

City Council

City Hall to Close One Afternoon per Week

By Grace Kufahl

Alder Baxter proposed closing city hall one afternoon per week to avoid overtime for the clerk and treasurer to complete projects uninterrupted. A long discussion ensued in which Alder Gritmaker questioned how much foot traffic city hall actually gets and how many hours the part-time clerk can work. Mayor Simpson and Alder Baxter explained the types of needs that staff respond to at the window and that the part-time clerk can work 35 hours per week. In the end, it was approved by a three to two vote to close city hall one afternoon a week with the day to be determined.

Currently customers of the two Brodhead banks can pay their sewer bills from their deposit accounts without providing their bank account information to the city. One of the banks wants to change that. To avoid the city storing citizens' bank account information and generating an encrypted file for them, Treasurer Miller proposed eliminating the option for residents to pay

sewer bills via the banks. Council approved the proposal to stop accepting payments at the banks. Miller will send letters to the 300 plus customers who currently have their payments deducted from their bank accounts or drop their payments off at the banks.

In an update on the November election, Clerk Covert advised that there was an 87% turnout, with around 450 mail-in absentee ballots. Covert also thanked election workers for the job they do making sure our elections run smoothly. She noted they work long days and complete hours of training each year to ensure they're prepared for the many scenarios they may face.

In Other Business:

Council approved additional signage at Putnam Park to deter unauthorized vehicles from driving through the park.

The motions carried to accept Mary Bartels to the economic development committee and Craig Ellefson to the Pearl Island committee.



Sara Carr directs the Concert Choir as they sang "Believe," "Carol of the Bells," "Winter Lullaby," and "Christmas in About 3 Minutes." Soloists included Lauren Wade and Isabella Yoshida with Mrs. Laurie Martenson as accompanist. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



Selections for the Chamber Choir included "O Magnum Mysterium," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Jingle Bell Rock" and the "First Noel," accompanied by Mrs. Laurie Martenson. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)

2002. Other programs and service projects that the Club is involved in include Christmas gifts for families in need The Mitten Tree Project, Tri-Star Basketball competition, a fishing derby, pumpkin decorating, and an art contest, just to name a few. The Club also makes donations to numerous school departments, the public library, childhood cancer patients and pediatric cancer research.

Students wishing to participate in the essay contest can find out more about the contest by contacting the club chair Wendy Backes at wendybackes1966@gmail.com or getting an application from their school counselor at either the middle school or high school, or at the

Brodhead Public Library.

Finally, completed applications and essays can be dropped off at the Middle or High School offices, Brodhead Public Library or email them to wendybackes1966@gmail.com before Monday, February 10th, 2025.



City of Brodhead Local Offices for Re-election

The offices of three Alderperson at Large will be up for re-election in the Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Spring Election. All terms are for two years. If you are interested in running for Alderperson, please stop into City Hall for more information or call 608-897-4018 ext 150. City Hall is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

It's Brodhead Optimists Essay Contest Time!

Calling all high school and middle school students! Grab your pen, pencil or keyboard to express yourself and have an opportunity to earn a cash award. Applications for the essay contest will be available at the Brodhead Public Library, and both the middle school and high school offices, or through the Brodhead Optimist Club. The Optimist Club of Brodhead is encouraging all Brodhead and surrounding area youth, including home-schooled scholars, to write an essay 700 to 800 words long on the topic "How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success"

The Brodhead Optimist Club will judge the local students' essays, based on the theme of "How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success" along with organization, creativity, clarity, structure and adherence to contest rules to determine the top winners. The winning essay at the club level will be sent to the district level where the student will compete for a chance at a \$2500 scholarship.

The Brodhead Optimist Essay Chair Wendy Backes said, "It is our goal to encourage young people to take part in this activity and do what we can to bring out the best in each of them. This experience gives them a wonderful opportunity to tap into their creativity and pursue possible scholarships at the same time."

The Optimist Club of Brodhead has been participating in the Optimist Essay Contest for many years and has been active in the community since



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

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. On-line 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. Sunday school every other Sunday thru May, from 8:45-9:45 a.m. 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.

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Kelly Jahn, Pastor. Sunday school 9:15 a.m.; worship service 10:30 a.m.

