenic Fawn Creek Winery, the afternoon event offers supporters a chance to enjoy great wine, food, and live music while directly contributing to the organization's ongoing mission to support individuals living with disabilities across the state.

The celebration features a live performance by WheelHouse, a nationally touring Americana and bluegrass powerhouse hailing from Madison, Wisconsin. Known as one of the hardest working bands in the Midwest, WheelHouse brings an energetic, soul-stirring sound to the stage, built on the experience of playing more than 1,000 shows in the past six years and releasing five acclaimed records.

For 100 years, Easterseals Wisconsin has been a vital lifeline for thousands of children and adults with disabilities, veterans, and their families. Through life-changing programs—including adaptive camp experiences, vocational training, and agricultural rehabilitation assistance—the non-profit has spent the last century breaking down barriers and building communities where everyone can thrive.

"Reaching our centennial year is a testament to the resilience of the people we serve and the incredible generosity of our Wisconsin community," said Paul Leverenz, President & CEO of Easterseals Wisconsin. "This event at Fawn Creek Winery is a perfect opportunity to gather, reflect on decades of progress, and raise the critical support and awareness needed to ensure our services continue well into the next century."

Guests can pair the live music with Fawn Creek Winery's signature wine selections and warm, oversized pretzels in a relaxed, family-friendly outdoor setting. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go directly toward funding Easterseals Wisconsin's programs and services.

Event Details & Ticketing

Date: Sunday, July 12

Time: 1-4 p.m.

Location: Fawn Creek Winery, 3619 13th Lane, Wisconsin Dells, WI, 53965

Admission: \$20 General Admission plus additional ticket options

More Info: For event details or to make a centennial donation, visit <https://www.eastersealswisconsin.com/RTD> or contact kboyle@eastersealswisconsin.com

Juda School District Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

- Accepted the resignation of Cole Mahluch as Physical Education Instructor and Athletic Director
- Mary Larson presented the required Library Plan to the Board. She stated that there are funds the district receives from the state that allow for more STEM activities during the year. She went on to explain the goals for the district for "digitalized citizenship" for all grade level. The Board approved the plan as presented.
- Approved sports co-ops, WIAA agreement, HUDL, Co-Curricular Handbook and Coaches for the coming school year.
- The Board discussed WASB Business Honor Roll recommendations
- Dennis Pfingsten and Kendra Sullivan will be attending a school finance meeting being hosted by the Monroe School District on Tuesday, June 16th in Monroe.
- Dennis Pfingsten sent out legislative updates to Board Member prior to the meeting and discussion was held.
- Traci Davis, Phil Trotter and Pam Green met with Mike Goecks at the park to go over some concerns with the new playground equipment that was installed. The Juda Recreation District is working with the company to rectify the situation and is waiting on some parts.
- Traci Davis reviewed with the Board the staff that was recognized with gifts for their years of service milestones.
- Buildings and Grounds Committee had met at the end of May and did a walk around and discussed upcoming projects. Traci noted that the basement, the storage shed at the school and items in the school are getting tidied up. It was noted some shelving will be added to the art room and a refreshing of the landscape in front of the school office will be done this summer.

- Approved the Student Handbook for the coming school year.
- Approved the fee schedule for the coming year for breakfast and lunch program.
- Approved a 66:03 agreement with Albany for sharing their librarian for one hour per month for the coming school year.
- There have been no applicants for the open Special Education position and will be reposted. There are currently 10 applicants for the open Physical Education position and discussions have been taking place with staff members for the position of Athletic Director.
- Members of the staff toured New Glarus and Brodhead facilities to get some ideas on rooms and designs for the 4K and 5K program at Juda. Many districts are going to a 5-day 4K program. Initial discussion by the staff was to offer this for the 2027/2028 school year, but staff ultimately decided it could start this school year. The Board approved the staff recommendation to offer this school year.
- No action was taken coming out of Executive Session
- Next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8th, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Earlier this year, I desperately wanted to host a “summer” fun night—but in the dead of winter. Something for our families to do together on a cold, winter’s Friday evening. As it was, Mother Nature fooled even us as we had to postpone our event because it was TOO cold, but that’s beside the point! This fun and well-attended event, though, would not have been possible without community support. A community member donated the set-up and use of a bounce house from his business, a local farm family business provided hot dogs for this event, and our school helped us advertise the event. In May, there were ten community members and businesses who were willing to drive in their BIG vehicles, filling the street in front our library, so that our littlest patrons could stare in awe and climb up and explore them. Another local farm family donated the ground beef that was needed for our walking tacos, and, again, the school district got the word out for us. Equally important, this family event wouldn’t have happened without the 175 people that joined us on that fun night!

But it's not just about the money. It's about the people. There would be no purpose in our being here without your patronage. Our patrons give our library and our staff a purpose. Without your desire to read, learn, congregate, and maybe just have something to do or somewhere to go, there would be no need for a library. It's the people that make our library a good place to be and work.

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