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Brodhead Memorial Public Library

Looking to pass the time while your clothes get cleaned? Check out the newest Free Little Library at Brodhead 21st Street Laundry. This is a community exchange where readers of all ages are invited to take a book, leave a book or both. They're excited to offer a new way for community members to access books. They hope you enjoy!



The Brodhead Optimist Club donated a dictionary to every student in Mrs. Riese's third grade classroom! Thank you to the Brodhead Optimists for sharing your time, energy, and positive vibes with the students of AES

SSM Health Monroe Hospital shares area families' top baby names in 2025

SSM Health Monroe Hospital helped area families welcome 367 bundles of joy into the world in 2025, including 190 girls and 177 boys.

When looking at the most common names given to these sweet new family members, parents most commonly chose Charlotte and Cora for girls. For boys, the top names were Maverick and Cooper.

While SSM Health Monroe Hospital's Family Birth team is busy caring for families year-round, January saw the highest number of birthdays in 2025, with 36 little ones joining the world. December, May, June and October were tied for second busiest months with 35 little ones joining the world each of those months. SSM Health Monroe Hospital also helped welcome two sets of twins this year.

Birth totals, information and most popular names were collected from December 1, 2024, to November 30, 2025, to represent a full calendar year.

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ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

2026 PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS BEGINNING MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH—9 A.M.

Reservations for the park shelters for 2026 will begin being accepted at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 5th, at the City Hall. Reservations are based upon first-come, first served basis only, with no one allowed to register before that time. Registering may be done over the phone, by calling 608-897-2159 or by stopping down to the City Hall located at 1111 W. 2nd Avenue. Once you have registered, a payment of \$50 for a resident of the City of Brodhead and \$75 for a non-resident; along with Park Reservation Agreement, must be turned in within five business days or your name will be removed from the calendar.

BANK OF BRODHEAD BUS TRIP

There will be a Bank of Brodhead bus trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania from April 19-25, 2026. Highlights include admission to “Joshua” at Sight and Sound Theater, guided tour of Philadelphia, where they are celebrating our 250th anniversary, visit to Kitchen Kettle Village, guided tour of Lancaster, and admission to the Gettysburg National Park and a guided battlefield tour. The price is \$959 per person for double occupancy. For more information or to sign up, contact Sue Schmelzer by text or phone call to 608-558-8797.

GIVE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES

The Brodhead Blood Drive will be held Monday, January 5, from noon to 5 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Avenue, Brodhead.

Come and give blood for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LX in California. Rcblood.org/SuperBowl

For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Use sponsor code: BrodheadWI to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome!

BRODHEAD PARK & REC SECOND AND THIRD GRADE YOUTH BASKETBALL

The Brodhead Pool and Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Tuesday afternoon youth basketball program for boys and girls in second and third grade, from 3—4:15 p.m. in the elementary school gym for six weeks, beginning in February and ending in March—February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and March 3rd, 10th. This program will teach basic skills and fundamentals.

Forms are available at the Elementary School and at the City Hall, or on the City of Brodhead Website <http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us>.

The cost is \$30, which includes a T-shirt. Forms need to be completed and turned in with fee by 8 a.m. on Friday, January 23rd. Gym shoes are required. Checks can be made payable to the Brodhead Pool and Rec Dept. If you have any questions, please call Ashley Graves at 608-897-2159.



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

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, 2025, 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 Dieckhoff at christidee@litewire.net or 608-558-5828 and she will help you.

BHS Class of 1999 reunion

The Brodhead High School Class of 1999 Reunion will be held Saturday, January 10th at Bridges starting at 6:30 p.m.

Rep. Jenna Jacobson Introduces “Farmers and Agriculture Keep Wisconsin Growing” Package

Rep. Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) joined her Democratic colleagues introducing the “Farmers and Agriculture Keep Wisconsin Growing” bill package. The bills include more funding for export promotion, agriculture land preservation, healthy food incentives, and buy-local grants that will directly help farmers and consumers across the state. Rep. Jacobson released the following statement after the announcement:

“When I talk to farmers in our community I hear a common refrain, times are so uncertain. Wisconsin's identity is rooted in agriculture. Right now, our farmers are facing unnecessary strain as a result of Trump's tariffs, which have raised costs and created instability across the industry. Instead of placing additional burdens on the people who put food on our tables, we should be giving them the resources they need to succeed. This set of bills expands opportunities for Wisconsin producers by increasing support for export growth, safeguarding farmland, investing in buy-local initiatives, and enhancing programs that connect families with healthy, locally sourced food. These efforts are designed to open doors for farmers and keep Wisconsin's agricultural tradition thriving. I encourage everyone to stand with Wisconsin's farmers by supporting this practical, forward-focused plan to help them keep growing—and keep feeding our state.”