Living Word Church, 3825 S. County Road T, Brodhead. 608-897-8246. Pastor Russ Doebl. Web site: livingwordwi.org. E-mail: ptl@livingwordwi.org. Adult Sunday school 9 a.m.; Sunday service at 10 a.m. worship at church and also via live stream at livingwordwi.org/media; 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, 608-934-5551. Pastor Jady N Manjrekar. 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. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 1005 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, part of Pastorate 11, Madison Diocese. 608-325-9506. Father David, Paochial Administrator. Mass at 8:15 a.m. Wednesday and on the first Sunday of the month at noon.

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. Handicapped accessible. In-person worship at 9 a.m. Sundays. Services live streamed on Facebook.

OBITUARIES



Helen M. Lehr

Helen M. Lehr, age 103, of Monroe, died Sunday, December 22, 2024 at Monroe SSM Hospice Home. Helen was born on August 24, 1921 in Cambria, Wisconsin, the daughter of Otto and Bertha (Nussbaumer) Munz. She graduated from Monroe High School in 1939 and was united in marriage to Ernest Lehr on October 18, 1942. Helen and Ernest operated the Ridge Cheese Factory in rural Monroe before purchasing the Union Hill Cheese Factory in Spring Grove Township.

Helen was a long time member of Monroe Moose Lodge, enjoyed playing cards, trips to the casino, cooking, gardening, and was active in bowling leagues well into her 80s. Above all, Helen loved spending time with her family. She has been a resident of Aster Assisted Living for the past five years.

Helen is survived by three children: Gary (Norma) Lehr of Orfordville, Karen Zimmerman, and Donna Newman, both of Juda; eight grandchildren: Jeff Lehr, Brian (Sharon) Lehr, Kim (Wade) Boegli, Mark Zimmerman, Dawn Golackson, Traci (Nic Hitchins) Newman, Melissa (Brandon) Kilgore, and Robert (Kim) Newman; eight great grandchildren; and eight great-great grandchildren with one on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ernest; sons-in-law: Chet Newman and Bradley Zimmerman; three sisters and three brothers.

A celebration of Helen's life will be held on Saturday, January 4, from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Monroe Moose Lodge. A memorial fund will be established in Helen's name. The Newcomer Funeral Home, Monroe, is assisting the family. Condolences may be shared at www.newcomer-funeralhome.net.

Basketball contest

The highest scoring game was the boys' Brodhead vs. Milwaukee Lifelong Learning, 96-65. The winner of this week's basketball contest was Doug Rezner, Brodhead, with all the correct games and 84 points. Eric VonAllmen, of Albany, also had all the correct games and 82 points.

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Calvin Davis Wickline

Calvin Davis Wickline, age 93, of Brodhead, Wisconsin, passed away December 25, 2024 from an infection at Mercy Hospital Janesville, Wisconsin. He was born September 2, 1931 in Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia the son of Samuel Price Wickline and Lettie Belle (Fleshman) Wickline. In 1949 he met his wife, Margaret Jean Candler, at the local theater in Rich Creek and they married January 24, 1950 in Pearisburg, Virginia, celebrating almost 75 years together.

In 1954 they moved to Wisconsin after being laid off at the Radford Arsenal. This brought them to Oregon, Wisconsin, then New Glarus, Wisconsin, where he became Chief of Police in New Glarus on June 1, 1957. Later moving to Brodhead, in 1962 becoming Brodhead's Chief of Police until 1976, then Undersheriff in Green County, Wisconsin and later back to Brodhead as a Chief Deputy until his retirement in 1994. Calvin also served on the Green County Board of Supervisors for many years and Brodhead's Mayor from 1996-1998. Through the years we have heard from many on the impact he made in their lives with his small-town common-sense attitude in keeping our streets a great place to live. Dad taught himself to play gui-

tar in his younger years. He and a couple buddies would play various places on Saturday nights. Calvin was a member of the Congregation-al UCC Church serving the church in many functions from Council President to volunteering with the church's needs. He also built a cross in the 60s that is still hanging in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Cal and Jean enjoyed many trips with friends to various places in the United States thru the years, but back home to visit family was their annual trip. Those mountains were his home. He loved telling stories of his childhood.

His family was so important to him and he loved them deeply. He was so proud of his four children: Connie (Bill) Peterson of Be-loit, Cynthia (Jim) Streuly, Brenda (Randy) Fowler, and David (Linda) Wickline, all from Brodhead. Besides his wife, Jean and children, he is survived by nine grandchildren: Karla (Bobby) Jurado of Texas, Lisa (Todd) Sauer of Brodhead, Audra (Phillip) Anderson of Edgerton, Curtis (Angel) Streuly of Brodhead, Greg (Krista) Streuly of Ixonia, Jennifer (Justin) Kenney of Brodhead, Billy Peterson of Brodhead, Clayton Calvin (Nicole) Fowler of Brodhead, and Aaron (Cassidy) Wickline of Shullsburg; 25 great grandchildren; 10 great-great grandchildren and one on the way; one sister, Betty Capadona of Madison; and many nieces and nephews.

Calvin is predeceased by his parents, brothers: Raymond, Howard, Carlyle, and Fred Gravely, and Leroy Wickline, sisters: Jessie Miller, Almi-ra Terry, and Lucille Wodke, and a granddaughter, Leslie Chamblee on December 29, 2023.

Please join us in celebrating his life on Friday, January 10, at the Congregational UCC Church E201 23rd Street, Brodhead. Visitation at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m. The family would like to thank you for your prayers and messages during this time. We all felt your love.

First Baby of 2025 Contest

These fine area business are pleased to welcome the first baby in the Brodhead area of 2024 with the following gifts: 5x7 area rug from Bob's Carpets, \$50 deposited into a Sammy Savers account and a Piggy Bank from Bank of Brodhead,

\$25 gift certificate from Sugar River Loft and \$25 Pig Card from Brod-head

Free Press.
First Baby Contest
The rules are:

1. The parents of the baby must reside in the Brodhead School Dis-trict;

2. Parents wishing to be consid-ered in the Firstborn Contest must contact the Brodhead Free Press within one week of the birth.

3. The contest will continue until a winner is declared. One family will win all prizes listed.

Juda Zion Community Church Youth Group thank you

The members of the Juda Zion Community Church Youth Group located in Juda would like to thank everyone who donated their empty aluminum cans during 2024. A to-tal of 4,600 pounds of cans were recycled this year. A portion of the proceeds are used for group ac-tivities while the rest are donated to area groups and causes. This past year proceeds were donated to the Pleasant View Nursing Home Activ-ities Fund, Monroe Clinic Hospice, Green County Child Advocacy Cen-ter, Grace Lutheran Church Loaves and Fishes, Operation Christmas Child, stained glass window repair fund at the church and purchas-ing of gifts for Juda children from the Angel Tree at the Bank of New Glarus-Juda. The collection cage is located in the corner of the parking lot at the Bank of New Glarus-Juda on Walnut Street in Juda and Jeffer-son Township residents can drop them off at the recycling center lo-cated on Walnut Street.

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~ Albert Einstein



OBITUARY



Phyllis A. Shrier

Phyllis A. Shrier, 73, Brodhead, passed away on December 26, 2024, at home surrounded by her family, after a courageous and unwavering fight with cancer. She was born on October 13, 1951, in Columbus, Wisconsin, to Marvin and Roberta (Tobison) Smith. On July 7, 1973, she married the love of her life, William “Bill” Shrier, and together they enjoyed 51 years of love, laughter, and companionship.

Phyllis was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She loved spending time with her family and was the heart of every gathering. Her family was her greatest joy, and she took great pride in being a part of their lives. Phyllis enjoyed many hobbies over the years. She had a passion for bowling and spent countless hours at the lanes, whether competing or teaching others the sport. She also enjoyed camping, knitting, quilting, crocheting, and fishing, all of which

brought her closer to the people she loved. Phyllis was an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers and the Wisconsin Badgers, never missing a game and always cheering them on with enthusiasm.

For 43 years, Phyllis ran an in-home daycare, creating a warm and nurturing environment for many children. She was a second mother to countless kids, offering them love, care, and support. Her passion for working with children extended to her dedication to teaching youth bowling for 35 years, helping young bowlers develop their skills and a love for the sport.

Phyllis had a special fondness for collecting Christmas mice, a hobby that brought her great joy each holiday season. She also loved to travel and created memories with her family and friends that will be cherished forever. Phyllis was known for her kindness, generosity, and her ability to make others feel special. Her sense of humor, laughter, and caring spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Phyllis is survived by her beloved husband, Bill Shrier; daughter, Missie (Jason) Hesselbacher; son, Jason Shrier (Jamie Sauer); grandchildren: Jacob Hesselbacher, Meredith Hesselbacher, and Conner Shrier (Gianna Schultz); her brother, Marlin Smith; sisters: Marty (Carl) Rieck, and Londa (Brian) Fassler; sisters-in-law: Sue Schmelzer (Glen Hotsapple), Ann (Dennis) Schwartz, Nancy (Mark) Oliver, and Jan (Don) Hruza; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, Marvin and Roberta Smith; her mother and father-in-law, Kenneth and MaryAnna Shrier; and her sister-in-law, Margaretmary Smith.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone at SSM Health at Home Hospice for their compassionate care during Phyllis’ final days. Their support ensured that Phyllis was comfortable and surrounded by love in her final moments.