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



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Due to the holidays, City of Brodhead residents will be serviced on Saturday, December 27th, and Saturday, January 3rd.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

20 Snows To Go!

According to the Ties Formula, go back to the last new moon before the first trackable snow and take that snow and add the two numbers together. The first snow was November 8.

Make a difference—run for office

The City of Brodhead is announcing the upcoming opportunity for citizens to run for the offices of Mayor and Alderperson in the upcoming Spring Election!

The period for circulating nomination papers begins on Monday, December 1st. This is your chance to lead and shape the future of our community.

Key Election Forms and Access

To officially run for office, you must obtain and file a set of three required forms from the City Clerk's office:

Campaign Registration Statement (CF-1): Filed prior to accepting contributions or making disbursements.

Declaration of Candidacy (EL-162): Declares your intent to run.

Nomination Papers (EL-169): Requires signatures from eligible electors (voters) in Brodhead.

How to Get Your Papers:

Visit City Hall: Stop by the City Clerk's Office located at 1111 W. 2nd Avenue during normal business hours.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday—8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesday—8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Contact: Call the Clerk's office at 608-897-4018 to let them know you are coming, or to ask any questions about the forms.

Important Date to Remember

Filing Deadline: All required forms (CF-1, EL-162, and EL-169) must be filed with the City Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Good luck to all potential candidates!

Campaign Registration Statement (CF-1): Filed prior to accepting contributions or making disbursements.

Declaration of Candidacy (EL-162): Declares your intent to run.

Nomination Papers (EL-169): Requires signatures from eligible electors (voters) in Brodhead.

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Good luck to all potential candidates!

Advertising Deadline: Friday, 5 p.m.

Are you struggling through the holidays as a caregiver?

Understand the grief, loss and mourning associated with caring for someone with dementia.

Join us for Moving Forward: Grief and Ambiguous Loss Associated with Dementia Caregiving

The Aging and Disability Resource Centers of Rock and Marquette Counties are offering the 16-week grief and bereavement educational support group on Friday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. beginning January 16 and running through May 1, 2026. This is a virtual group. There is no cost to attend. Registration and screening are required.

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

For more information or to register, please contact Rock County Dementia Care Specialist, Karen Tennyson at 608-921-7165 or karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us; Marquette County Dementia Care Specialist, Janet Wiegel at 608-297-3148 or jwiegel@co.marquette.wi.us.

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Danika Demrow went 4-for-4 from the stripe last Tuesday while hosting Clinton. The Cardinals were in control from the very beginning with a halftime score of 48 - 26. Alecia Dahl led the home team with 28 points, Ella Olson contributed 14 and Chesney Walker was solid, 3-for-3 from the arc, to add an additional 11 points. With the final score 79-48 for the win, Brodhead remains one game behind conference leader Edgerton. This week the girls took on Stoughton on Tuesday and will play Parkview on Friday, January 2, at home, game time is 7 p.m. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



Lily Scheidegger place third at the Sleigh Bell Slam Tournament.



Ashlyn Cayentano Peublita place fourth at the Sleigh Bell Slam Tournament.



Olivia Brooks place second at the Sleigh Bell Slam Tournament.



By Joel Steinmann

Parkview/Albany's Pautsch got on the podium at the first annual Sleigh Bell Slam tournament in Poynette. The team finished the day in 20th place with 24 team points. Leading the team was Serenity Pautsch at 126# she was able to finish the day on a high note after dropping the semi finals match to Winnie Culver from Princeton/Green Lake. S. Pautsch pinned Brigitte Stauffacher from Blackhawk/Shullsburg to place third. Ayda Klein 132# placed eighth and Avigale Pautsch 132# placed 10th.