Please join us in celebrating Phyllis’ remarkable life and legacy at D.L. Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead, on Friday, January 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. A private family service and burial will take place at a later date. Phyllis will be fondly remembered for her warmth, generosity, and love for her family, friends, and community.

D.L. Newcomer Funeral Home is assisting the family. For more information, please visit www.dl-newcomerfuneralhome.com or call 608-897-2484.



By Sarah Carpenter

The Friends of the Brodhead Memorial Public Library Seeks Community Support: Buy-A-Book Fund-raiser

The Friends of the Brodhead Memorial Public Library is reaching out to the community for donations to help sustain and expand its catalog collection. As the library continues to play a crucial role in fostering literacy and lifelong learning, the demand for resources has never been higher.

With a decrease in funds over the years, the library needs our help to keep up the collection of books, movies, and magazine subscriptions. The Friends of the Brodhead Memorial Public Library is appealing to residents for financial support.

Library Director Stuart Bisbee emphasized the importance of community contributions. “Our library is more than just a place to borrow books; it’s a hub for learning, creativity, and connection. However, to maintain and improve our services, we rely on the generosity of our community members,” he stated.

Community members can donate by mailing in the form or by visiting in person. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact.

Local resident, business owner, and President of the Friends of the Brodhead Memorial Public Library, Chelsea Andrews, noted, “The library has always been a cornerstone of our community. I encourage everyone to consider making a donation. It’s an investment in our future!”

The Brodhead Memorial Public Library is committed to providing a welcoming environment for everyone. With the support of its residents, it hopes to continue to thrive and adapt to the evolving needs of the community.

For more information about how to donate or get involved, visit the Brodhead Memorial Public Library’s website or call 608-897-4070. Your support can help keep the library a vital resource for all.

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ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN

GIVE BLOOD—HELP SAVE LIVES

The Brodhead Blood Drive will be held Monday, January 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. Use sponsor code: BrodheadWI to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome! You can save up to 15-minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass. Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.

A New Year brings new opportunities to make a difference, and donating blood is one of the simplest, most impactful ways to help others. Start 2025 by giving the gift of life. Make it your resolution to save lives this year!

Come give January 1-26 to automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting trip for you and a guest to Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans. Includes travel, hotel, \$1,000 gift card, pre-game activities and more. Terms apply: visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

2025 PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS
Beginning Friday, January 3rd—10 a.m.

Reservations for the park shelters will be accepted at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 3rd, 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 SPRING BUS TRIP

The Bank of Brodhead spring bus trip will be to San Antonio, Texas. The dates are from Saturday, March 29-Sunday, April 6, 2025. Highlights of this trip include: guided tour of San Antonio, cruise at San Antonio's famous River Walk District, visit to the famous Alamo and the IMAX theater presentation: Alamo... "The Price of Freedom", a visit to Witte Museum and the San Antonio Mission, and a tour of the LBJ ranch.

Sign up is happening now! To sign up or for more information contact Sue Schmelzer, email is sschmelzer@charter.net, or phone or text is 608 558-8797.

Saturday Mornings at the Durand Library
The First Thirteen States—Like a Jigsaw Puzzle
Submitted by Barbara Flores, President, Friends of the Durand Library

Please join us at the Durand Library January 11 for the first part of a fascinating four part-series on How the States Got Their Shapes. The subject this month will be the original thirteen states. On a map, the first states appear like a long, slender jigsaw puzzle with very irregular pieces of greatly varying size, which fit neatly together.

During the presentation, Brad Keyes, an avid student of history, will talk about the many factors at play as the colonies struggled towards independence from England and finally achieved their unique shapes. It is an eye-opener to learn how politics, wars, geological features, faulty surveys, battles between territories, and petty grievances played into how the borders of our states were established.

Of course, all of the land, which was settled by European immigrants, had once been occupied by Native Americans. Some were forced out in armed conflicts or others simply were pushed out by the endless stream of English and others who came to the New World.

The original thirteen states began as English colonies under the rule of many different British monarchs. How did anyone get a right to any land? And what were the boundaries of those lands given by kings to their favorites. Not all the newcomers populating the colonies were English as the Dutch, Swedes and Germans also came and settled in their own areas.

There were no aerial views of the territory during the time that the colonies were gradually taking shape. The first maps of the New World relied on reports by others about the physical features. Colonial boundaries were fluid as some original colonies split up while others grabbed a bit more land from others. There was a lot going on.

It is a fascinating story! Please join us on Saturday, January 11 at 10 a.m. for this 90-minute presentation to learn more about this dramatic time in our country's birth.

Part two will cover the Midwestern States and be presented Saturday, February 8; Part three will cover the Louisiana Purchase and be presented March 8; and Part 4 will cover the Pacific Coastal states and be presented Saturday, April 12.


About the Library

The Durand Library is a collaboration between Durand School and the Friends of the Durand Library, a 501 (c)(3) organization. Residents of the Durand school district enjoy checkout privileges, and everyone is invited to all library programs.


The building is handicapped accessible, and we are more than happy to deliver books to those who are physically unable to get to the library. If public hours are inconvenient, one of the volunteers will be happy to meet anyone at the library at another time.

Library hours are Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesdays 6-8 p.m. Entry is at the east or playground end of the school building. Just follow the paved walkway. There is a sign at the sidewalk and more signs on the building. For more information, please email villagelibrary@cusd322.org, call or text 815-289-8602 or visit FB.com/durandvillagelibrary.

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Downtown Janesville Restaurant Week Celebrates Local Cuisine

Downtown Janesville Inc. in partnership with the Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and Downtown Business Improvement District is excited to announce Downtown Restaurant Week, which will be held Tuesday, January 14th-17th. This event showcases the vibrant downtown culinary scene where you will get to take advantage of special menus, diverse dining experiences, and support the local businesses. This highly anticipated event invites food lovers and tourists to explore some of the best dining experiences Janesville has to offer at exclusive prices.

Participating locations include: drathouse, Genisa Wine Bar, Sandwich Bar, Sandee's Thai Fusion, Bodacious Shops of Block 42, O'Riley & Conway's, Franklin Street Tavern, The Looking Glass, and Whiskey Ranch. The menus offered will be a two-course lunch and/or three-course dinner depending on the participating location. Some restaurants will offer the Restaurant Week menu through the weekend. They recommend checking with the restaurant directly to confirm. Menus will be announced the first week of January. You can find all updated information on the Facebook event or at downtownjanesville.com.

“Downtown Restaurant Week is a wonderful way for both locals and visitors to experience the diverse cuisine offerings in our downtown area,” said Elaina Szyjewski, Managing Director of Downtown Janesville Inc. “Whether you're a food enthusiast or looking to try somewhere new, there's something for everyone to enjoy.”

Make your reservations today and join the downtown community for this celebratory experience. For more information, visit downtownjanesville.com or email info@downtownjanesville.com

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By Cindy Clint,
Outreach Librarian

“Check out” the latest offerings at the Albertson Memorial Library.

Adult Fiction: What the Wife Knew by Darby Kane and The Mirror: The Lost Bride Trilogy, Book 2 by Nora Roberts.

Large Print: Christmas In Bethel by Richard Paul Evans, The Mirror: The Lost Bride Trilogy, Book 2 by Nora Roberts, and Bellevue by Robin Cook.

Treasure Trove (Our Library of Things): Snow/Sand Brick Maker.

For more details on each title, be sure to visit the Albertson Memorial Library's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertsonMemorialLibrary>.

Please also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertsonMemorialLibrary>, Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/albertsonmemoriallibrary> or our website at <https://www.albertson-library.org>.

Prom for Pennies

Prom for Pennies event will be held on Saturday, January 12th at the Monroe High School from 1-3 p.m. This community event provides affordable prom attire by selling donated formal dresses at discounted rates, making prom accessible for local students. Students can find beautiful, gently-used or brand new prom dresses with the highest price being only \$40.

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South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union It's All About Community

By Penny Molina



Rural residents have always relied on their community of neighbors to help them strive and thrive year in and year out. Whether on farms or in small towns, I have seen and come to believe in the power of showing up for one another. Whether we pitch in for a barn raising or a school fundraiser, help a neighbor who has lost a loved one or organize a potluck, we each make a difference locally in our communities when we show up for each other.