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Stop in TODAY to see our wide selection of Chainsaws & Snowblowers!

The following students homemade thermal insulating cups lost less than 10 degrees Celcius in 30 minutes. The grade winner's cup was Alivia Scheidegger losing only 7.1 degrees. Best designs were awarded to Fay Menuey, Quentin Lewis-Usher, and Rowan Krattiger.



Left to right: Claire Hefty, Rosie Cephas, Helen Logan, Alivia Scheidegger, Julia Pierce.



Annabelle Schaefer, Carter Peterson, Liam Broughton



Camden Stephenson, Quentin Lewis-Usher, Aria Phillips



Jocelyn Guadalupe-Mondragon and Cedric Kraemer



Thank you Brodhead Health and Fitness Center and Madeline McIntyre for letting 16 middle schoolers workout at your facility! We definitely were sore the next day!

Green County Land and Water Conservation Tree Sale is Open

It's holiday season. That time of year where you get to mingle with your loved ones or... start ordering trees for next spring! The Green County Land & Water Conservation Department is still offering eight varieties of trees and two shrubs for landowners interested in planting trees next spring. The tree varieties are: Bur Oak, Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, White Oak, Black Cherry, Domestic Apple, White Pine and Norway Spruce. The shrubs available are American Plum and Redosier Dogwood. The trees and shrubs are bare root, and range in height between 18 inches and 4 feet depending on species. The cost is \$3 per tree and must be ordered in increments of 10.

Most of the trees and shrubs are native to the area and the species offered cover a broad range of soil types and moistures. All species are still currently in stock.

Mycorrhizal root dip and nutrient packs are also available to order. Tree spuds can be rented with a deposit. The LWCD has tree planters available, allowing you to plant a lot of trees with ease. Contact the office to get on the planter schedule.

Trees can be ordered by contacting the LWCD directly by phone or by ordering through the Green County LWCD website <https://greencountylwcd.com/tree-sales/>. There are also order forms in the office if you want to stop by and pick one up. If you are unsure about what trees will work in your particular soil, have any questions about the trees or how to order stop in or give the Green County LWCD a call at 608-325-4195 ext 2682. Orders will be taken until Wednesday, December 31, 2025. Limited amounts of each species are available, so it is advised if you are looking for something specific- order early. Trees are scheduled for pick up mid to late April.

Brodhead Board of Education urges residents to consider serving by seeking position

Recently School Board Member Elizabeth Kempel announced that she would not seek re-election for the Brodhead Board of Education in the spring election. This guarantees there will be at a minimum one (1) vacancy on the Board of Education in which the incumbent will not seek reelection. Two (2) other positions will also be on the spring ballot; presently those positions are filled by Michael Oellerich and Jennifer Flory.

Residents are urged to consider serving the children and Brodhead School District by seeking a position on the Board of Education. The filing date for those interested in becoming a candidate is: 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Interested residents may obtain paperwork at the District Office located in the High School, 2501 West Fifth Avenue.

As a member of a School Board you are entrusted with one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to any citizen—that of helping to direct the education of the youth.

One of the most frequently asked questions about being a School Board Member is, what kind of qualifications must a candidate have? Experienced Board Members have included the following as preferred qualifications:

- A commitment to the belief that all children of the School District are entitled to have available to them a beneficial educational program
- An open mindedness and readiness to learn
- A vision and an ability to understand changes in our society
- Freedom from conflict with any other interest

The Board of Education encourages each citizen to give serious consideration to become a School Board candidate. It is important for qualified and interested citizens to become actively involved in the educational process so that we all can work together and continue the tradition of providing the best education possible to our young people.

SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services Scholarship Applications Now Available

SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services is once again offering scholarships for students seeking a career in the healthcare field. The deadline for application submission is Saturday, February 28, 2026.

The first scholarship is for high school seniors. SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services awards two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. One scholarship will be awarded to a Monroe High School senior, and one scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior from a community with SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group sites—Albany, Brodhead, New Glarus, Durand, Freeport and Lena—or who live within an area serviced by a branch site.