The main reason I joined organizations like Wisconsin Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association and others is to find community. A community is defined as a unified body of individuals from various backgrounds with varying skills that share common goals and interests. The key word is “common.” No matter what some of our differences are, we share many more common denominators.

The way to find the things we have in common is to know our neighbors, to understand and allow for our differences and to bond over our shared love of our land, our towns and our way of life. By joining local organizations and by volunteering, I get to hear a variety of viewpoints and I've learned that our common concern is about our community's well-being.

My community of Brooklyn has nine small family farms. Each of us market and sell what we grow at farmers markets and also wholesale or direct to consumers. The last thing we farmers have time for is the

selling part. To help each other, we formed a farm marketing alliance, Bountiful Brooklyn. Under this collective, we were able to put forth what each of our farms offer not as competitors but as a community of farmers with plenty of food, flowers and fiber to reach more customers together. With the help of our local chamber and the Food Faith and Farming Network, we were able to mail a Bountiful Brooklyn postcard to all our area residents and the response was wonderful. Mostly, folks were happy to learn about and support their neighboring family farmers while getting local goods right in their own community. Our neighbors sent a clear message: we support you; you matter and what you do is valued. We have a lot of gratitude for that support.

Whether pouring coffee at my church's coffee hour, seed swapping with a neighbor or cheering at my son's kickball team games, I don't ask people about their politics, I ask them about their kids. Will they get to see their folks over the holidays? How was their harvest this year? Do they need any help planting in the spring? These are what rural folks ask their neighbors. These kinds of questions, these expressions of concern are the ways we encourage one another and build each other up. Because of that, there is one thing that we care about the most when we are in community: each other.

Penny Molina is the incoming board president of the South Central Chapter of Wisconsin Farmers Union. She and her husband Phil are joyful stewards of Still Point Flower Farm, (stillpoint.farm), a 10-acre flower farm in Brooklyn, Wisconsin. They grow flowers that they sell through a flower CSA while also hosting weddings and events to share their beautiful farm.

South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driven chapter committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement in Rock, Green, and Lafayette Counties.

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Under the direction of Jason Riesterer the Concert Band of Brodhead High School performed “A Cambridge Carol”, “Grown-Up Christmas List” and “Boughs of Holly.” (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



Sara Carr, choral director sings “Grown-Up Christmas List” with the Concert Band accompanying. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



“Christmas Pipes”, “Concert Suite from Polar Express,” and “Winterscape” were the selections for the Symphonic Band with director Jason Riesterer. The finale was the combining of the two bands for the presentation of “All is Calm” featuring Mr. Tompson, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Hurt and Mrs. Riesterer. (Free Press photo by Teresa Earleywine)



SSM Health at Home Wisconsin Region Hospice Medical Director, Dr. Gaines Richardson (left) accepting the donation check from Monroe Clinic and Hospital Foundation Board Chair, Teena Buholzer (right), at the SSM Health Monroe Hospice Home.

Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation Supports Hospice Home with Financial Gift

Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation, a member of SSM Health, has presented the SSM Health Monroe Hospice Home with a donation of \$120,000. The annual support of \$120,000 fulfills the gift the Foundation Board pledged to give every year upon the opening of the hospice home. This gift is primarily comprised of dollars raised at the annual “Little Golf” and Grill event as well as memorials and other hospice gifts throughout the year.

“Gifts given to hospice through the Foundation help provide a continued option for end-of-life patients who wish to be close to their families but are unable to remain in their home,” explained Jane Sybers, Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation Executive Director. “This cumulative gift reflects the strong support and love our community has for local hospice care, which we are so grateful for.”

The eight-bed Hospice Home opened in June 2017 as a new option for local end-of-life care for those in need of its warm hospitality, residential setting and 24/7 medical staffing. Since then, more than 407 families have been served at the SSM Health Monroe Hospice Home.

Those who wish to support SSM Health at Home’s hospice services in Monroe can visit <https://www.givetossmhealth.org/foundations/wisconsin/monroe-clinic-hospital-foundation> or call 608-324-1264.



The Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble will make its fourth appearance in Monroe on Saturday, January 4, at 3 p.m. at the Turner Hall of Monroe.

Ringing Badgers to perform

Help ring in the New Year—literally—with a one-hour performance by the Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble of Madison. Directed by Dr. Mark Bloedow, the group will present its annual Sounds of the Season! concert in the Grand Hall of the Turner Hall of Monroe, 1217 17th Avenue, on Saturday, January 4, at 3 p.m. Although this is the first time the group will be performing at Turner Hall, it will be the ensemble’s fourth visit to Monroe, with previous appearances in January of 2019 and 2020, and December 2023. The Ringing Badgers’ Sounds of the Season! will feature a colorful selection of beloved traditional Christmas carols and arrangements of well-known popular songs of the season, which will also include guest percussionist, Greg Riss.

The Ringing Badgers is an auditioned handbell choir based in Madison that includes handbell musicians from primarily south-central Wisconsin. The group made its debut in 2012, and currently performs with five octaves of handbells and seven octaves of handchimes, all made by the Malmark Bellcraftsmen of Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania. The ensemble enjoys an exciting performance schedule each season presenting concerts, as well as guest appearances with other groups and solo concerts.

All are welcome to attend, with a free-will donation to be accepted for the ensemble. To make the afternoon complete, the lower level Ratskeller Restaurant will be open following the concert. The Ringing Badgers’ performance is the opening event of Turner Hall’s 2025 Swiss Heritage Series. Turner Hall is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, and is handicapped-accessible.

Lainey and Mavrick among top baby names at SSM Health Monroe Hospital in 2024

Monroe area families welcomed 433 bundles of joy into the world at SSM Health Monroe Hospital in 2024.

When looking at the most common names given to these sweet new family members, parents most chose Lainey, Eleanor and Lydia for girls. For boys, the most top names were Mavrick, Oliver, Michael, Jordan, Elias and Caleb.

Emma and Colt topped the hospital’s list of popular baby names in 2023.

While SSM Health Monroe Hospital’s Family Birth team is busy caring for families year-round, December saw the highest number of birthdays, with 44 little ones joining the world. February was a close second with 43 little ones joining the world.

Birth totals, information and most popular names are collected from December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024 to represent a full calendar year.

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JPAC presents
GODSPELL,
the Musical,
January 2025

The Janesville Performing Arts Center (JPAC) will be producing GODSPELL as part of its 2024-25 Season, with our very own Executive Director Nathan Burkart as the Director. Held at the Performing Arts Center, the show will run for two weekends starting January 24-26th and then again January 31st-February 2nd offering both matinee and evening performances.

JPAC produces one musical with adults per year. This year the organization decided to pick the musical GODSPELL because of its overall message surrounding love. The musical is composed by the same composer of the popular musical WICKED, Stephen Schwartz. GODSPELL focuses around the parables and teaching of Jesus Christ as depicted in the Gospel of Matthew. The show itself explores these lessons in a fun way by inviting the characters to play larger than life versions of themselves, almost clown-like. This allows this musical to be accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.

“GODSPELL, has a song that is called BEAUTIFUL CITY, and it sums up the musical perfectly by imagining a world where we all learn how to love each other a little deeper and have a firm understanding that we are all learning and exploring what it means to be human,” says Director Nathan Burkart. “Our cast is composed of people from many different backgrounds and beliefs, but what makes this show amazing is that we all can find something valuable about the teachings Jesus depicts in this show,” says Burkart.

JPAC will be featuring a number of nonprofits in the lobby during the show as well as donating tickets to attend the production to various organizations who help make Janesville/Rock County more BEAUTIFUL. If an organization would like to participate in this “BEAUTIFUL CITY” lobby showcase, please email Box Office Coordinator, Kelly Clobes, at boxoffice@janesvillepac.org by 1/15/2025.

Tickets for the GODSPELL are currently on sale. Group sales are also available for a discount of 10% for quantities of 10 tickets or more.

If you have any questions, please call the JPAC box office at 608-758-0297, option 1 or email JPAC Box Office, at boxoffice@janesvillepac.org. Tickets can be purchased at JPAC's website- www.janesvillepac.org or by calling the box office directly.



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Monday Night Mixed League

12/23—High series: Bill Schoen 728, Rick Reed 703, Robert Murray 699. High games: R. Reed 290, B. Schoen 288, Al Petersen 258. Broughton's Bar-high team game 1,087 and series 2,987. Standings: Bartelt won 32 lost 10, Broughton's Bar 27-15, Fosters Gaming 21-21, Center Tavern 19-23, Beloit Chiropractic 16-26, Albany Lanes 11-31.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies

12/26—High series: Cindy Sheldon 470, Sheryl Johnson 462, Becky Riese 442. High games: B. Riese 183, S. Johnson 176, C. Sheldon 168. Mike's Flooring-high team game 661 and series 1,697. Standings: Albany Lanes won 14 lost 0, Mike's Flooring 12-2, Nolte's Garage 7-7, Ball's Installation 5-9, Knutes 2-12.