The second scholarship is for continued education students. Four \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to area college students. Applicants must have completed at least one year of advanced study (beyond high school) in a health-related field and be a resident of a community with a SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group location or who live within an area serviced by a clinic or child of a SSM Health employee.

Requirements for both types of scholarships are the individual must be pursuing a degree or certificate in a healthcare related field, have a GPA of 3.25 or higher with an emphasis on science and math, and all applications must be typed. In no specific order, recipients will be selected based on citizenship, need and school and outside activities.

Students who have received a high school scholarship in the past are eligible to apply for the advanced study scholarship. However, an individual may only receive each scholarship once.

Applications are available at givetossmhealth.org/MonroeScholarships. For more information, please contact SSM Health Monroe Volunteer Services at 608-324-1569.



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POLICE

**Green County Sheriff's Department
December 22-28, 2025**

At approximately 8:28 p.m., Wednesday, deputies responded to a residence in the N1400 block of Brunkow Road, Town of Jefferson, for a report of disorderly conduct. As a result of the investigation Brian M. Schwartz, 43, of Juda, was arrested for disorderly conduct. Schwartz was incarcerated at the Green County Jail pending the posting of bond or an initial court appearance.

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Trees and Shrubs for Habitat, Wind Breaks

The Rock County Land Conservation Department is taking orders for its yearly Tree and Shrub Sale. Distribution is usually around mid-April 2026. Trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings. Shrub species are sold in bundles of 10 for \$25 (includes tax) or bundles of 25 for \$37 (includes tax). Tree species are sold in bundles of 25 for \$37 (includes tax). Fruit species are sold in bundles of 5 for \$30 (includes tax). Native Plants sold in bundles of 6 for \$13 (includes tax).

Stock as of December 11: Balsam Fir, 6-12 inch seedlings, Eastern Arborvitae, 7-15 inch seedlings, Norway Spruce, 7-15 inch seedlings, Red Oak, 18-24 inch seedlings, Sugar Maple, 6-12 inch seedlings, and White Pine, 7-15 inch seedlings. Shrubs: Nannyberry 12-18 inch seedlings, and Silky Dogwood, 12-24 inch seedlings. Fruit: Domestic (Common) Apple, 14-28 inch seedlings and Red Raspberry (Caroline-Thornless), 1 year XL Canes. Native Plants are six different mixes. See website for more information. Tree protectors and Root Dip Planting Gel are also available.

Find the order form, windbreak designs, and more handy information at the Rock County Land Conservation Department website <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/tree-shrub-native-plant-sale> or call 608-757-5588 during normal business hours.

This sale runs from September until April every year and features limited stock of a variety of tree and shrub species with the best selection early.



608-897-4797

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



Albertson Memorial Public Library

By Laura Roth, Children's Librarian

Happy New Year from Albertson Memorial Library.

Preschool Story Time is taking a break until Tuesday, January 6th, when a new theme is introduced: Families. The stories we read will be about families playing in the snow.

Know What's Cool?



*Buying and selling through
your local classifieds.
Call 897-4797 today.*

The youngsters will make a snow globe, complete with snowflakes (the kind that won't melt, of course)! The Library of Things at Albertson Memorial Library has an Indoor Snowball Fight that may be used that day, too.

Preschool Story Time meets almost every Tuesday at 10 a.m., before the library is open, making it an ideal time for our youngest patrons to enjoy the library in their own way: energetic and rowdy! We'd love to welcome new friends!

See you January 6th!

Postmark changes

Taxpayers should no longer rely on same-day postmarks for mailed property tax payments, due to a policy change from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

Residents who pay their property taxes by mail should be aware that, effective December 24th, 2025, USPS moved the postmarking process from local post offices to regional sorting centers. This may affect how mail is postmarked.

Under this change, mail sent from outside a 50-mile radius of a regional processing center (Milwaukee or Minneapolis) may not be postmarked on the day it is received at the local post office. Instead, it may be postmarked a day or two later when it is processed at the regional facility.

Under Wisconsin law, to be considered timely, a mailed tax payment must be postmarked on or before the due date. Because of this, they strongly encourage taxpayers who rely on mailing their payments to take extra precautions. To ensure timely payment, taxpayers should bring their mail inside the post office and request a hand-stamped postmark at the counter or consider sending their payment by certified mail to obtain proof of mailing. These are the only ways to ensure your mailed payment will be considered timely.

In short, if you plan to pay your property taxes by mail, do NOT wait until the January 31st deadline to place your payment in the mail.

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.rockcoa.net.



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Three bedroom duplex apartment, single car attached garage, basement. \$785 per month includes sewer. Deposit and references. Call or text 608-214-4191 leave message. (12/31)

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Help Wanted



PUBLIC WORKS OPERATOR
CITY OF BRODHEAD

City of Brodhead, Wisconsin, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Operator. The position requires operating a variety of equipment, from snowplows in the winter to street sweepers in the summer, keeping our roadways safe and clean, maintaining and repairing water and sewer lines, ensuring the reliable delivery of essential services, caring for our parks and green spaces, making them enjoyable for everyone responding to maintenance requests and addressing issues efficiently and effectively, collaborating with a dedicated and supportive team to achieve common goals. Shop and mechanical experience are preferred. This position offers a wage which is commensurate with experience and qualifications, plus an excellent benefit package.

For a complete job description visit: <http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us/> To apply send a resume and cover letter by January 9, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. to: City of Brodhead, PO Box 168, Brodhead, Wisconsin, 53520 or email to cityclerk@cityofbrodheadwi.us

POOL & REC
SUMMER APPLICATIONS

Applications will be available at City Hall, the Brodhead High School office, and on the City of Brodhead website (<http://www.cityofbrodheadwi.us>), beginning Monday, January 5th, for summer 2026 employment. All applications are due by Friday, February 27th, at City Hall. If you have any questions, please call Ashley Graves at 608-897-2159.

Concessions Cashier, Tots Instructor, T-ball Instructor and Umpiring—applicant must be at least 14 years old
Lifeguarding—applicant must be at least 15 years old
Pool Manager—applicant must be at least 18 years old
Legion Park Maintenance—applicant must be at least 16 years old

Monday Night Mixed League

12/22—High series: Ryan Flood 700, Al Petersen 678, Jason Shrier 649. High games: Rick Reed 257, R. Flood 255, Jason Schoen 255. Broughton's Bar-high team game 1,071 and series 2,981. **Standings:** Center Tavern won 95.5 lost 66.5, Fosters Gaming 93.5-68.5, Broughton's Bar 90.5-71.5, Beloit Chiropractic 86-76, Albany Lanes 66-96, Bartelt 54.5-107.5.

Badger

12/23—High series: Brian Behnke 671, Ryan Brugger 635, Josh Brugger 576, LeRoy Blumer 562. High games: R. Brugger 258, B. Behnke 245, Brian Purdy 220, Dave Brugger 215. Renks-high team game 832. Jim's Mechanic Shop-high team series 2,298. **Standings:** Renks won 31 lost 11, Counter Attack 26-16, Decatur Dairy 26-16, Jim's Mechanic Shop 23-19, Team 6 14-28, TUGS 6-36.

Brodhead Juniors

12/27—High series—boys: Caesy Johnson 507, Evan Johnson 486, Alexander Ramirez-Vogel 360, Tristan Modaff 345, Jack Norris 324, Jayse Bennett 301. High games—boys: E. Johnson 191, C. Johnson 180, A. Ramirez-Vogel 136, J. Bennett 132, J. Norris 131, T. Modaff 120. **High series—girls:** Taylor Sauer 495, Kelsee Brugger 379, Emma Welbig 259, Lilly Johnson 259. High games—girls: T. Sauer 192, K. Brugger 149, E. Welbig 99, L. Johnson 97.

Brodhead Youth

12/27—High series: Thorin Perrin 122, Braxton Normington 69, Wyatt Shoemaker 45, Ayla Brugger 180, Abigail Fenwick 133, Keira Shrader 113, Amelia Fenwick 86, Kinslee Brewer 49. High games: T. Perrin 67, B. Normington 51, W. Shoemaker 37, A. Brugger 106, Abigail Fenwick 92, K. Shrader 58, Amelia Fenwick 50, K. Brewer 33.

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2. **Write** the highest number of points scored by any one team in the space provided on the entry form. This will be used to break a tie. If a tie remains, one winner will be chosen by random drawing from all correct entries.
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