Thursday Night Mixed

12/26—High series: Ty Powell 712, DJ McGowen 682, Chad Svendsen 679, Boomer Detra 671. High games: T. Powell 269, Erich Brandenburg 265, C. Svendsen 262, DJ McGowen 262. Albany Lanes-high team game 1,057 and series 3,072. Standings: Albany Lanes won 32 lost 10, Glenn Ann Holsteins 22-20, Broughton's Corner Bar 1 20-22, Attica Bar 20-22, Broughton's Corner Bar 2 15-27, Golz Electric 15-27.

Brodhead Early Rollers

12/21—High games: Abigail Fenwick 71. 12/28—High games: Abigail Fenwick 109.

Brodhead Youth

12/21—High series: Jayse Bennett 170, Jack Norris 162, Carter Fenwick 157, Jaxson Brewer 91, Thorin Perrin 38, Ayla Brugger 132, Amelia Fenwick 104, Keira Shrader 91, Stella Brugger 47, Kinslee Brewer 34. High games: C. Fenwick 112, J. Bennett 102, J. Norris 85, J. Brewer 52, T. Perrin 26, A. Brugger 71, A. Fenwick 60, K. Shrader 54, S. Brugger 32, K. Brewer 25.


12/28—High series: Jack Norris 182, Jayse Bennett 152, Henry Johnson 151, Carter Fenwick 125, Jaxson Brewer 100, Ayla Brugger 131, Amelia Fenwick 117, Keira Shrader 97, Kinslee Brewer 59, Stella Brugger 53. High games: J. Norris 95, H. Johnson 92, J. Bennett 88, C. Fenwick 63, J. Brewer 53, A. Brugger 77, A. Fenwick 63, K. Shrader 61, K. Brewer 35, S. Brugger 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.
- 3. One entry** per contestant. Entry forms must be returned to the Brodhead Free Press, 1035 1st Center Avenue, Ste. 107, Brodhead, WI 53520 by **5 p.m. Friday**.

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To help meet the continued national blood supply need, please consider participating in SSM Health's Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 28. The Blood Drive will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the St. Clare Conference Center at the main clinic located at 515 22nd Avenue in Monroe.

Appointments are encouraged but not required. To schedule, please visit Bloodcenter.org or call SSM Health Monroe Hospital Volunteer Services Coordinator, Mary Berger, at 608-324-1569.

Please eat before donating and bring a photo ID. If you are unable to donate, you can help by encouraging others to donate.

 Thanks for Reading...
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South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union elects new leadership team

**Submitted by
Matt Sheaffer,
Chapter Secretary**

On Sunday, November 10, the South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union held its annual board retreat at Stillpoint Flower farm in Brooklyn, Wisconsin. Chapter events for 2025, policy considerations for the upcoming state convention and the election of officers was on the agenda. The chapter's new leadership team is a strong mix of newer members and experienced farmers union individuals. Here is the slate

- of officers for the coming year
- Penny Molina (Brooklyn)—president
 - Shelia Everhart (Janesville)—vice-president
 - Matt Sheaffer (Monroe)—secretary
 - Kathy Pennington (Brooklyn)—treasurer
 - John Peck (Brooklyn)—membership chair
 - Marci Hess (Blanchardville)—communications chair
 - Sue Nelson (Browntown)—at large

The South Central Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driven organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for farmers, rural communities, and all people who benefit from these. We are a vibrant, engaged local group and we welcome all community members that care about food, farming and our beautiful countryside. Please visit www.scwfu.com for more information.

Please contact the chapter at wfusouthcentral@gmail.com with any questions.



BMS participated in Reality Maze

On Monday, December 16th, Brodhead Middle School eighth graders participated in the Reality Maze. Each student received a scenario that describes a situation adolescents may find themselves in. Some of the scenarios involved underage drinking, tobacco use, vaping, marijuana, bullying, sexting, sexual assault, theft, vandalism, and self-harm. Students visit various stations that walk them through the potential consequences of their situation. The purpose of this activity is to teach students about the consequences of their choices, how to resist negative peer pressure, and who they can receive support from. Police officers, EMTs, judges, counselors, nurses, AODA, parents, therapists, SARP, and school members volunteered their time to make this activity possible. Thank you to Better Brodhead for helping coordinate this event for our students!



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